

Extraordinary Newsletter for the Catholic Parishes of St John Vianney & St Monica and St Cuthbert, Blackpool

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22nd November 2020

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, Solemnity



SUSPENSION OF THE PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS

The public celebration of Mass/Liturgies in our churches in England remains suspended until at least 2nd December, by order of the UK Government.

OPENING SESSIONS FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Meanwhile, in accord with the law and with our usual safety measures remaining in place (*signing-in when you arrive, or using the NHS app, sanitisation of hands, mandatory face coverings, social distancing, church cleaning etc, no wandering around church or going into the sacristy*), our two churches are open for private prayer before the exposed Blessed Sacrament as follows:

Monday

St John Vianney's: 9.00am-10.00am

Tuesday

St John Vianney's: 9.00am-10.00am

St Cuthbert's: 10.30am-11.30am

Wednesday

St John Vianney's: 9.00am-10.00am

Thursday

St John Vianney's: 9.00am-10.00am

St Cuthbert's: 10.30am-11.30am

Friday

St John Vianney's: 9.00am-10.00am

Saturday

St Cuthbert's: 10.30am-11.30am

Sunday

St Cuthbert's: 10.00am-11.00am

St John Vianney's 11.30am-12.30pm

N.B. Obviously, if you have covid-19 symptoms, live with someone who has such symptoms or if you are self-isolating please do not come to church at this time.

So far, the response from our parishioners and friends coming to our two churches for private prayer has been very encouraging. Please do 'pop in'.

N.B: A priest is available for the Sacrament of Confession within these times of prayer in Church.

OUR MASS ONLINE

We live-stream the celebration of Mass **each weekday at 12 noon** (including Saturday) **and at 9.00am and 10.30am on Sunday** - simply as a pastoral and spiritual connection for people until the public celebration of Mass is restored.

To join our Mass online simply **go to our 'Catholics in South Blackpool'** Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CatholicsinSouthBlackpool/>

If you 'like' and 'follow' us you will get all our Facebook updates – press 'share' and it helps to spread the word.

MASSES INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

Sunday 22nd November

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

- 1) Mass for the people of our parishes
- 2) Mass for Betty & Walter Jones RIP

Monday 23rd November

St Clement I

Mass for Kenneth Horner RIP

Tuesday 24th November

St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions

Mass for our November Lists

Wednesday 25th November

St Catherine of Alexandria

Mass for Jane McPhee (B/day)

Thursday 26th November

Mass for the deceased of the Jordan & Cusack families

Friday 27th November

Mass for the deceased Clergy of the Deanery

Saturday 28th November

Mass for Edward Rogan RIP

Sunday 29th November

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 1) Mass for the people of our parishes
- 2) Mass for Harry Robertson

'MY DAY BY DAY' BOOKLETS FOR ADVENT

These daily scriptural booklets are available for sale at the back of our two churches at £1.00 each – just place this in any of the porch wall boxes.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS TO LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

This significant Parish initiative now serves families in need across *both* our two Parishes with a Christmas Hamper – working with *both* our Parish primary schools.

Any donations for the hampers can be left in the boxes marked out at the back of both our churches. Specific donations of biscuits, savoury crackers, tinned meat/fish, mince pies, apple pies, Christmas puddings/cakes, Christmas crackers and *new* children's toys are needed.

For larger items please do call Carole Cox directly on 07866543107. Any monetary donations **in a marked envelope** can be sent to Fr Etienne.

OUR PARISHES ONLINE

Do keep in touch with us and the wider Catholic Church via our up-to-the-minute '**Catholics in South Blackpool'** **website:** <https://catholicsinsouthblackpool.com/>
The site has our latest **Parish Newsletter** posted there.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please pray for our sick: Andree Etienne, Trudi Denham, Joan Edge, Phyllis Hatton, Jean Baugh, Patricia Doherty, Grace Braithwaite and James Kevin Hickey and for all our sick and housebound.

PRAYERS FOR OUR DEAD

Pray for our recently-deceased: James Ramscar Ogden and Margaret Messenger.
May they each rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.

RAMIFICATIONS OF THE PANDEMIC

Regretfully, it will clearly not be possible to have the usual St John Vianney & Monica's Parish Christmas Fayre, the Parish Grand Christmas Raffle, the Christmas Bingo or the St Cuthbert's Pre-Christmas Afternoon Tea this year.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the Pope John Paul II Parish Centre and Field (an important Parish asset *and* serious responsibility) remain closed to all at this time.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Weekly offerings can still be pushed through the presbytery letterbox or arranged by parishioners themselves via bank transfer/standing order (go to: <https://catholicsinsouthblackpool.com/contact/gift-aid/>)

TODAY IS YOUTH SUNDAY

This year, the collection for Youth Sunday is online. The proceeds will go to support our Diocesan Youth Service based at Castlerigg Manor. If you can spare anything for this important service, please go to castleriggmanor.co.uk/nys or alternatively you can send your donations directly to: 'Castlerigg Manor, Manor Brow, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4AR.'

NOVEMBER

A Book of Remembrance, with all the names submitted for November, is in each of our churches. We also especially remember all those whose funerals that have taken place from our parishes in the last twelve months.

PROVISIONAL CHRISTMAS MASSES

Although it is *not Christmas yet*, we need to start planning. For our Parishes, the following Masses for Christmas are proposed, presuming that public worship in England is restored by then:

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve

4.00pm - St John Vianney

6.00pm - St Cuthbert

Midnight - St John Vianney

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.00am - St John Vianney

10.00am - St Cuthbert

11.00am - St John Vianney

As a reminder the 'safe number' in our churches are:

St Cuthbert: **50** sitting in household bubbles

St John Vianney: **80** sitting in household bubbles

Consequently, all our parishioners in both Parishes are asked to kindly indicate **this week** to Fr Etienne *directly (not through other parishioners)*, by email or by note your full name, which Christmas Mass (from the proposed list above) you would like to attend and how many would be in your family bubble. Fr Etienne will be keeping a record for each Mass on a **first come – first served** basis. Once the numbers for each Mass are reached in advance individuals will be directed to another Mass.

Generally, the Christmas Eve Masses tend to be busier – so as to avoid crowding and given that the Obligation remains suspended – perhaps think of attending Mass on Christmas Day or the immediate weekend following or indeed any of the Twelve days of Christmas following.

CALLING OUR STEWARDS/CLEANERS

Stewarding at Christmas Masses this year will certainly be required (at least 2/3 stewards for each Mass). Please look at the proposed Christmas Mass list above and contact Fr Etienne by email or phone if you can help.

CAUTION

Please be aware of scam callers/opportunists on the telephone or in person, a phenomenon that seems to have increased during the pandemic. As a rule, never give out personal or finance details, or make any undertaking on the telephone or in any first approach.

From the Parish perspective, know that only fundraising initiatives that have been explicitly presented to, reviewed and approved by Fr Etienne, and thus appear in this Parish Newsletter, are in any way official to the Parish.

DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE CATHOLIC VOICE

The December online edition of our diocesan newspaper is now available on our own website at: <https://catholicsinsouthblackpool.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/December-Voice.pdf>