

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Parishes of St Mary's Catholic Church, Bridgend, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Porthcawl & St Joseph's of Arimathea, Kenfig Hill

www.catholicchurchbridgend.org.uk

www.catholicchurchporthcawl.org.uk

Priest: Fr. Tim McGrath 01656 652034 & Fr. Silvio Briffa (retired)

Parish Deacons: Rev. Philip Manghan philip.manghan@rcadc.org

Robert Coyne Tel: 01656 783540 & Anthony Martin Tel: 01656 746648

Parish Administrator: Sarah Kearns bridgend@rcadc.org

Coronavirus Guidelines

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change.

Mass continues to be celebrated, though in private, on a daily basis by Fr Tim at St Mary's Bridgend.

There are now measures in place whereby you can view Mass and Father Tim's reflections on readings of the day via Father Tim's YouTube channel. There are also many other links on the website to help you and your families through this tricky time. Please look out for your loved ones and also consider those who do not have access to the outside world via the internet.

Please continue to observe the guidance on social distancing and be responsible in continuing to use universal good hygiene. Stay home. Stay safe. God Bless.

HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS, THE SICK & DYING: Sadly because of the restrictions Priests are unable to visit the sick in hospital or at home at this time. If you have sick or dying family, please do continue contact myself and we can discuss the way forward. 01656 652034.

Funerals

Please be advised that Priests and Deacons can only conduct a Funeral service in the Crematorium or at the graveside during this time. No Requiem Masses or services are allowed in church. A Memorial Service for the deceased may be held later once all returns to normal.

Mass Intentions

Please note that all Masses said will be for 'the People of the Parish' and for your own private intentions. You are all in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Keeping in Touch! Please check the website regularly for updates and use the links available. If you subscribe to St Mary's newsletter (see bottom of home page) any updates will be emailed out to you as soon as I get them. St Mary's also has an Instagram account which you are encouraged to follow.

Wendy and Eugene McCarthy are co-ordinating volunteers to help those who are struggling during this difficult time. Whilst it is more important than ever to observe social distancing there are those who may need help to get in some supplies or who would just appreciate a phone call to see that they are ok. If you are able to help or know of anyone who is in need of help please email bridgend@rcadc.org and I will pass on the details to Wendy and Eugene. Many Thanks. Sarah Kearns

Please continue to remember all those who are sick and housebound in your prayers.



'The Lord has given me a disciples tongue. So that I May know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me with speech.' Isaiah
(The Mass of Palm Sunday)

EU Settlement Scheme – If you are not sure please ask a member of the clergy or call the office. You may still need to apply even if you moved to the UK before it joined the EU. See Church website for more details.

Finance
Could you set up a standing order to your parish?

Many thanks to all those who have enquired about setting up a standing order to ensure the continuation of some parish income over the coming weeks. It is understandable that in these are uncertain times people may not be in a position to give as generously as they normally do and thus the parish income is likely to fall. However, should parishioners feel able to donate, please email bridgend@rcadc.org for information on setting up a standing order to your parish. Many thanks.

HOLY WEEK

As Christians we move into the great week of Holy Week during what are very strange times. In this week so much happens for us as Catholics, there are so many signs, symbols and rituals which mark our faith and renew our commitment to God.

Even though our churches are closed I ask you to make an extra effort to mark each of the days of Holy week with prayer and reflection.

- Psalm Sunday - we remember both Christ's triumphant entry into the Holy City, and his Passion (St. Matthews Gospel this year - try to read both events). Our Palms will be blessed, and when we return to normal can be collected. Be mindful that these are the Palms that are burned at the start of Lent, and used as ashes upon our head, recalling how we promised to follow the Lord, and failed.
- Maundy Thursday - we as Priests and Deacons are asked to renew our vows privately. (The annual Chrism Mass will be at a later date). As we give thanks (Eucharist) for all that the Lord will accomplish these next few days, spend some time praying and watching with the Lord. Remember the Lord's MANDATE (commandment) "Love one another as I have loved you" At this time of the virus we must listen and obey that commandment.
- Good Friday - try and say the Stations of the Cross. At 3pm or 7pm pray them with your children. Offer up this time in isolation for all who suffer. Let us link this time with Christ and his time on the cross.
- Easter Sunday - REJOICE, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA HE IS RISEN and so shall we!

Look after each other, stay safe, HAVE A PRAYERFUL Holy week.

May God bless and protect us. Amen.

Father Tim

If you do need to contact us please do so via the website or email bridgend@rcadc.org or phone myself or the Deacons. Sarah, whilst not in the office, is working from home to, amongst other things, keep the website and Instagram up to date and will be able to answer or forward appropriately any queries you may have.

Please pray, be kind, keep safe, look after each other.

May Our Blessed Lady, all the Angles and Saint pray for us.

And may Almighty God bless us all. Amen.

A Prayer for us in this time of need.

Heavenly Father, who sent the ten plagues to free his children, and protected them by the blood of the Lamb, bless all those affected by the Coronavirus.

Encourage and strengthen those who seek a cure.

Protect all who care or work in the NHS. Send your Holy Angels to guard us and bring us safely through this time of trial. May your Holy Mother care for us as she did for the sick child Jesus. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Follow this with one Our Father, three Hail Marys)

Our Lady of Lourdes. Pray for us.

St. Raphael Archangel. Pray for us.

St Luke, the Physician. Pray for us.

St. Bernadette. Pray for us.



*Mrs Patricia 'Andrea' Davies
RIP*

*Please keep Andrea and her
family in your prayers.*

May she rest in peace.

Amen.