



Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Brewood

Kiddemore Green Road, ST19 9BQ

Email: stmarysrbrewood@hotmail.com website: www.stmarybrewood.org.uk
Serving HMP Brinsford, HMP Featherstone and HMP Oakwood, Penkridge, Bishop's Wood, Four Ashes, Coven, Lapley, Wheaton Aston and surrounding areas.

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered charity number 234216
Parish Priest: Fr Paul Smith, St Mary's Presbytery, Wharf Lane, Brewood, ST19 9BG
Tel: 01902 850394

Parish Deacon: Revd. Stephen Gee 01902 782969

Parish school: Executive Headteacher ~ Mrs Bernadette Corbett ~ Tel: 01902 850261

Sunday 22nd March 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Coronavirus update

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have advised that, with effect from Friday 20th March, **public acts of worship in our churches, including Mass, will be suspended** in line with government advice.

In these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, our bishops have confirmed that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.

Private prayer – For as long as possible, we will try to keep St Mary's Brewood church open for private prayer. In visiting our church at this time, please be mindful of government advice; observing the practices of hygiene with great care and the guidance on social distancing. However, the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation.

We can share in the Sacrifice of Christ in these days by knowing that the Mass is being celebrated; joining in spiritually in that celebration; watching the live-streaming of the Mass; following its prayers at home and making an act of spiritual communion. These are the ways in which we will sanctify Sunday, and indeed every day. The bishops have provided leaflets that we can use to help us in our prayers which can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/>. These resources will be available on the **parish website** www.stmarybrewood.org.uk, along with other ideas for **prayer** and **news updates**.

Mass Online - You can follow Mass online at a number of churches in the diocese; some of which can be found at: <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/cameras/county/west-midlands>. For example, if you go to <http://www.st-ambrose-barlow.org.uk/hall-green> you can check Mass times; go back to the main page and select '**CLICK HERE FOR CHURCH WEBCAM**'; click on the white arrow and you should be able to see the church at St Ambrose Barlow, Hall Green, Birmingham, live. The sound is on during Mass. If you wish to follow the readings of the day, you can find these at <http://www.universalis.com/mass.htm>

During these disturbing and threatening times, our bishops have reminded us that the rhythm of the prayer of the Church will continue and we are all asked to play our part in it. The effort of daily kindness and mutual support for all will continue and increase.

Caring for each other – Another vital aspect of these challenging times is our care for each other. There are so many ways in which we are to do this: being attentive to the needs of our neighbour, especially the elderly and vulnerable; contributing to our local food banks; volunteering for charitable initiatives and organisations; simply keeping in touch by all the means open to us.

Brewood Helpers Network is a group of local volunteers who have come together to help anyone in Brewood who may need it during the current coronavirus pandemic. If you live in **Brewood** and are having to self-isolate or are staying in because of a health condition and need help with shopping / prescription collection or maybe just someone to chat to on the phone if you're feeling lonely, then you can contact the Network via its Facebook group 'Brewood Helpers Network' or via a flier which you should receive through your front door. **Val Lewis** has also offered to help anyone in the **Penkridge** area who has to stay in and needs help with shopping / prescription collection. Val can be contacted on **01785 712714**. Please also ring me if you need help.

If you know anyone who does not have access to the internet; please let them know of this news and maybe ring them occasionally if they are self-isolating.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, protect us and pray for us.

Fr Paul

Sick List To comply with **GDPR** legislation, from November 2018, we started the parish sick list anew. Only those who have given consent will be on the sick list. A letter is available which can be handed to anyone who is ill to request a visit, or to have their names added to the list to be prayed for.

Please pray for the sick of the parish & their carers: - Chris Rauchmann, Philip & Christine Elson.

Our Collection for last weekend was **£293.30** made up of **£123.90** envelopes and **£169.40** loose. Thank you.

Betty Dalton RIP – we pray for the repose of Betty's soul and for her family.

Sun 22nd	Fourth Sunday of Lent
Mon 23rd	Lent feria
Tues 24th	Lent feria
Wed 25th	The Annunciation of the Lord
Thurs 26th	Lent feria
Fri 27th	Lent feria
Sat 28th	Lent feria
Sun 29th	Fifth Sunday of Lent

