

Prayers for use at home

~ A Prayer for Everyone:

God, Our Father,
Creator of the world, almighty and merciful.
Out of love for us, you sent your Son into the world
as the doctor of our souls and bodies.

Look upon your children,
who in this difficult time of confusion and dismay
in many regions around the world
turn to you seeking strength, salvation and relief.
Deliver us from illness and fear,
comfort our sick and their families
give wisdom to our rulers,
energy and reward to our doctors,
nurses and volunteers,
and eternal life to those who have died.

Do not abandon us in this moment of trial,
But deliver us from all evil.
We ask this of you who with the Son and the Holy
Spirit, live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Mary, Mother of Health and Hope,
Pray for us. Amen

~ Prayer of Pope Francis to Our Lady:

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain,
keeping your faith firm.
You know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge,
Holy Mother of God.

Do not disdain the entreaties
of we who are in trial,
but deliver us from every danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin.

~ For NHS Staff

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ,
healed all manner of illness and disease,
grant to doctors, nurses,
all allied health care professionals
and care home staff,
your boundless love and protection.

Keep them safe,
and preserve them from all contagion.

Enable them to use their energy,
wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience
to help, heal and support those living with illness.

We make this prayer,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

~ Prayer to Christ the Healer

In the comfort of your love,
I pour out to you, my saviour
the memories that haunt me,
the anxieties that perplex me,
the fears that stifle me,
the sickness that prevails upon me,
and the frustration of all the pain that weaves
about within me.

Lord, help me to see your peace in my turmoil,
your compassion in my sorrow,
your forgiveness in my weakness,
and your love in my need.

Touch me, O Lord,
with your healing power and strength. Amen

~ A Prayer when anxious

Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life;
rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise,
God, whose very own you are,
will lead you safely through all things;
and when you cannot stand it,
God will carry you in His arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow;
the same understanding Father
who cares for you today
will take care of you then and every day.

He will either shield you from suffering
or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.
Be at peace,
and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

St Francis De Sales



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Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

Readings for 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8,14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Parish Prayer for the Dead and for Mourners

You are invited to join with Fr Allen and other parishioners in praying on Sundays for those who have died recently, and for their families and friends.

Texts are posted on the blog Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, but of course feel free to pray for these intentions as you choose!

MASSES Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the parish church at 0830 each day. A number of parishioners like to spend join themselves with this Mass as they pray at home.

Each morning a brief reflection on one of the readings of the day is posted on our parish blog. One way of joining yourself with the daily parish Mass is to follow the following pattern: make a penitential act (e.g., the I Confess or the Lord /Christ have mercy); read the scripture reading and reflection, and make a spiritual communion

If there are people you would like prayed for at daily Mass, please email or phone them to Fr Allen, or simply add them to the lead post on the parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stnicholasboldmere

Sa	16		Mass intention: Anne Gallagher RIP (Evans)
Su	17	6th Sunday of Easter Psalter Week 2	Mass intention: Aidan Redmond RIP (Redmond)
M	18		Mass intention: Anne Gallagher RIP (Evans)
T	19		Mass intention: Sisters at Footterley Hall (Pocock)
W	20		Mass intention: Joseph Drozd RIP (Drozd)
Th	21	ASCENSION DAY	Mass intention: Thanksgiving (Egbuonu)
F	22		Mass intention: Richard O'Hanrahan RIP (O'Gorman)
Sa	23		Mass intention: Bob Perks RD (Hempenstall)
Su	24	7th Sunday of Easter Psalter Week 3	Mass intention: Ints of O'Brien family (McIlree)

Scripture readings for the 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12-14 / Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8 / 1 Pt 4:13-16 / Jn 17:1-11a

Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick by arrangement.

Baptism, Matrimony, suspended until further notice

Nourishing prayer at home: *Living Eucharist:* <https://livingeucharist.wordpress.com/> Also universalis.com or <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Please pray for sick parishioners including Jenifer Cummings, Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke, Peggy Gallagher and all who are self-isolating at this time. **Please pray for those in the health and care services. Please pray also** for those who have died recently, especially for Gerry Coyle, and for those whose anniversaries of death are at this time, including Joseph Drozd, Paul Barry, Daniel Murray, Percy Bartrop, Eileen Hill, George Eaton. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Psalm 65(66):1-7,16,20

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might.

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me.

1 Peter 3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Novena to the Holy Spirit

You are invited to pray the prayers below each day from Friday 22nd May until Pentecost Sunday

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
from the clear celestial heights,
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure,
come thou Light of all that live.

Thou, of all consolers best,
thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
pleasant coolness in the heat,
solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay,
all his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew,
on our dryness pour thy dew,
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill,
guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on those who ever more
thee confess and thee adore,
In thy sevenfold gifts descend,

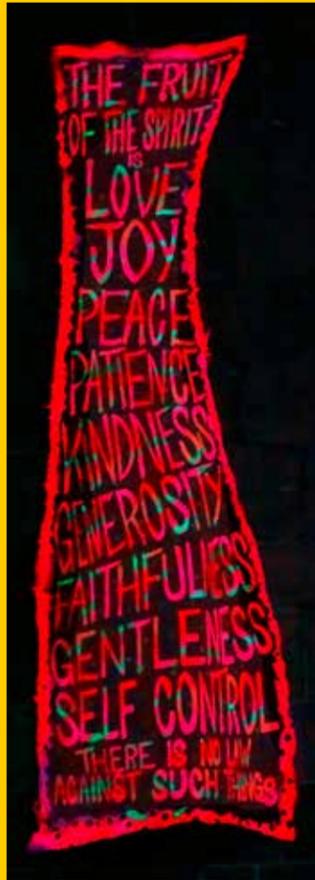
Give us comfort when they die
Give us life with thee on high;
give us joys that never end.

Renew your wonders in this our day,
As by a new Pentecost.

Grant to your Church that, being of one mind
and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus,
and following the lead of blessed Peter,
it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour,
the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace.
Amen.

Come Holy Spirit
in your power and might
to renew the face of the earth.

Holy Spirit, awaken the whole human race
and help us to build bridges of trust
that open our hearts to the Good News of Jesus Christ.
Amen



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.' *Alleluia!*

John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:
'If you love me
you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

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Pope Francis on Prayer

Prayer involves our entire being yearning for some "other" beyond ourselves. Specifically Christian prayer is born from the realization that the "other" we are seeking has been revealed in the tender face of Jesus, who teaches us to call God "Father", and wants personally to enter into relationship with us.

In his farewell words at the Last Supper, Jesus no longer calls his disciples servants but friends. When we commune with God in prayer, we need not be fearful, for he is a friend, a trusted ally. Whatever our situation, or however poorly we may think of ourselves, God is always faithful, and willing to embrace us in mercy. We see this unconditional love on Calvary: the Lord never stops loving, even to the end.

Let us seek to pray by entering into this mystery of God's unending Covenant with us. This is the burning heart of every Christian prayer: entrusting ourselves to the loving and merciful arms of our heavenly Father.

May is Mary's Month...

Each Tuesday to Friday during May there is a posting to our blog - poems, music, art (all with a focus on a Marian theme) and a weekly focus on a Marian shrine...

Parish Zoom-Rosary - every Monday during May.

Join other parishioners this Monday and next at 3pm to pray the Rosary in a Zoom Meeting.

For details: <https://bit.ly/3d0Csoz>

Gathered by the Word

The latest indication is that churches are not likely to open for public worship until July (at the earliest, as they say)

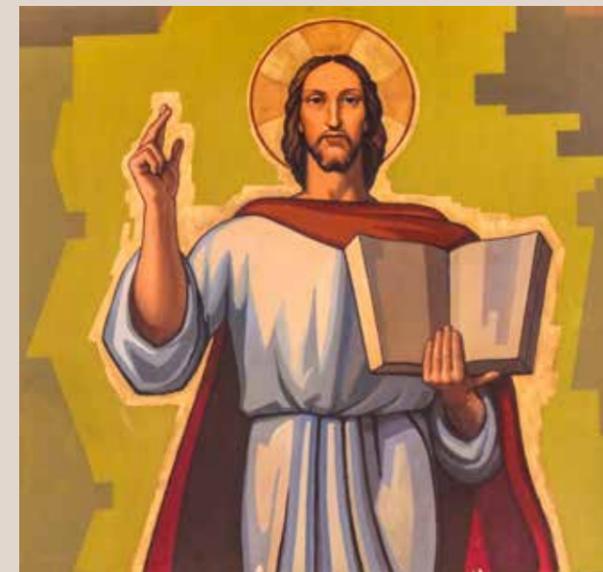
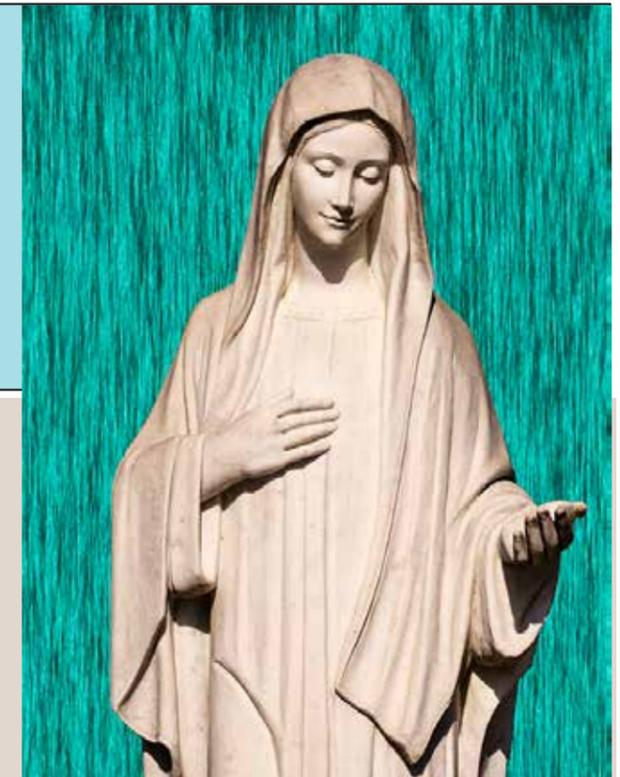
The bishops are in discussion with the Government to try and open churches for private prayer, and the government has confirmed that they are willing to explore the possibility of this, so long as social distancing can be maintained.

Even so, we may well have quite a few more weeks until we can begin to gather together in the church to be nourished by word and sacrament.

On Monday of this week, during our present weekly parish gathering for a Zoom Rosary, I asked for suggestions as to other things we might do by way of prayer together during these days. It was agreed it would be good to offer the opportunity for *Lectio divina* on Sunday afternoons beginning on Pentecost Sunday.

Some may well be asking, 'what is *lectio divina*?' It is simply a quiet prayerful engagement with the Lord through holy scripture. We begin by listening - to the reading read to us, and then listening to it in the quiet of our hearts. We then - if moved to do so - share a word or sentence that has particularly struck us - but not discussing it, just noting it. We then listen to the scripture a second time, once more read aloud and then, again, pondered in the quiet of our hearts. The final stage is for those taking part - if they wish - sharing something more about what they have heard the Lord say to them in the scriptures.

In fewer words: *lectio divina*, in this form, is us together,



The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 14.12-16

nourished by the Lord in the scriptures, and nourished by each other, in our gathering with the Lord as our Head, and with each other as members of his Body, the Church.

Over the past couple of years when we have had seasons of *lectio*, we have focussed on the Gospels. Over these coming sessions, the food for our prayer will be the first readings of the Sunday, the Old Testament reading (except on Pentecost Sunday when the reading will be one of those offered for a Pentecost Vigil. The reading will be on the blog, and in the newsletter.

If you do not join us on line, you might like to have your own time of quiet prayer with the passage at home.

The sessions will begin at 4pm, and after 15 minutes for sharing virtual coffee and cake and chat, will begin the *lectio* at 3.15, and continue until 5pm.