

Parish of St Anthony and Our Lady of Mercy
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Notices

The Bishop's of England and Wales have instructed that Sunday and weekday Masses are to be suspended until further notice. Therefore will be no Masses this week in the church.

Information about live-streamed Masses can be found on the parish website, above, in the section "Notices" subsection "Events".

Please note that there will not be any meetings of the Marian or Divine Mercy Prayer Groups.

The Chrism Mass and the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes have been cancelled.

Please keep all those who are sick, lonely and worried in your prayers, and if you are able, do telephone or 'drop a line' to someone you know who would appreciate a kindly word. Remember, too, the thousands of people who have died in the world who have been infected with Coronavirus, and for all the bereaved.

Parish Collections: although there are no Masses or meetings in the church, the parish still has expenses – rates, utilities, maintenance, salaries etc. So for the time being, if you are able, please put aside your envelope or loose plate donation each week. There will be more information later.

'The God Who Speaks'

If you are reading a chapter a day you will have already reached Acts, Chapter 17.

St Paul's strategy, when raising faith issues with non-Christians in Athens, was to seek common ground. We can do the same - look for issues like justice, environment, family etc. and then ask questions. The aim: what gives people meaning in life or where do they put their hope? We have a Christian worldview so should have an eternal perspective for meaning and hope rather than a fragile 'this-life-only-perspective'. The fragility of life is very evident during this pandemic so provides opportunities to ask people if they believe in life after death or do they believe in heaven. If they do have such a belief ask them to tell you more about what they believe and how sure they are that what they believe really exists. Our belief is "evidenced based" so if people have never read anything about Jesus in the Bible suggest they read one of the Gospel accounts – St Mark's is the shortest; St Luke's was written by a doctor who carefully evaluated all the evidence and interviewed eye witnesses. Suggest they use www.biblegateway.com if they do not have a Bible at home.

Lenten Calendar

Sunday 22nd March, Fourth Sunday of Lent: During prayer, picture yourself meeting Jesus in a scene from the Gospels. Imagine your reaction and response.

Monday 23rd March: Send a greeting card or letter to a relative, friend or fellow parishioner who is housebound.

Tuesday 24th March: Fast from eating food mindlessly, enjoy the flavour, and give thanks for what we have.

Wednesday 25th March: Clean or tidy an area in your home.

Thursday 26th March: Offer to shop for an elderly or housebound neighbour.

Friday 27th March: Fast from worrying. Trust God.

Saturday 28th March: Give thanks for the beauty of nature. If you can, do a job in the garden.