



OLA NEWS



20th March 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Children and Governors,

It is very strange to be sending this newsletter, knowing that it will be the last one for some time. Even though most of our children will not be in school for the foreseeable future we will keep in touch through SeeSaw and Class Dojo. We will keep all of our families and their loved ones in our prayers while we are apart. Take care.

PTA Mother's Day Wrapping Room

Thank you for supporting the wrapping room this week, our team of volunteers have wrapped 100 presents! Thank you for supporting our event. We wish you all a lovely day on Sunday.

Dol-y-Moch

The children in Year 6 had a wonderful residential trip to Dol-y-Moch. It was great to hear so many positive stories and so much praise for their behaviour from the staff who accompanied them.

A Short Prayer of Hope

Anon

Lord Jesus,
hope overcomes;
hope heals;
hope restores;
hope inspires;
hope conquers;
hope frees.
Hope is your gift to the world.
Thank you.
Amen.

Coventry Independent Advice Service (CIAS)

Coventry Independent Advice Service has closed all its face to face advice services with immediate effect. Further information about updates to our services will follow. For urgent enquiries, please call 024 76521100 or email info@covadvice.org.uk

Primary Mental Health Service Parent Workshop

The Primary Mental Health workshop on Tuesday 24 March has now been cancelled. If anyone has a consultation booked in or needs any advice, then they can contact Rups on the details below.

Rups Kejriwal
Primary Mental Health Practitioner
Tel: 07341 795559

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School Lottery

Next draw date: 21 March 2020

£25,000.00 JACKPOT and £9.30 Guaranteed Prize to 1 OLA supporter

[Congratulations](#) to our latest School Lottery guaranteed prize winner who won £9.30 !

Unfortunately, our ticket sales have gone down to just 32 - can you help spread the word? Without money raising events we cannot provide support to school events such as the January Robin Hood Panto, Year 6 Leaver's party planned for July and much more!

ALSO!



WIN the PEARfect prize, it's unBEETable!

Play this term and you could win 12 monthly fruit and veg boxes delivered to your door!. Every month you'll receive a box of mixed organic fruit and vegetables, delivered to your door!

What are you waiting for it's easy PEAsy to support your local school!

*Offer ends 17th April 2020 and is open to all new and existing players

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/our-lady-of-the-assumption-primary-school-coventry>

PTA Facebook Group

You will have received a link to join the Facebook group – this is a friendly group where you will find information on PTA events happening throughout the year

Here is the link again - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OurLadyOfTheAssumptionPTA/>

Twitter

Our Lady's is keen to share all the exciting things we do with our families and wider community. If you don't do so already, please follow us on Twitter @OLACoventry.



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CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

A letter from the President and Vice-President on behalf of all the Bishops of the Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. This includes the ways in which we publicly express our faith. It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice.

Our churches will remain open. They are not closing. They will be a focal point of prayer, where you will find solace and strength. In visiting our churches at this time, we will observe with great care the practices of hygiene 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.

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; making an act of spiritual communion: this is how we share in the Sacrifice of Christ in these days. These are the ways in which we will sanctify Sunday, and indeed every day.

We want everyone to understand that in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.

You will find more details about the pathway of prayer and sacramental life we are now to take in the accompanying document and on the Bishops' Conference website (www.cbcew.org.uk). Your own bishop and parish priest will provide further support, encouragement and information about our way of prayer together in the coming weeks.

The second 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.

During these disturbing and threatening times, the rhythm of the prayer of the Church will continue. Please play your part in it. The effort of daily kindness and mutual support for all will continue and increase. Please play your part in this too. For your commitment to this, we thank you.

'The Lord is my shepherd, There is nothing I shall want.'

May God bless us all.

Vincent Cardinal Nichols

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP

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President

Vice President

18th March 2020

Liturgical Advice for the Bishops of England and Wales in the light of the COVID-19 Pandemic 18th March 2020

This advice will be reviewed and developed as necessary weekly

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, having consulted the Ordinaries of the Dioceses, has agreed that the cessation of public liturgies should begin from Friday evening 20th March 2020. Because of the situation the Church finds herself in, the obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday or Holy day of Obligation is removed, until further notice.

The following instruction is now given for the celebration of the Sacraments and sacramentals of the Church at this time.

Celebrations of Holy Mass Priests (parish priest and assistant priests) who hold parochial office should continue to celebrate Mass in a church within their parish without the faithful on a daily basis. Other priests (i.e. retired from office or entrusted with a non-parochial ministry) may celebrate Mass without the faithful in a church, chapel or their private home. Deacons should not participate in these celebrations.

The continuing celebration of Mass ensures that the faithful can join in spiritual communion with the priests of the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states (1364): As often as the sacrifice of the Cross by which 'Christ our Pasch has been sacrificed' is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out. Daily liturgical resources for those at home, including those for making a "Spiritual Communion" with the priest, will be available on the CBCEW website.

Information about the live-streaming of the celebration of Mass will be made widely available in our dioceses so that the faithful can participate in the prayers of the priest at Mass at home. A fine example of this is from The National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham will continue its full liturgical programme and this will be available to all via the Internet (www.walsingham.org.uk)

Wherever possible, during this period, churches will remain open, especially on Sundays, for individual private prayer, without any organised services, and offering prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Baptisms should be deferred until such time that the public health advice is that congregations can gather safely. In case of necessity, baptisms should be celebrated with all the hygiene precautions that have been laid down by the Church in its COVID-19 advice.

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Sacrament of Reconciliation Confession may be offered on request as long as hygiene and social distancing requirements are observed (eg a physical barrier between the penitent and the priest such as a grille and cloth). The use of Rite II and Rite III of the Rite of Penance is not permitted as this, by necessity, requires the gathering of people in our churches.

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion These celebrations should be postponed until a time that allows for families and friends to gather safely within our churches.

Confirmation The celebrations of Confirmation should be deferred until such time that the public health advice is that congregations can resume public worship.

Matrimony If possible, the celebration of the sacrament of Matrimony should be deferred until such time that people can gather in numbers safely. However, if this is not possible and only in the most pressing of circumstances, then those present for the marriage should be restricted to the celebrant, bride and groom and immediate family, and if necessary, the legal Registrar.

Anointing of the Sick No pastoral visits should be made to people who are self-isolating until the isolation period ends. However, do offer phone support. When anointing the sick, the Oil of the Sick can be applied using a cotton bud which can be burned afterwards (one end for the head and the other for the hands) and the priest extend his hands over the sick person for laying on of hands, without physical contact. This has been confirmed as a valid mode of celebrating the sacraments which involve "laying on of hands." Visits to people in care homes or hospitals should follow advice from the staff on infection control.

Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil This will be dependent on the forthcoming decisions of the Bishops for the Holy Week ceremonies.

Funerals There must be great pastoral sensitivity to this issue. The funeral service should take place at the graveside or at a crematorium, subject to the conditions laid down by the cemetery or crematorium authorities. Arrangements should be made for a Mass to be celebrated in memoriam when congregations are allowed to gather.

Rev. Canon Christopher Thomas General Secretary
18th March 2020

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