

# CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England

*Sunday – it is our Day!*

On 19th July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Nevertheless, there will be an encouragement to personal and corporate responsibility in this area; as the Prime Minister said in his most recent statement “The pandemic is not over.” Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our buildings, especially at corporate acts of worship.

We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God.

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled *The Day of the Lord*. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: “The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives.”

May this continue to be our striving during these coming months as we journey back to the full celebration of our Sunday Mass and our renewed observance of *The Day of the Lord*.

1 St Jerome, *In Die Dominica Paschae II*

## Updated Guidance

Hand Sanitiser will be available at the entrance. Wearing of face-coverings is highly recommended in Church. Social distancing is no longer mandatory, but please be respectful of others' needs at this time. During Mass, you can remain seated or stand as you wish, but please do not kneel. Congregational singing is again permitted. Holy Communion can be distributed with distancing and allow some spacing, mindful of the needs of others. Father will continue to sanitise his hands and wear a face-covering before distributing Holy Communion. Some of our people will be very anxious at any sudden return to 'normality'. We can be patient and caring towards each other, as we take this next big step back towards normality, following the pandemic.

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<p>Our Schools:          Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - <a href="http://www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml">www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml</a>          English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - <a href="http://www.emschool.co.uk/">www.emschool.co.uk/</a></p>		



## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

25<sup>th</sup> July -1<sup>st</sup> August 2021

**Words for the Week:** *The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.*

Sunday 25.07	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass
Monday 26.07	No Service	
Tuesday 27.07	10am	Holy Mass
Wednesday 28.07	10am 5.45pm	English Holy Mass Malayalam Mass (Feast of St Alphonsa)
Thursday 29.07	10am	Holy Mass
Friday 30.07	10am	Holy Mass
Saturday 31.07	10am 5.45pm	Holy Mass Malayalam Mass
Sunday 1.08	10.30am 4pm	English Mass Malayalam Mass

## Feast of St. Alphonsa

**We are celebrating the feast of St. Alphonsa on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July.**  
**English Holy Mass at 10:00am and Malayalam Holy Mass at 5:45pm.**  
**All are welcome.**

## Words of the Holy Father

With this gesture, Jesus demonstrates His power; not in a spectacular way but as a sign of charity, of God the Father's generosity toward His weary and needy children. He is immersed in the life of His people, He understands their fatigue and their limitations, but He does not allow anyone to be lost, or to lose out: He nourishes them with His word and provides food in plenty for sustenance.

**Pope Francis July Intentions - Social friendship.** We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

**First reading from the Second Book of Kings 2 Kgs 4:42-44**

A man came from Baal-shalishah bringing to Elisha, the man of God, twenty barley loaves made from the first fruits, and fresh grain in the ear. Elisha said, "Give it to the people to eat." But his servant objected, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" Elisha insisted, "Give it to the people to eat." "For thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and there shall be some left over.'" And when they had eaten, there was some left over, as the LORD had said.

**Responsorial Psalm – Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18**

**R.** The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD, and let your faithful ones bless you. Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might. **R.** The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their food in due season; you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. **R.** The LORD is just in all his ways and holy in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth. **R.**

**Second reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians Eph4:1-6**

Brothers and sisters: I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

**From the Gospel according to John Jn 6:1-15**

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline."

Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion** can help us and the priests we see online celebrating Mass in empty Churches frequently encourage us to ask for Our Lord's guidance by offering prayers like this one written by St. Alphonsus Liguori in the 18th century.

**My Jesus,**  
**I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament**  
**of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire**  
**to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,**  
**come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly**  
**to you now and forever. Amen**

**300 Club 18<sup>th</sup> July:** to be announced next week.



**Please remember in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish.**

**News from Justice & Peace and Caritas 28<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Diocesan Grapevine - Go to <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/grapevine-e-bulletin>**

**'What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like?'**—Teaching is not just about conveying facts - it's an act of the imagination. Teacher and learner together create something new.

Jesus used many parables to attempt to describe the Kingdom of God, but more often than not he started with a question, one like this: 'What shall we say the kingdom of God is like?' (Mark 4: 30). He invites us to find the answer for ourselves, in the evidence around us.

It's a timely question for us as we emerge from lockdown, and begin to rebuild our communities - both in the parish and in our neighbourhoods. So where do you see parables of the Kingdom in the community around you?

One thing is for sure, says Jesus, the signs are easily missed: the tiny mustard seed, the yeast in the loaf, the treasure in the field. So join Caritas on a search party - a search party of the imagination!

With the launch of Caritas in our diocese at Pentecost, we launched the 'Friends in Caritas'. This is a network of people who are seeking to grow in their practical witness to the Gospel, with encouragement and support from each other and from Caritas. You are welcome to join us - scroll down for more details. More than that, we invite you to connect with other Catholics locally, and together seek out those signs of the Kingdom so that they don't go unheeded. We are establishing four county-based Hubs within Caritas, and this issue of *Grapevine* contains an invitation to you to be in at the start. **Paul** (Programme Leader for Social Action)

## An update... from the Briars

In April 2020 we had no choice but to bid farewell to a calendar full of school, parish and youth groups booked for the months ahead of us. The volunteer team were sent home, and the centre became empty for the longest time since opening over 50 years ago. In times of desolation it's often hard to see, feel or even believe that God is with us and has already thought up a plan amid the chaos of the world. Alongside the wave of sadness and disappointment, of opportunities missed, of loved ones lost and dreams shattered, there were always some blessings - however small - that we could cling onto. Glimmers of hope, looking to a future of peace, togetherness and eventually joy.

Now, it's an exciting time for The Briars as our massive renovation project finally gets underway. We've worked really hard to use this time of closure as a time for growth and in addition to our increased online provision and new methods of working with school groups outdoors in our inflatable classroom. The whole staff community, many of whom have been working remotely or furloughed for a huge amount of time, are so excited to be back and welcome you to a renovated and updated centre for Summer/Autumn 2021.

The Briars first opened its doors as a Catholic residential retreat centre for young people in 1969 after the site was obtained by the Diocese of Nottingham following its previous use as a Quaker guest house. In the 80s exciting developments were made in order to increase residential capacity and allow for larger groups of young people to be resident at the centre, with the guidance of an ever-growing volunteer team and management.

This saw the construction of two new structural additions known today as 'Hebron' and 'Tabor' respectively housing the catering, residential and social spaces, and the chapel, lower conference room and reception area. Today, these new developments that are underway are the largest single investment in the centre in over 30 years. We will see residential areas fully modernised - with en-suite accommodation for all, a brand new state of the art dining area and food servery, renewed lounge and social facilities and additional improvements to our site and outdoor recreational spaces, easier parking and coach spaces, all making the retreat experience at The Briars smoother, easier and more beautiful than ever.

Make sure you check out our website and social media for more information and updates, and don't forget to book your trip now for 2021-22! We've frozen prices from last year and whilst restrictions remain we're offering a no risk deposit to secure your trip. There's also a special 20% discounted rate for weekend bookings.

**[CONTACT US ABOUT BOOKING!](#)**

## The Holy Father's Day for Grandparents and the Elderly - 25th July 2021

At the end of January, the Holy Father announced a 'World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly' to be held annually on the Fourth Sunday in July (25th July 2021). The announcement formed part of Pope Francis' Angelus address on 31st January, a copy of which can be found at: [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2021/documents/papa-francesco\\_angelus\\_20210131.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2021/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20210131.html) In addition, there are many helpful resources provided by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. See Annex 3a,3b,3c,3d.

## Prayer for the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly - 25 July 2021

I thank You, Lord, for the comfort of Your presence:  
even in times of loneliness, You are my hope and my confidence,  
You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!

I thank You for having given me a family  
and for having blessed me with a long life.  
I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty,  
for the dreams that have already come true in my life  
and for those that are still ahead of me.

I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You call me.  
Increase, O Lord, my faith, make me a channel of your peace,  
teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me,  
to never stop dreaming and to tell of your wonders to new generations.  
Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church,  
that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth.  
Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world,  
that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed,  
the poor consoled and wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness and help me to live life to the full in each moment  
that You give me, in the certainty that you are with me every day,  
even until the end of the age. **Amen.**

### Parish Finances

A letter from the Diocesan Finance Secretary has been received by all parishes in the Diocese. The letter has been sensitively written, aware and empathising with many Parishioners, whose jobs may not be there for them, and the resulting consequences for many in the future. He also writes about Parish income at this time, with our Church doors closed and no public services, no Masses on Sundays, no Parish income. He is fully aware that Churches and Church property has to be maintained, that bills will have to be paid etc. etc., and all this despite no regular parish income at this time. He realises that many parishes may struggle.

He has suggested that perhaps Parishioners, who are regular givers to the Church plate, either by weekly envelope or by cash directly into the Collection basket, might consider, if they are in a position to do so, of paying by direct debit from their bank account. This would ensure a continuous income for the parish on a weekly basis, and would help to alleviate the current financial income for the Parish.

For those who might like to do so, or to consider that possibility.

**Our Account Name: MOTHER OF GOD LEICESTER RCP -  
Account number: 01538822 - Sort code: 30-94-97.**

Please include your name as a reference so that we know where the funds have come from and what they are for. Thank you for your attention and consideration to this possibility.