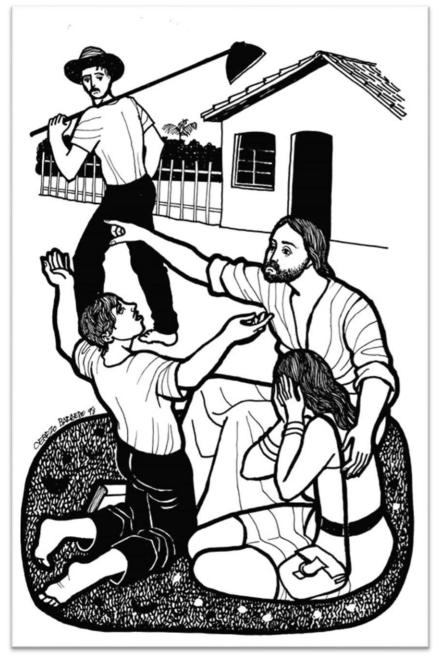
ParishNews

Blessed Sacrament Parish Heavitree Exeter **27 September 2020** Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A



Sinners
are making
their way
into the
kingdom
of God
before you

'Once a sinner, always a sinner.' That seems to be the attitude of the self-righteous in the first reading and the Gospel; they object that God is unjust, because he gives sinners another chance. But God tells them quite clearly that such attitudes are the real injustice - to allow prejudice and hardness of

heart to come between repentance and forgiveness. The words of Christ in the Gospel must have struck a chill into the hard hearts of the so-called righteous chief priests - even today they can make us stop and think: 'Prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.' All our outward show matters little, if it does not correspond with what is deep in our hearts; all our words are meaningless, if they do not correspond with the way we live our lives.



Papal honours for Maria

Last Sunday evening during Mass at Blessed Sacrament, Bishop Mark awarded Maria Edwards with the papal medal Pro Ecclesia e Pontifice (for The Church and Pope) in recognition of her years of dedicated service as a Trustee of the diocese and a board member of Plymouth CAST serving our schools. Deo gratias. We congratulate her warmly on this award and join our thanks to those of the whole diocese.

Cafod Harvest Day

CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis is on Friday 9 October. We have all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of the envelopes which you can pick up as you leave church at all Masses this week. You can also give easily via text. Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10. Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085. Any envelopes taken should be returned on Sunday 11 October and placed in the basket as you leave the church. More information can be found at https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day

Celebrate South West

The South West Celebrate Team have put together a series of online Zoom evenings on Mondays from 7.30 – 8.30pm starting on Monday 5 October. These will take place instead of their annual 'in-person' weekend conference. Registration is now open. To register go to www.celebrateconference.org/back-to-basics-2020. The topics covered are:

5 October: Baptism in the Holy Spirit; The Power of a Personal Encounter. 19 October: Family; How can we receive the kingdom of God more like a child? 2 November: Unity; The Importance of Unity for the Kingdom. 16 November: Formation; The Call to Ever Deeper Discipleship. 30 November: Mission; Taking Risks and Stepping out in Faith to Pursue God's Mission. See attached poster for more details. Stronghold prayer and worship group are going to lead the Worship session on Monday 16 November.

Virtues & Vices

We are called to live a virtuous life, but what are the virtues? You are invited to join Fr Jonathan via Zoom on Tuesday 27 October 7.30pm to explore the meaning of the virtues (and the vices!). There will be a visual presentation and then group discussion. If you would like to take part please email the parish office and the zoom link will be sent to you. All welcome.

Reaching Out – Stretch forth your Hand to the Poor

You are invited to join Bishop Mark O'Toole at the FREE Diocesan on-line event on Saturday 24 October 10.30am-12.30pm to prepare for World Day of the Poor. This event will bring people together from across the Diocese of Plymouth for prayer and reflection, led by Bishop Mark. We will share stories of outreach happening across our Diocese and discuss how we can work together to reach out to the most poor and vulnerable. We hope you can join us. Please email mailto:caritas@prcdtr.org.uk.

October Rosary Mission - Rosary Whirlwind British Isles

Put the nightly 8.00pm Rosary on October 13, October 31 and November 1 & 2 in your diaries! For this is to be a much needed intensive Mission! What amazing grace it would be if someone or a group from every parish throughout England, Wales, Scotland and our Isles signed up! Our Lady of the Rosary needs your help. United in prayer with Our Lady of the Rosary. Please share this with your family and friends. The Sign Up Map for October 13 Rosary Whirlwind British Isles is at www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk Updates are on the Walsingham Facebook page and Rosary on the Coast Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/rosaryonthecoast/

New Ministry in the Kingdom - IT Support

Can you share with us your interest or expertise in IT? We sometimes need a technician to oversee the smooth running of some of our parish online events and are looking for a few individuals to support us in running these zoom meetings and other things. If you are skilled in IT, or interested in being trained up, we'd love to hear from you: Exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk

One Hope Project - Exploring your relationship with God

Are you aged between 14 and 25, fancy working with One Hope Project to explore who God is and how He is part of your life? There will be 4 sessions starting on Wednesday 30 September. Session will run through ZOOM 7.30 – 8.30. You will need to book in order to get the log in. Feel free to bring a friend. To book go to youth@prcdtr.org.uk

Youth Events in the Diocese

October – a series of 5 sessions, exploring faith, music and creativity for those aged 13-21. We are looking for young people across the diocese to help put together a short film of prayer and reflection. The theme is; My spiritual journey, living through COVID-19. If you are interested in any of these or any future events, please email: youth@prcdtr.org

THIS IS MY HOME #HandsForHomelessness

Homelessness is a continued, significant issue in Exeter. This autumn St Petrock's are asking people to help support rough sleepers by joining their September Sleeping Bag Appeal. You can help by: **DROPPING OFF** a second hand (clean!) sleeping bag at St Petrock's Centre https://bit.ly/31JSOsH **PURCHASING** a sleeping bag from our Amazon Wish List for delivery straight to St Petrock's https://goo.gl/LYDetR **DONATING** the cost of a sleeping bag (£30) or an amount of your choosing towards a sleeping bag https://bit.ly/2YzDkvu **FUNDRAISE** for sleeping bags by "lending a hand" and doing a job for someone https://bit.ly/2YzDkvu

GIFT Growing In Faith Together

Our monthly autumn sessions of GIFT began last weekend. These 30-minute zoom meetings will help familiarise parents with the 'God calls' resources by focusing on: introducing parents to the structure and format of the resources; exploring the catechesis and faith teaching of the resource and answering any questions parents may have. The material concentrates on coaching parents to teach and support their children in learning about faith. Following the Zoom call, parents will be emailed the resources which can be used with the whole family during the month. GIFT is for all families; if you'd like to join us, please get in touch with Maria (exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.ogr.uk). Future GIFT zoom dates are scheduled for the 3 October, 7 November and 5 December.

The Season of Creation

1 September – 4 October 2020 'The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home' Laudato Si' 1.3 The Season of Creation begins on September 1, and ends on October 4, the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis has declared a special Year of Laudato Si', from 24 May 2020 to 24 May 2021. The current pandemic has highlighted the inequalities which exist in our own country and its various communities and also the huge inequalities in the world between rich and poor. We must take opportunities to rebuild in a better way. A greener, more environmentally friendly future is possible. Making care for the poor, the most disadvantaged in our society and in the world a priority is possible.

Pope's October Intention

We pray that by virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church. See also https://thepopevideo.org

Pope Francis on Mercy...

If God limited Himself to only justice, He would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected. But mere justice is not enough. Experience shows that an appeal to justice alone will result in its destruction. This is why God goes beyond justice with his mercy and forgiveness.

The Pope tweets...

The destruction of the human environment is extremely serious, not only because God has entrusted the world to us, but because human life is itself a gift which must be defended

Catholic Chaplaincies

A website has been set up to help young people find their Catholic chaplaincy when they arrive at college or university this autumn http://www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk

Celebration of Mass – Rule of 6

The change to the law regarding meeting in groups no larger than six from Monday 14 September **does not** apply to places of worship. Thank goodness!

Wednesday Word Scripture Reflection

Wednesday Word meets online via the Zoom app and reflect together on the Gospel for the coming Sunday. If you would like to join and receive email notifications, please email: exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Exeter Foodbank—Food Shortages

Can you help by donating the following? Potatoes (tinned); Rice Pudding (tinned); Microwaveable Sponge Pudding; Toiletries (shower gel/deodorant/shampoo). Current Collection Points - Sainsbury's (Alphington/Pinhoe/Guildhall); Tesco (Exe Vale); Co-Op (Heavitree/St Thomas); Waitrose (Gladstone Rd)

St Nicholas School Admissions

Reception 2021 Admissions

We are now taking Reception tour bookings for those interested in Reception 2021 admissions. Due to COVID restrictions we are offering 6 tours over 2 days and are strictly limiting the numbers to 15 people per tour. The dates are either **Wednesday 21 October** or **Wednesday 18 November** and on each day we are offering tours at **9.30am, 1.30pm or 6.00p** Please email the school (head@stncs.uk) with your preferred date, time and the numbers coming. We look forward to meeting you and showing you our lovely school.

Vacancy in the Diocese of Plymouth

Vicariate for Clergy Administrator (part time) – 1 post Location: Home based but within travelling distance to St Boniface House, Ashburton, Devon. Salary: £11.14 per hour (Actual Salary - £9,268.00 per annum). Hours: 16 hours per week The Vicariate for Clergy Administrator will work under the supervision and direction of the Secretary to the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy to provide appropriate administrative support to the Vicariate for Clergy to ensure the smooth running of clergy administration. Copies of the job description and application form are obtainable from Jan Holton on 01364 645383 or by email to recruitment@prcdtr.org.uk. The last date for applications is Monday 28 September and interviews will be held on Monday 12 October at St. Boniface House, Ashburton.

Stewarding at Mass

Our stewards continue to offer their time to help us celebrate Mass safely. We are immensely grateful to them all. If you would like to join the team please contact the parish office and we will get you on the rota. Please can we ask that all stewards arrive **at least half an hour before the beginning of Mass so** that we can open the doors of the church in readiness for our congregation. Many thanks.

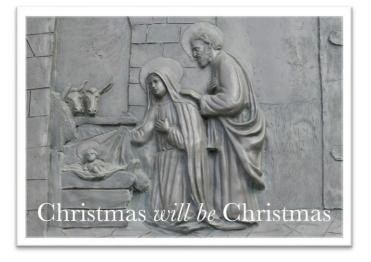
Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Face Masks/Coverings

It continues to be mandatory to cover our faces when we come to church. Please see it rather as an act of charity towards your neighbour than a rule. We are going to maintain the 2m distancing in church which the government recommends wherever possible. This will mean that the capacity inside the church will not change. Therefore, if you do come and cannot get in, please be generous in your response. Certain people are exempt from wearing masks and a list of these exemptions can be found on the Gov.uk website.

The Parish livesimply Sewing Group have been making face masks and some are available at church. The group are asking for a donation for the parish.



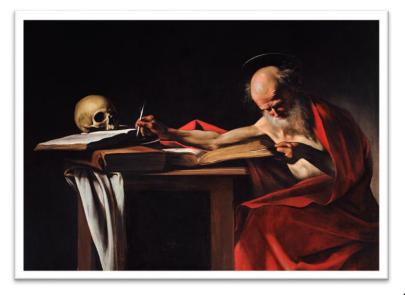
Christmas will be Christmas

On Radio 4's Today programme recently Lorraine Heggessy from BBC TV was asked what Christmas will be in a pandemic. She said that people will need to be taken out of themselves and given a feeling that they are part of something bigger. Apparently comedy is the answer! The first Christmas, when Jesus Christ, the Son of God took on human flesh and

was born of Mary, was THE moment in history when humanity realised it was part of something bigger; part of the greatest story ever told. When everything that constitutes the contemporary 'winter festival' is stripped bare we are left with the simple fact that God loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, that we might know what hope his love holds for us. That's what Christmas was, that's what Christmas is, and that's what Christmas always will be. #christmaswillbechristmas

For all the Saints...





30 September St Jerome, Priest, Doctor (340 - 420)

He was born in Strido, in Dalmatia. He studied in Rome and was baptized there. He was attracted by the ascetic life and travelled to the East, where he was (unwillingly) ordained a priest. He was recalled to Rome to act as secretary to Pope Damasus, but on the Pope's death he returned to the East, to Bethlehem, where (with the aid of St Paula and others) he founded a monastery, a hospice, and a school, and settled down to the most important work of his life, the translation of

the Bible into Latin, a translation which, with some revisions, is still in use today. He wrote many works of his own, including letters and commentaries on Holy Scripture. When a time of troubles came upon the world, through barbarian invasions, and to the Church, through internal dissension, he helped the refugees and those in need. He died at Bethlehem.



1 October St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor (1873 - 1897)

Marie-Françoise-Thérèse Martin was born in Alençon, in France, on 2 January 1873. Her mother, who already had breast cancer, died when Thérèse was four, and the family moved to Lisieux. Thérèse became a nun at the Carmelite convent there at the age of 15, after a long battle against the superior, who insisted that 16, or even 21, would be a more sensible age. She died of tuberculosis at the age of 24, and that was that. Another forgotten nun: born, was good, died. Holy, no doubt; but nothing much to write home about.

In 1895 Mother Agnès of Jesus, the prioress, had commanded Thérèse to write her memoirs. Writing "not to produce a literary work, but under obedience," Thérèse took a year to fill six exercise books. She presented them to the prioress, who put them in a drawer unread. A year

after Thérèse's death, the memoirs were published in a small edition of 2,000: the first spark that ignited a "storm of glory" that swept the world. Miracles started to happen: conversions, cures, even apparitions. "We must lose no time in crowning the little saint with glory," said the Prefect of the Congregation of Rites, "if we do not want the voice of the people to anticipate us." The beatification process opened thirteen years after Thérèse's death. She was canonized in 1925, the Pope having suspended the rule that forbids canonization less than 50 years after someone's death.

Her parents, Louis and Zélie Martin, were canonised by Pope Francis on 18 October 2015. Their feast day is 12 July. When Thérèse was 17, she confided to a visiting Jesuit her hope of becoming a great saint and to love God as much as the Carmelite Saint Teresa of Ávila. The Jesuit thought he found traces of pride and presumption and advised her to moderate her desires. "Why, Father?" asked Thérèse, "since our Lord has said, Be perfect as your heavenly

Father is perfect." 100 years after Thérèse's death, Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church, joining St Catherine of Siena and St Teresa of Ávila. The very storm of glory that propelled Thérèse into sainthood makes her a difficult saint for many of us to stomach. The late 19th century was a highly sentimental period, and much of the literature about Thérèse has taken that quality and made it sweeter and sicklier still, to the point where you feel like brushing your teeth after reading every page.

What makes St Thérèse so special? We have grown used to the idea that just as there are people with talents for sport or scholarship, and the rest of us can only admire them without trying to keep up, so there are people with a talent for holiness and heroic virtue, and the rest of us can only bumble along as best we can. We can't do better because we're not designed to do better, so there's no point in trying. We sink into a consoling mediocrity. Thérèse wrecks this. She was physically weak and psychologically vulnerable. For her the great saints were giants, they were inaccessible mountains, and she was only an "obscure grain of sand;" but she was not discouraged. St John of the Cross taught her that God can never inspire desires that cannot be fulfilled. The Book of Proverbs told her, "If anyone is a very little one, let him come to me." If you only look, Scripture is permeated with images of our littleness and weakness with respect to God, and of his care for us in our insignificance.

Thérèse's "Little Way" means taking God at his word and letting his love for us wash away our sins and imperfections. When a priest told her that her falling asleep during prayer was due to a want of fervour and fidelity and she should be desolate over it, she wrote "I am not desolate. I remember that little children are just as pleasing to their parents when they are asleep as when they are awake." We can't all hug lepers or go off and become missionaries and martyrs. But we all do have daily opportunities of grace. Some of them may be too small to see, but the more we love God, the more we will see them. If we can't advance to Heaven in giant strides, we can do it in tiny little steps. Our weakness is no excuse for mediocrity.



2 October The Holy Guardian Angels

The doctrine that every individual soul has a guardian angel has never been defined by the Church and so is not an article of faith, but is the "mind of the Church", as expressed particularly by St Jerome and St Basil. it is present in both the Old and New Testaments. As Jesus says, See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven always gaze on the face of my Father in heaven. Thus even little children have guardian angels, and these angels remain in the presence of God even as they fulfil their mission on earth. Anciently, all angels were celebrated together on the feast of St Michael. A separate feast of the Guardian Angels began in Valencia in 1411. At the reform of the Breviary in the 16th century it was included among the local feasts, and it was raised to the status of a feast in the General Calendar in 1608. placed on the first free day after the feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. One of the benefits of this feast is that it

reminds us that God cares for us each, individually. We all know this in theory, but it is easy – in times of depression or temptation – to convince ourselves that we are too small to matter, for good or ill. Let us use this feast to remind ourselves that each of us has an angel of our very own looking after us; and also to pray to God for our own Guardian Angel. What a bore and a burden to them some of us are. May we one day be a cause of rejoicing for them also.

Mass Times

Sunday 27 September

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time World Day of Prayer for Migrants & Refugees

8.45am *People of the Parish* 10.45am

6.00pm

Tuesday 29 September

Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael – Archangels 6.30pm Adrian Jenkinson RIP

Wednesday 30 September St Jerome, Priest & Doctor 9.30am

Thursday 1 October

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor 9.30am Joseph Frederick Bossa RIP

Friday 2 October The Holy Guardian Angels 6.30pm

Saturday 3 October 9.30am

Sunday 4 October

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 8.45am 10.45am People of the Parish

10.45am *People of the Parish* 6.00pm

Tuesday 6 October 6.30pm *Sandy Kent RIP*

Wednesday 7 October Our Lady of the Rosary 9.30am

Thursday 8 October 9.30am

Friday 9 October 6.30pm *In Thanksgiving- Cristales family*

Saturday 10 October 9.30am

The Word

Sunday 27 September

FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:25-28 When the sinner renounces sin, he shall certainly live.

PSALM Remember your mercy, Lord.

SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-11 In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus

GOSPEL Matthew 21:28-32 He thought better of it and went. Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.

Sunday 4 October

FIRST READING Isaiah 5:1-7

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel..

PSALM The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

SECOND READING Philippians 4:6-9 *The God of peace will be with you.*

GOSPEL Matthew 21:33-43 *He will leave the vineyard to other tenants.*

Confessions

Following 9.30am Mass on Saturday morning. *Please be seated (socially distanced) in the front pews on the left of the church. The church will need to be cleaned following confessions.*

Attachments

Parish Information
Sunday Message, Sunday Homily. Sunday Plus
LOOK for young children
ICTHUS for older children

Parish Information

Parish Priest

Fr Jonathan Stewart

Priest in retirement

Fr John Watkins

PARISH OFFICE

The Presbytery,

29 Fore Street. Heavitree

Exeter EX1 201

01392 274724

Email exeter-heavitree

@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Office hours

Tuesday. Wednesday and

Thursday 10.00am-4.00pm

Parish Secretary

Lesley Hooper

Parish Pastoral Assistant

Maria Quinn

exeter-pastoral-assistant@prcdtr.org.uk

Parish Youth Worker

Erik Renz

exeter-youth-worker@prcdtr.org.uk

Safeguarding Reps

Vince Clark & Lesley Hooper

PARISH SCHOOL

St Nicholas Catholic

Primary School

Ringswell Avenue,

Exeter EX1 3EG

01392 445403

admin@stncs.uk

www.st-nicholas-exeter.devon.sch.uk

Executive Head Teacher

Angela Folland

CONVENT

Mount St Mary Convent, Wonford Road, EX2 4PF

01392 433301

Your Offering

We are enormously grateful for your continued generosity to the parish, particularly at this time when fewer people are coming to church on a regular basis. Please place your cash offering or planned giving envelopes in one of the two baskets at the church doors. These will be collected at the end of each Mass. Please remember that the most efficient way for you to give is by standing order. Forms are available by emailing the parish office. Arrangements are made directly with your bank. And if you can, please GiftAid your contribution. We are making plans for contactless giving at the church.

Gift Aid Donors

You should soon receive your annual gift aid letter for the year ending 5 April 2020. This shows the tax amount the Parish will be claiming so do check you have paid enough tax to cover the gift. The letters have been sent to the address currently held in our gift aid records. If you are expecting a letter but do not receive one please contact the Parish Treasurer via the Parish Office. Many thanks for your continued financial support of the parish.

No paper copies of Parish News

Some of you will have been able to celebrate Mass in the church recently. In line with Covid regulations, paper copies of the newsletter will not be available at the church. We are sending it to as many as we can by email. If you know anyone who may like to receive it please ask them to email their request to the parish office and they can be added to our circulation list.

Parish News by Post

If you know someone who would appreciate keeping in touch in this way. With their permission please give their name and address to the parish office at exeterheavitree@prcdtr.org.uk or call the parish office and we will arrange to get a copy to them.

Mass intentions

Fr Jonathan is celebrating Mass each day and if you would like a Mass said for a particular intention, for someone who is ill or a loved one who has died, in thanksgiving for an answer to prayer or perhaps something personal please contact Lesley by email exeter-heavitree@prcdtr.org.uk or in the parish office 01392 274724 who will be able to help you find a date. It is traditional to make an offering at the same time. This is simply what you can afford and would like to give. To comply with GDPR rules we must have the permission of the person named if it is to be made public unless they are deceased.

Redemptorist Weekly Attachments

Sunday Message: is focused on giving a practical application to the Sunday Gospel. Each week, an original exposition of the Gospel is provided, along with a short reflection encouraging the reader to relate it to their life; learning points, suggestions for action and original prayer material are also included.

Look: is a Sunday sheet for children between 4-9 years old providing Gospel-focused activities and games for younger children. Each week the Gospel story is explained in age appropriate language. A prayer and a variety of activities that will engage the children are included to help each child get to know the person of Jesus. Look links faith to the everyday lives of children.

ICHTHUS: Children who have celebrated their First Holy Communion often find a children's sheet too juvenile, while an adult sheet is not ideal. Ichthus is a weekly Mass leaflet ideal for those aged 8 years plus. It contains the text of the readings and Gospel in age appropriate language, additional teaching elements and prayers to help the children fully participate in the Mass.

Sunday Homily: This is a short homily on the Sunday readings that will help readers to see with fresh eyes scripture that might have become too familiar to them over time, losing its power. Written in everyday language that helps those reading it to apply lessons and truths to their lives. At this challenging time of isolation and cancellation of services / Masses continuing to follow the lectionary and remain connected to the Church year will, we hope, support people in their faith. https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/lost-for-words-catholic-edition

Sick Parishioners

Please remember in your prayers all in our parish who are sick, recently bereaved, lonely or struggling at this difficult time. May God help them to find the strength and courage to deal with their difficulties, and may they know that the parish is with them and praying for them.

What has happened to the Sunday Obligation?

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is suspended at the moment. As Mass is celebrated most days you are encouraged to attend a Mass on any day of the week that you are able.

Online Masses in Polish

https://jasnagora.pl/pl/media/nazywo/kaplica-matki-bozej/ Mass times: https://jasnagora.pl/pl/dlapielgrzymow/program-dnia/

Dial-a-Mass

The Middlesbrough Diocese in conjunction with the Knights of St Columba began Dial-a-Mass for the benefit of those who do not have the internet or computer. The Mass is recorded and put on telephone, at 12 midday on Sunday and will stay until 11.59 the following Sunday. For the cost of a local call the person can listen to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The number to call is **01642 130120.** The Mass will not go over one hour (approximately 45 minutes).