

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

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THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B) – 31ST JANUARY 2021

BISHOP PATRICK O'DONOGHUE RIP

On Sunday 24th January, Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue sadly passed away at 86 years of age. We pray that his soul may now rest in the peace of Christ; praying, too, for comfort and consolation for his family and friends.

Bishop Patrick served as the Fifth Bishop of Lancaster between 2001 and 2009, coming to lead our Diocese from Westminster where he had served for almost 40 years. His appointment to Lancaster was a huge change and challenge for him in his late 60's. However, he gave himself completely to the task with both a prophetic voice and tremendous energy, never shying away from making difficult decisions for the sake of our Diocese and speaking out courageously in an increasingly secular world.

Personally, Bishop O'Donoghue was a great friend to me when I first came to the Diocese as a student at Lancaster University, as he was for many students in Lancaster. He remained interested in my progress and was always personally very encouraging on my regular visits to see him in retirement in Ireland.

THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISHES

For the last three and a half years our two parishes have been linked together and have been slowly forging a way forward together, beyond simply sharing clergy.

Moreover, in the spirit of synodal participation, I would like to invite each of our active parishioners (in both parishes) to be part of an initial conversation regarding planning for the survival and development of our parishes now and post-covid-19. In particular, I would like us to consider whether merging our two parishes into one new parish – with two congregations - would be a necessary step for both; reducing administration and the strengthening of our ongoing and shared mission.

Given the ongoing pandemic, this meeting will have to take place mainly via Zoom on **Wednesday 10th February at 7.00pm**. If you would like to join in this meeting simply email me directly at catholicsinsouthblackpool@gmail.com and I will send you the link a day or two before the meeting. Alternatively, if you are not online please do feel free to offer a **written and signed** contribution instead. This can be posted, for my attention, to either of the presbyteries.

I will also be consulting with our joint Finance and Fabric Committee on this question. Once the pandemic passes a new and joint Parish Pastoral Council will be formed, which would have already been inaugurated only for the pandemic.

Fr Etienne, *Parochial Administrator*

*OUR SAFETY MEASURES FOR THE PANDEMIC

We remain extra vigilant in our strict adherence to the following safety measures:

- 1. Please do not come to church if you have symptoms of COVID-19 yourself or if you live with someone with such symptoms or if you are 'shielding', self-isolating or feel in any way vulnerable.** Given that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended you might consider attending a quieter Mass during the week.
- 2. Do always, wear your (mandatory) face covering in church ensuring that both your nose and mouth are covered. Some, however, will have an exemption.**
- 3. Wrap up Warm** - we need to have fresh air circulating to ensure your safety from COVID-19, so the church doors will often be left open during Mass. (Yes, even in winter!)
- 4. Once you have sanitised your hands, please leave your name and number on the Track & Trace List or use the app on your mobile phone with the QR code on display.**
- 5. Do keep a physical distance from others as you come into church and at all times in the building. Spread out in church and sit strictly in households/bubbles only. Please do not move the benches or touch or attempt to alter the benches.**
- 6. For the duration of the pandemic, there is no sign of peace. Please do not wander round church greeting people and under no circumstances go into the sacristy.**
- 7. For Holy Communion, which for the duration of the pandemic, is under the form of the Sacred Host only, come out calmly, bench by bench (starting from the front), forming one single-file queue in the centre aisle and keeping well-spaced behind the person in front, using the full spacing available at the front (i.e., at St John Vianney's around the altar steps) returning to your original place down the side aisles as per usual.**
- 8. At Holy Communion, unloop one's face covering and consume the Sacred Host and then replace the face covering before moving immediately back to your original place. Upon your return try not to cross by others.**
- 9. There is no congregational singing in church, so if you hear the organ at Mass please do not start singing.**
- 10. After a brief act of thanksgiving, please leave church using the one-way system without any mingling whatever.**

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Your offerings can still be pushed through the presbytery letterbox or arranged by parishioners with their own bank - via bank transfer/standing order. For details go to: <https://catholicsinsouthblackpool.com/contact/giftaid/>

OUR MASSES & CONFESSIONS

Please note, with care, the times and location for Masses and Confessions in the coming week:

Saturday 30th January

5.00pm – 5.20pm (SJV) Confessions
5.30pm (SJV) Mass for Eileen Brown RIP

Sunday 31st January

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

9.00am (SJV) Mass for Edward Alban Lee RIP
10.00am (SC) Mass for Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue RIP
11.00am (SJV) Mass for Annie Keyes
No Confessions & Benediction at St John Vianney's

Monday 1st February

9.15am (SJV) Latin (EF) Mass for John Etienne RIP

Tuesday 2nd February

The Presentation of the Lord

9.15am (SJV) Mass for Veronica Fishwick RIP (Anniv)
Confessions (SC): 11.30am-11.50am
12 noon (SC) Mass for Geoff Coggan RIP

Wednesday 3rd February

St Blaise/St Ansgar

9.15am (SJV) Mass for the Cox Family - Thanksgiving
followed by Confessions: 9.45am-10.15am
12noon (SC) Mass for Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue RIP
6.00pm (SC) Devotions in honour of St Joseph

Thursday 4th February

9.15am (SJV) Mass for Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue RIP
Day for church sanitisation (SC) – No Mass at SC

Friday 5th February

St Agatha

12 noon (SC) Mass for Patrick Smith RIP
Day for church sanitisation (SJV) – No Mass at SJV

Saturday 6th February

SS Paul Miki & Companions

Confessions (SC): 11.30am-11.50am
12 noon (SC) Mass for Geoff Coggan RIP

Confessions (SJV): 5.00pm – 5.20pm
5.30pm (SJV) Mass for Mary Kearney RIP

Sunday 7th February

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B)

9.00am (SJV) Mass for the people of our parishes
10.00am (SC) Mass Thanksgiving - Covid Recovery
11.00am (SJV) Mass for Kenny MacKay RIP
No Confessions & Benediction at St John Vianney's

PLEASE NOTE: At this time both our churches open just 15 minutes before Mass/confessions/devotions and close 15 minutes after Mass/confessions/devotions.

MASS INTENTIONS

Please do continue to present us with your Mass intentions **well ahead of time** and in writing. The Mass is the most powerful prayer we can offer as the offering of the whole Church.

We are Parishes of the Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity No. 234331.

CHURCH HEATING

Apologies: at St John Vianney's, our church heating seems to have finally given up the ghost! We will investigate but this issue could pose a significant challenge for us, especially given the pandemic.

YEAR OF ST JOSEPH

When there is no other feast to be kept on Wednesdays the priests will offer the Mass that day as a votive Mass of St Joseph. Moreover, on the First Wednesday of the month (**beginning, this Wednesday, 3rd February**) we will honour St Joseph with a short service of devotions, sermon and Benediction at **6.00pm at St Cuthbert's**. All welcome!

TODAY IS RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

Please pray for those who suffer because of their race, culture or language and for all involved in their advocacy.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please pray for Molly Ince and John Radcliffe and for all our parishioners who are sick, especially for all those suffering from COVID-19 and for those caring for them.

Please be in *direct* contact with Fr Etienne, should you wish to be placed on this list yourself. However, data protection regulations do require third parties offering a name for this list to also present us with **written consent from the person concerned**.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

As well as Bishop O'Donoghue, we pray for our recently-deceased: Gerry O'Garr, Patricia Doherty and Canon Giles Goward (Rector of Oscott). May they each rest in peace.

THE CATHOLIC VOICE

The February online edition of our diocesan newspaper can be accessed from our own website at: <https://catholicsinsouthblackpool.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/VoiceFebruary2021.pdf>

YOUTH SERVICE ONLINE INITIATIVES

The Diocesan Youth Service, based at Castlerigg Manor, will soon be starting two online and free of charge groups/initiatives for Young Catholics:

RISE - Online Youth Group - Our first online Youth Group launches in March. It's free of charge and open to anyone in Year 7 to 9. Every other Thursday from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/riseonline

OVERFLOW - Online Young Adults Group - this starts next week and is every Monday on Zoom. Open to anyone aged 18-30yrs: www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/overflow

ASK OUR MP

Please ask our MP (Scott Benton) to sign a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. Moreover, *Right To Life UK* have set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to make such a contact at: www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion