

ST ETHELBERTS CHURCH, LEOMINSTER  
& ST JOSEPH'S, BROMYARD

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24<sup>th</sup> May 2020: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

I find it hard to believe that Eastertide is coming to an end and that next Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the feast that brings the season to a close. This Eastertide has been a strange experience as we have been denied the opportunity to gather together to celebrate the central mysteries of our faith. However it has also been a time of reflection and hopefully helped us to appreciate how much our faith means to us.

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the apostles gathered together in the upper room to await the promised gift of the Spirit. When the gift came at Pentecost it gave them a new energy, removed their fears and filled them with joy. It also filled them with a great desire to tell others of their experience of Jesus and his teaching.

During this week, as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Pentecost, and await the time when we can gather together again in our churches, let us pray that the Holy Spirit may guide the Church through these difficult times and also pray that the Spirit may strengthen us in our faith and gain a greater appreciation of the gift of the Eucharist.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,  
grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise  
and ever enjoy His consolations,  
Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

### Masses

Although we cannot gather to celebrate the Mass, I will continue to pray for you all as I celebrate a private Mass each day at 12 noon. The mass intentions for this week are:

Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	People of our parishes
Monday	St Bede	Alan Scarlet RIP
Tuesday	St Philip Neri	Howard Hughes RIP
Wednesday	St Augustine of Canterbury	Fr Aidan RIP
Thursday		Betty Millar RIP
Friday	St Pope Paul VI	Fr Aidan RIP
Saturday		Srs of St Joseph in Pignarelo suffering with coronavirus

## **Fr Aidan,**

This Wednesday is the Anniversary of Fr Aidan's death, please remember him in your prayers. I will be offering the Mass for him on Wednesday.

## **Pentecost National Rosary Rally**

Pope Francis is encouraging Catholics to pray the Rosary in their family homes during the month of May, especially when the Pandemic is making us aware of the value of our families and making it possible for us to pray together in lockdown at home. He encourages simple Rosaries and joining online Rosary initiatives to pray to Our Lady for deliverance from Covid-19 and he has composed two prayers for this intention. I invite you to join in an initiative that follows on the Pope's request, the Pentecost Sunday National Rosary Rally, from 9.00am to 9.00pm across Scotland England and Wales. Our Diocese has been asked to pray a Rosary Hour at 12noon and I warmly invite you to take part.

Proposed timetable for across the Dioceses

9.00am	Arundel & Brighton, Northampton and HM Forces
10.00am	Birmingham, Nottingham & Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy
11.00am	Brentwood & Plymouth
12 Noon	Cardiff, Portsmouth & Dunkeld
1.00pm	Clifton, Salford & St. Andrews & Edinburgh
2.00pm	East Anglia, Shrewsbury, Aberdeen
3.00pm	Hallam, Southwark, Glasgow
4.00pm	Hexham & Newcastle, Wrexham, Ordinariate OLW
5.00pm	Lancaster, Westminster, Argyll & the Isles
6.00pm	Leeds, Polish Catholic Mission & Glasgow
7.00pm	Liverpool, Middlesbrough & Motherwell
8.00pm	Menevia, Galloway, Paisley & Syro Malabar Eparchy
9.00pm	Rosary Rally will end with a final online Rosary & Blessing from Bishop John Keenan at St. Mirin's Cathedral in Paisley.

This is to be led in the form of a Rosary relay Rally where the Dioceses designated in their Rosary Hour encourage the peoples across their Diocese to pray the Rosary either, individually, in families, as online prayer groups, parish groups, and where possible led online by their parish priests and Bishop. It does not matter what time during the specified hour that the Rosary is prayed. Then on the hour the next Dioceses take up the Rosary relay Rally and so on until 9pm. At 9pm the Rosary Rally will end with a Rosary being led by Bishop John Keenan from St. Mirin's Cathedral in Paisley.

Co-hosted by Rosary on the Coast, London Rosary Shrine, Carfin Grotto, Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham & Diocese of Menevia Divine Mercy Shrine

## **Finance**

Thank you to those parishioners who have sent a cheque in lieu of their weekly collection or put a donation through the presbytery letterbox. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

The suspension of services means that our parishes like so many other organisations, has seen a drop in income. I know that some parishioners are putting a little cash aside each week and intend to bring the accumulated contributions to the church when services resume. Again I am grateful for your continued support of the parish.

If anyone would like to make regular payments to the parish by Standing Order, please let me know and I will arrange for you to receive the necessary bank details.

## **Pope Francis: Catechesis on Prayer**

Each Wednesday, Pope Francis holds a general audience during which he gives a catechesis or reflection. A few weeks ago he began a series of catechesis on prayer which some may find helpful as prayer is something that many of us struggle with at times. The first three reflections are now available on the Vatican website. The links are:

1. The mystery of prayer

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2020/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200506\\_udienza-generale.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200506_udienza-generale.html)

2. The prayer of the Christian

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2020/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200513\\_udienza-generale.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200513_udienza-generale.html)

3. The mystery of creation

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2020/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200520\\_udienza-generale.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200520_udienza-generale.html)

.If anyone has difficulty accessing these, please let me know and I will email you a copy.