

5th Sunday of Lent

Parishes of St Mary's Catholic Church, Bridgend, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Porthcawl & St Joseph's of Arimathea, Kenfig Hill

www.catholicchurchbridgend.org.uk

www.catholicchurchporthcawl.org.uk

Priest: Father Tim McGrath 01656 652034

Parish Administrator: Sarah Kearns bridgend@rcadc.org

Parish Deacons: Rev. Philip Manghan philip.manghan@rcadc.org

Robert Coyne Tel: 01656 783540 & Anthony Martin Tel: 01656 746648

Coronavirus Guidelines

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change.

Following official advice and to keep each other safe, save lives and support our NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. Mass will be celebrated in private by Fr Tim daily at St Mary's

Bridgend. There are now measures in place whereby you can view Mass and Father Tim's reflections on readings of the day via his newly created YouTube channel. There are also many other links on the website to help you and your families through this tricky time. Please look out for your loved ones and also consider those who do not have access to the outside world via the internet.

Please observe the guidance on social distancing and be responsible in continuing to use universal good hygiene. Catch sneezes in a tissue, bin the tissue, wash your hands with soap and hot water, and try not to touch your face unless you have washed your hands. Stay home. Stay safe. God Bless.

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS, THE SICK & DYING: Sadly because of the restrictions Priests are unable to visit the sick in hospital or at home at this time. If you have sick or dying family, please do continue contact myself and we can discuss the way forward. 01656 652034.

Funerals

Please be advised that Priests and Deacons can only conduct a Funeral service in the Crematorium or at the graveside during this time. No Requiem Masses or services are allowed in church. A Memorial Service for the deceased may be held later once all returns to normal.

Mass Intentions

Please note that all Masses said will be for 'the People of the Parish' and for your own private intentions. You are all in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Please check the website regularly for updates and use the links available to help you during this difficult time. Subscribe to St Mary's newsletter (see bottom of home page) and any updates will be emailed out to you as soon as I get them. St Mary's also has an Instagram account which you are encouraged to follow.

Wendy and Eugene McCarthy are co-ordinating volunteers to help those who are struggling during this difficult time. Whilst it is more important than ever to observe social distancing there are those who may need help to get in some supplies or who would just appreciate a phone call to see that they are ok. If you are able to help or know of anyone who is in need of help please email bridgend@rcadc.org and I will pass on the details to Wendy and Eugene. Many Thanks. Sarah Kearns

Please continue to remember all those who are sick and housebound in your prayers.



'And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.' Ezekiel 37:14

EU Settlement Scheme – If you are not sure please ask a member of the clergy or call the office. You may still need to apply even if you moved to the UK before it joined the EU. See Church website for more details.

Finance
Could you set up a standing order to your parish?

It is understandable that in these uncertain times people may not be in a position to give as generously as they normally do and thus the parish income is likely to fall as a result. Should parishioners feel able to donate, one of the ways we can ensure continuation of parish income over the coming weeks is by setting up a standing order to the parish account. Please email bridgend@rcadc.org if you require the information to set this up. Many thanks.

Dear All,

As this period of isolation grows ever longer, or so it seems, we place our trust in God. Daily Mass is offered for all our Parishes, our sick, those affected by the virus and sadly those who have died. On our websites there are links to Masses available on YouTube, the latest information from His Grace Archbishop George and other sites which may give you comfort at this difficult time. Whilst at the moment I lack the where with all to live stream from YouTube or Facebook (if someone can give me remote instructions please could you contact me) I will try and give a weekly reflection on the Sunday Gospel.

As Catholics and Christians, we are called to not only pray for our brothers and sisters, but also to be an example. This means to endure, to hang on the Cross with Jesus (*Station 11*) to wipe his face as Veronica did (*Station 6*) to weep, as the Woman of Jerusalem did (*Station 8*). We do this when we care, pray and follow Government rules!

The people of Israel wondered 40 years in the wilderness, not knowing what the next day would bring, much like ourselves at this time, as we wonder in this Spiritual wilderness. The people then struggled for food and water, as we for the Sacraments. Through prayer, fasting, alms giving, and using the many aids that are available to us such as the websites, books, YouTube, let us use this time to deepen our faith. The people of Israel looked back on their time in the desert as a time when they were courted by their Bridegroom, God. May we use this time to court and deepen our understanding and love for our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

Many people are making great efforts on our behalf, let us give thanks to them. In our Parishes there are many parishioners who have come forward with offers of help to those who are vulnerable and feeling isolated. My thanks to them for all their efforts. If you do need help please contact us via the website or email bridgend@rcadc.org or phone myself or the Deacons. Sarah, whilst not in the office, is working from home to, amongst other things, keep the website and Instagram up to date and will be able to answer or forward appropriately any queries you may have.

Sadly, I fear worse is to come, but this must not divide us (the Devils work) this must make us stronger as a Community and Family (God's work).

**Please pray, be kind, keep safe, look after each other.
May Our Blessed Lady, all the Angles and Saint pray for us.
And may Almighty God bless us all. Amen.**

A Prayer for us in this time of need.

Heavenly Father, who sent the ten plagues to free his children, and protected them by the blood of the Lamb, bless all those affected by the Coronavirus.

Encourage and strengthen those who seek a cure.

Protect all who care or work in the NHS. Send your Holy Angels to guard us and bring us safely through this time of trial. May your Holy Mother care for us as she did for the sick child Jesus. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Follow this with one Our Father, three Hail Marys)

Our Lady of Lourdes. Pray for us.

St. Raphael Archangel. Pray for us.

St Luke, the Physician. Pray for us.

St. Bernadette. Pray for us.



*Mrs Lena Mary Howells
RIP*

*Please keep Lena and her
family in your prayers.*

*May she rest in peace.
Amen.*