

OUR LADY OF THE WAYSIDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

566 Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, B90 4AY

Tel: 0121 744 1967

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Charity No. 234216

Parish Priest: Fr. Gerardo Fabrizio

Parish Deacon: Rev. Sean Loone Parish

Safeguarding Representative:

Mrs Michelle Ashley email: sg.olw.shirley@rcaob.org.uk

Email: olw.shirley@rcaob.org.uk

Web: ourladyofthewaysidechurchshirley.co.uk

29th March 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear Parishioners,

Our Gospel on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb. In a way, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In Baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.

Today, we pray especially for those grieving families throughout the world who have lost ones to the Coronavirus. In many instances, with those who have died, their funerals have taken place very quickly and without families being present to say farewell. Ask God to bless, strengthen and comfort those families by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit them. May God bless you all in these difficult and trying times and please do your very best also in showing warmth, kindness and love especially to the most needy and vulnerable of our community. With love and prayers, Fr Gerardo. x

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

(Vigil Mass) Sunday 29 th March	5.30pm 9.00am 11.00am	Brennan Family Intentions Martin Heathcote R.I.P People of the Parish	
Monday 30 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Maura O'Nielan R.I.P
Tuesday 31 st	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Hughie O'Reilly R.I.P
Wednesday 1 st April	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Made Daly R.I.P
Thursday 2 nd	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Peggy Redmond
Friday 3 rd	9.30am 10.00am	Stations of the Cross Barbara and Robert Nolan R.I.P	
Saturday 4 th	9.00am	Philip Winsper R.I.P	No Confessions at this time

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – YEAR A

(Vigil Mass) Sunday 5 th April	5.30pm 9.00am 11.00am	Terrence Craythorne R.I.P Margaret Campbell R.I.P People of the Parish
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CORONAVIRUS -Helping the self-isolating: This is a difficult time for many of our parishioners and neighbours. It's our responsibility to make sure they are looked after and supported. If you need to self-isolate and would like Fr Gerardo to keep in touch with you via phone or if you need any practical help and support, please let Fr Gerardo know by emailing the parish office olw.shirley@rcaob.org.uk or telephoning the presbytery on 0121 744 1967. This is a time when we need to be extra vigilant and also show our care for those who are vulnerable, elderly or in need. Let's do what we can to stay healthy and whilst avoiding unnecessary social contact, look after each. Thank you for your consideration and kindness at this time.

IN MEMORIAM: Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Terrence Craythorne R.I.P ; and Joseph Connor who died recently. May they rest in peace.

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY: The Catholic Church has been planning from late 2017 to rededicate England as Mary's Dowry on Sunday 29 March - the Sunday following the feast of the Annunciation. The original dedication of England to Mary was made by King Richard II in 1381 at Westminster Abbey. The 2020 rededication was due to be held simultaneously in the Walsingham shrine and in all churches and cathedrals in England, but given the current coronavirus pandemic it will now be an individual event taking place in homes up and down the country, and via live streaming. On Sunday 29th March, we will pray together The Rededication. These prayers can be found and downloaded at www.Behold2020.com This will take place throughout the country in our homes, uniting us in prayer. We're inviting you to join in. Archbishop Bernard Longley will celebrate this Mass at St Chad's Cathedral, concluding with the prayers of Rededication.

SUNDAY REFLECTIONS: Over the next few weeks, Fr Gerardo and Deacon Sean will be offering a reflection/homily on the Sunday readings. These can be found on the parish website.

FRIDAY MASS + STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During this time of lockdown, the celebration of Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am on Friday mornings. This will be preceded with Stations of the Cross at 9.30am. Sadly, Stations will be celebrated privately in Church by Fr Gerardo.

BAPTISMS: All celebrations of Baptisms in the parish have been suspended for the time being and will resume until further notice when it is safe for people to gather in church.

NEW PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS: You will all be aware that the new GDPR laws are affecting how we look after parishioners personal information both in the parish and in the diocese (notices on CCTV cameras overlooking the car park; proof of identity when picking up baptismal certificates, locked safes for church registers...). The diocese is now required to establish a new secure system for emails. Accordingly it has decided to set up a group email account with Microsoft Office 365. Every parish now has about 6 different email accounts: one for the priest himself, a general parish email address, and one each for the parish treasurer, gift aid organiser, health & safety representative and the safeguarding representative. All these email addresses have rcaob after the @ sign. This stands for "roman catholic archdiocese of birmingham". You may have noticed that Liverpool diocese has moved to "rcaol" addresses and Southwark to "rcaos". We would be grateful if you could now use these new addresses when contacting the parish. The new parish email is olw.shirley@rcaob.org.uk and the new email address for the safeguarding rep is sg.olw.shirley@rcaob.org.uk

PARISH WEBSITE – NEW PAGE: We now have a new page on our parish website with links to the on-line versions of various Catholic Press organisations: The Tablet, The Catholic Times, Independent Catholic News, Osservatore Romano (English edition) and The Columban Missionaries (Far East Magazine).

COLLECTION: 21st March – Gift Aid £. Loose: £ Standing Order: £613.00.
Father O'Mahony Trust:

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TODAY'S MASS:

First Reading : Ezekiel 37:12-14 I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 129 R. With the lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading: St. Paul to the Romans 8:8-11 The Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.

Gospel Acclamation: **Glory and praise to you, O Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord: whoever believes in me will never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**

The Gospel according John 11: 25-26 I am the resurrection and the life.

Communion Antiphon: Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.