



**CORPUS CHRISTI**  
**ST. ALPHONSUS AND ST. MARGARET RC CHURCH**  
 Margaret Road, Headington, OX3 8AJ  
**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH**  
 Crown Road, Wheatley, OX33 1UL  
[www.corpuschristiheadington.co.uk](http://www.corpuschristiheadington.co.uk)  
 Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees, Registered Charity No. 234216



**Live Simply**  
 Recycled Paper

**No public Masses until further notice**

**SUNDAY**  
**22 MARCH 2020**

We are a lively multi cultural Church community, proud to be both a CAFOD LiveSimply Parish and a Fairtrade Parish. If you have moved to the area,



or recently joined our Church Community, please introduce yourself to Fr Mervyn and take one of the welcome leaflets from the back of the Church.

**Prayer of St Patrick's Breastplate**

In these challenging times, follow these beautiful words at <https://youtu.be/07n2sFMf6DM>

**I arise today**

through the strength of heaven,  
 light of sun, radiance of moon,  
 splendour of fire, speed of lightning,  
 swiftness of wind, depth of the sea,  
 stability of earth, firmness of rock.

I arise today, through  
 God's strength to pilot me,  
 God's eye to look before me  
 God's wisdom to guide me  
 God's way to lie before me  
 God's shield to protect me,  
 From all who shall wish me ill,  
 afar and a-near, Alone and in a multitude  
 Against every cruel, merciless power  
 that may oppose by body and soul.

Christ with me, Christ before me,  
 Christ behind me, Christ in me,  
 Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
 Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
 Christ when I lie down,  
 Christ when I sit down,  
 Christ when I arrive, Christ to shield me.  
 Christ in the heart  
 of everyone who thinks of me,  
 Christ in the mouth  
 of everyone who speaks of me,

**I arise today**

**Parish Priest: Rev. Canon Mervyn Tower**

The Presbytery, 88 Wharton Road, Oxford, OX3 8AJ.

**Parish Administrator: Mrs Leti da Cruz Gomes (Mon-Fri; 9am - 1pm)**

t: 01865 762433 e: [corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Officer: Volunteer requested**

**Parish schools:**

St Joseph's Primary School; 01865 763357. [www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk)

St Gregory the Great Secondary School; 01865 749933. [www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk)

**Fourth Sunday of Lent, 22 March 2020; Year A**

**There will be no public Mass. Live Stream Mass celebrated by Fr Mervyn alone will be at the following times:**

- 9.00am Intention of Bishop Glancey
- 11.00am Special Intention
- 6.30pm Intention of People of the Parish

**Livestream Masses Week days of Lent; Breviary week 4**

**No public Mass**

Time	Intention	Feast
Mon 23 9.15am	Peter Ainsworth	Lent feria
Tue 24 9.15am	John & Bridie	Lent feria
Wed 25 9.15am		Annunciation of the Lord
Thur 26 9.15am		Lent feria
Fri 27 9.15am		Lent feria
Sat 21 10.00am	Bishop Glancey	Lent feria

**There is 24/7 Live Internet Camera operating in Corpus Christi Church.**

**Next weekend: Fifth Sunday of Lent, 29 March 2020**

**There will be no public Mass. Live Stream Mass celebrated by Fr Mervyn alone will be at the following times:**

- 9.00am Thanksgiving Birthday Aliya Francis
- 11.00am Joao Baptista
- 6.30pm People of the Parish

**Journey in Faith:** if you would like to know more about the Church or are considering becoming a Catholic, please contact Fr. Mervyn.

**Websites of Interest**

Parish: [www.corpuschristiheadington.co.uk](http://www.corpuschristiheadington.co.uk) Diocese: [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)  
 Daily Prayer of the Church: <https://universalis.com>

**Offertory Collection 15 March Loose £510.01 Gift Aid £181.00**

**Scripture Reflection**

The finding and anointing of David by Samuel begins the story of the most important King of the people of Israel. It is the most detailed of the accounts of any of the following rulers and increasingly he is seen as the one from whom the Messiah will descend (First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13). The account of the man born blind is the second of the great Lenten Gospels of John. The sign itself – Jesus restoring the sight of the man – is not as important as the discourse between Jesus and his leading opponents. Ultimately it points to Jesus as the light of the world (Gospel: John 9:1-41). St. Paul reminds the Ephesians that they are now light themselves (Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14).

**Psalm for meditation: "In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever" (Psalm 22/23:6)**

**Scripture Readings for the week ahead:**

Monday	Isaiah 65:17-21; Ps 29; John 4:42-54	Thursday	Exodus 32:7-14; Ps 105; John 5:31-47
Tuesday	Ezekiel 47:1-9,12; Ps 45; John 5:1-3,5-16	Friday	Wisdom 2:1 12-22; Ps33; John 7:1-2,10,25-30
Wednesday	Isaiah 7:10-14,8:10; Ps 39; Heb 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38	Saturday	Jeremiah 11:18-20; Ps 7; John 7:40-52

## Prayer for the Preparation of Mass

God our Father,  
you call us to gather for this Sunday Mass.  
Help us to draw strength from the Holy Scriptures and  
from the Holy Eucharist,  
so that we deepen our love for you.  
May we be enlivened by the Holy Spirit to mirror the  
words and actions of your Son Jesus Christ  
and become more clearly your instruments of mercy to  
others.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Parish Notices

### New: Parishioners Reflect on Scripture Readings

**Peter Bean Matthew, ch.18 v.3**

*"I tell you solemnly, unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven".*

Something that filled my heart with wonder and joy as a grandparent was when one of my small grandchildren would fall asleep in my arms. They would do so with absolute trust and confidence that I would be with them to love them and to keep them safe with my arms around them whatever befalls.

This is what I think Jesus means when he tells us to become like little children. To have this same confidence and trust that God will always be present with us through all of our life and that His love will be absolute, will surround us and enclose us through all the ups and downs, joys and sorrows, successes and failures of our lives.

**Fr Mervyn invites more parishioners** to write 160 words about one of their favourite bible passages to be included, one by one, in the newsletter. Please email to [corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk) (**Subject line: BIBLE PASSAGE**)

### New: Parish Prayer Chain

The main purpose of this group is to share any concerns and challenges that individuals or families are facing, by praying for each other. Anyone who is interested and would like for more information please email Shimwaayi Muntemba at [shimwaayi@gmail.com](mailto:shimwaayi@gmail.com).

### Breaking news ... we welcome Jonathan Henry...

a seminarian for the Archdiocese from St. Anthony of Padua Parish, will be living for the time being at Corpus Christi Presbytery and helping in any way possible. Jonathan is at the moment studying at the English College in Valladolid but this is now closed until further notice.

### If you need help at this time...

Contact the Parish Office in the first instance:  
01865 762433; [corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

### Laudato 'Si Excerpt (Live Simply reflection)

*We hope to include regular excerpts from the Pope's Encyclical to remind us of our Live Simply commitment.*

Each community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for subsistence, but it also has the duty to protect the earth and to ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations. (67)

**The Justice and Peace Group** is supporting the work of the Oxford Winter Night Shelter (OWNS). The Shelter is in particular need of the following items: **Juice (small individual bottles)**  
**Tea Instant Coffee Pot porridge Pot noodles**  
There are donations boxes at the back of both churches.

**Data Protection:** Please inform us if you do not wish your data on our Census Forms or other means to be used to contact you.

Contact details for Parish Groups can be found in the welcome leaflet at the back of the Churches.

## Please pray for:

**the sick and the housebound:** Archie Allen, Antony Ayton, Fr. John Baggley, Patricia Barfield, Margaret Bond, Alan & Rita Booker, Christopher Browne, Pedro Busette, Nicholas Coote, Diana Diamond, David Diggens, Michael Dolan, Maureen Felix, Philomena Garvey, Yvonne Goonesekara, Antoinette Harvie, Sue Holbrook, Mario Kim, Joan Knatt, Rene Hilland, Theresa Johnson, Cynthia & Colville Lobendhan, Victoria Maceda, Carmel McGarry, R. J. Matava, Averil Nathaniels, Melani Parana, Celine Peiris, Peter Perera, Rachel Smith, Alba Thorning, Jack Tilley, Ruth Tilley, Aileen Vangramberg, Diana Walden, Mary Wallace, Pat Walsh, Liz Ward, Louise Williams.

**those who have died:** Kate Gills

All those in the sick list must actively agree to their inclusion. The prayer list will be reviewed regularly - if names can now come off the list or if new names should be added please send an email to: [corpus.OLL.news@gmail.com](mailto:corpus.OLL.news@gmail.com).

## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

A letter from the President and Vice-President on behalf of all the Bishops of the Conference



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. This includes the ways in which we publicly express our faith. It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice.

Our churches will remain open. They are not closing. They will be a focal point of prayer, where you will find solace and strength. In visiting our churches at this time, we will observe with great care the practices of hygiene and the guidance on social distancing.

However, the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation.

Knowing that the Mass is being celebrated; joining in spiritually in that celebration; watching the live-streaming of the Mass; following its prayers at home; making an act of spiritual communion: this is how we share in the Sacrifice of Christ in these days. These are the ways in which we will sanctify Sunday, and indeed every day.

We want everyone to understand that in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.

You will find more details about the pathway of prayer and sacramental life we are now to take in the accompanying document and on the Bishops' Conference website ([www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)). Your own bishop and parish priest will provide further support, encouragement and information about our way of prayer together in the coming weeks.

The second vital aspect of these challenging times is our care for each other. There are so many ways in which we are to do this: being attentive to the needs of our neighbour, especially the elderly and vulnerable; contributing to our local food banks; volunteering for charitable initiatives and organisations; simply keeping in touch by all the means open to us.

During these disturbing and threatening times, the rhythm of the prayer of the Church will continue. Please play your part in it. The effort of daily kindness and mutual support for all will continue and increase. Please play your part in this too. For your commitment to this, we thank you.

'The Lord is my shepherd, There is nothing I shall want.'  
May God bless us all.

+ Vincent Nichols + Malcolm M' Mahon OP

Items for this newsletter should be sent to [corpus.OLL.news@gmail.com](mailto:corpus.OLL.news@gmail.com) - please write *Newsletter* in the subject line.