

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

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22nd March 2020

FOURTH 'LAETARE' SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear Parishioners,

As you can see from this Newsletter, the usual pattern of weekly masses will continue to be celebrated here in the parish at the usual times. **Sadly, they must be celebrated with no congregation present in order to facilitate the safety of everyone and reducing the risk of contamination from the coronavirus.** This is a time when all of us will be tested and all the more reason for us to trust in the Lord's goodness, where his love will conquer and reign supreme over all that threatens us. It is essential therefore, that although we are physically separated from one another, we continue to maintain a communion of prayer. Only by doing this, will our faith survive as you will not be able to receive Holy Communion during this time. We can of course make 'spiritual communion' with God and I would encourage you that when at home at the time when Masses are being celebrated in the parish, you offer up prayer to God. Prayer sheets have been produced for you to follow when Mass is being celebrated and these are available in the church. By ensuring that we do this, we will strengthen our bonds of communion with each other. As your Parish Priest, I will be interceding for all of you and all of your families at this time. I would encourage you also to join Fr Gerardo in praying the Rosary at home at Midday and at 6.00pm. We entrust our lives under the maternal care of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, who is the Patroness of this wonderful parish.

Although Mass cannot be celebrated with a congregation, the Church of Our Lady of the Wayside will remain open for you to visit during the week, so that private prayer can be offered. I would encourage you to come, even if only for a quarter of an hour. So, the church will be open every day from 10.00am – 11.00am (Monday to Sunday) and from 6.00pm – 7.00pm (except for Saturday and Sunday evenings). Fr Gerardo will be present at these times, so at least we can say hello, albeit from a safe distance. I would ask you to respect this when entering church and that we keep a safe distance from each other. 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

(Vigil Mass)	5.30pm	Mrs Vera Henry R.I.P	
Sunday 22 nd	9.00am	People of the Parish	
March	11.00am	Michael Creaton R.I.P	
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Monday 23 rd	9.15am	(8.55am The Rosary)	Vincent Sharkey
Tuesday 24 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Filomena Barricella R.I.P
Wednesday 25 th	9.15am	(8.55am The Rosary)	Thomas Reidy R.I.P
Thursday 26 th	9.15am	(8.55am Morning Prayer)	Rita Vesey R.I.P
Friday 26 th	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	
	7.30pm	Maria Hughes	
Saturday 27 th	9.00am	Kitty Boyle	11.00am - 11.30am Confessions

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

(Vigil Mass)	5.30pm	Brennan Family Intentions	
Sunday 28 th	9.00am	Martin Heathcote R.I.P	
March	11.00am	People of the Parish	

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 Thomas Reidy R.I.P who died recently. May they rest in peace.

MOTHERS' DAY: A very happy Mothers' Day to all our mum's here in the parish. May it be filled with every joy and happiness for each of you.

FRIDAY MASS + STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During the season of Lent, the celebration of Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm. This will be preceded with Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm. Sadly, Stations will be celebrated privately in Church by Fr Gerardo.

FRIDAY CLUB: The club will be suspended until further notice.

FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST HOLY COMMUNION : Following the strict instructions from the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales, the celebrations of First Reconciliation and the First Holy Communion planned for March and May are now postponed until further notice. All parishes of the Archdiocese and all parishes throughout England and Wales are following the same principle.

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: 15th March – Gift Aid £378.63. Loose: 239.00 £ Standing Order: £613.00. **TOTAL: £ 1,231.13**
Father O'Mahony Trust: £ 26.09

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TODAY'S MASS:

First Reading : Samuel 16: 1,6-7, 10-13 David is anointed king of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 22 R. 'The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: St. Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14 Rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation: **Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

The Gospel according John 9: 1-41 The blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

Communion Antiphon: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed., I saw and believed in God.