

From Sunday's Gospel

There was a friend of Jesus named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with his two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was very ill. The sisters sent a message to Jesus to tell him about their brother's serious illness. Jesus told his disciples about Lazarus but decided not to go to see him straightaway. Two days later he and the disciples went to Bethany and when they arrived they were told that Lazarus had already died. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here my brother would not have died.' Jesus asked where they had put Lazarus, and when they showed him, with a sigh that came from the heart he told them to roll the stone away, and then thanking his Father who had heard his prayer, he summoned Lazarus out of the tomb. Then, when Lazarus appeared, Jesus said, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the people there saw what Jesus had done and they believed in him, but others wanted to do away with him.



Pope Francis writes, "My dear young people, What we say and how we say it ought to express God's compassion and tenderness for all." Today's word

is **Compassion**. Jesus is compassionate, he came to take away fear, sadness and loneliness—to help us feel loved, accepted and supported. He asks us to notice when other people need us and to show compassion by doing what we can to help and support them. As a family we can ask is there anyone who needs our help and compassion at this time?

Last Week's Collections

With the suspension of Public Worship there has been no income into the parish at the present time.

Cheques made payable to Diocese of Leeds—Sacred Heart.



Sacred Heart & St William

31 High Street

Uppermill OL3 6HS

www.sacredheartparish.org.uk

Please visit the website above

Newsletter during the time of the suspension of Public Worship

Fr Bernard will continue to celebrate Mass

IN PRIVATE without any people present at 9.00am each morning

5th Sunday of Lent—29th March

The intentions are as follows:

Sunday: People of the Parish

Monday: John Smith

Tuesday: Cornerstone Charity

Wednesday: Ethel Lancashire

Thursday: Harry Heaton

Friday: Kathryn Gower

Saturday: Mary Carroll

Sunday: People of the Parish

There will be only **one** Mass each day. **The Church will remain closed until further notice.**

Confessions by appointment.

Contact Details:

Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Bickers Tel: 01457 872603

Permanent Deacon: Revd Peter Rudd Tel: 01457 876559

Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Tessa Spalding Tel: 01457 873515

Mrs Michelle Moore



From Bishop Marcus.

Closure of church buildings

On Tuesday March 24th Bishop Marcus sent an email to the parishes in the dioceses explaining why our Church has to be closed at all times for the foreseeable future. The Prime Minister in his broadcast on Monday 23rd had given very clear instructions on the occasion when someone could leave their homes. None of these four specific reasons concur with visiting a church. The advice from the Bishops' Conference is that our churches **must be** closed for the benefit of others and to help prevent infection.

Live Streaming of Daily Mass and Devotions from the Cathedral



From 25th March 2020 the celebration of Mass will be live streamed each weekday at 10.30am and on Sundays at 11.00am. There will also be a live stream of the Angelus at 12.00 noon each weekday followed by the Rosary. To participate on line please access the Leeds Cathedral Live You Tube channel

www.leedscathedrallive.org.uk

Words of the prayers, Devotions and Order of Service may be viewed or downloaded from the Diocesan and Cathedral websites.

www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk www.leedscathedral.or.uk



ASSISTANCE

If anyone needs assistance with shopping, dog walking, errands please contact Fr Bernard 01457 872603 or bernard.bickers@sacredheartparishorg.uk in the first instance. Several parishioners have volunteered to help and we are building up a list. No body need go without if we pull together.



Plants for Africa in support of the Oshandi Aids Trust in Namibia

Unfortunately, due to the present situation the committee has decided that it is no longer practical to provide the plants for Africa. Apologies to those who have filled in and returned their order forms. There will be no further action this year so please obtain plants from mother sources.



Lockdown by Brother Richard: A Capuchin Franciscan from Ireland

Yes there is fear. Yes there is isolation. Yes there is panic buying. Yes there is sickness. Yes there is even death. But, they say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise you can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet the sky is no longer thick with fumes but blue and grey and clear. They say that in the streets of Assisi People are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them. They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound. Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood so that the elders may have someone to call on. Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting. All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way. All over the world people are waking up to a new reality to how big we really are, to how little control we really have, to what really matters. To Love. So we pray and we remember that yes there is fear, but there does not have to be hate. Yes there is isolation, but there does not have to be loneliness. Yes there is panic buying, but there does not have to be meanness. Yes there is sickness but there does not have to be disease of the soul. Yes there is even death, but there can always be a rebirth of love. Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now. Today, breathe, listen, behind the factory noises of your panic the birds are singing again. the sky is clearing, spring is coming, and we are always encompassed by Love. Open the windows of your soul and though you may not be able to touch across the empty square, Sing!



CAFOD Lent Family Fast

BY Friday 20th March 47 envelopes had been returned, of which 25 were gift aided making a total (so far) of £711.00. Anne thanks all those who have been so generous in raising this sum. Any further envelopes can be returned when normal service is resumed!