



**Church of The Most Precious Blood**  
**DIOCESE OF PLYMOUTH**

**5<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent A Psalter 1**

**Canon Paul Cummins**

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@SidmthRCParish

*No public celebration of Mass until further notice, due to the current coronavirus pandemic.*

**Let us keep in our prayers those who are sick and housebound in our parish** including Brenda Jupp, Chris Jupp, Connie Loebell, Andy deKlerk, Geraldine Page, Mary Wallace, Clifford Brown, Christopher Brown, Irene Ulucki, Tom Clarke, Suzanne Hosker, Daphne Adams, Fr David White, John Chase, Sister Bernadette, Brian Slattery, Gilda Wachala, Ursula Layland, Anne Sanderson, Adam Smith, Kath Welch.

Although we have now closed the church for all our safety, we will continue to produce this **weekly newsletter** while we can. This will be available on the website as usual and on the parish Facebook page, and we have downloaded the Sunday Message too so you can use the Sunday Mass readings and reflection to aid you in your personal prayer life at this time.

Our **website** ([www.churchofthemostpreciousblood.co.uk](http://www.churchofthemostpreciousblood.co.uk)) and parish **Facebook page** ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) as well as our **Twitter** accounts @SidmthRCParish and @sacredtweets are good places to check out for inspiration and to help us all feel connected in these strange times. If you've not tried it before, now might be a good time to start!

We are doing our best to **phone** all our most vulnerable and/or elderly parishioners regularly during this time, and will try and offer practical assistance where we can too. If you need help or are concerned about yourself or someone else, please contact the parish office by phone or email.

If anyone would like to **help with the regular phone calls**, please contact Peter McGauley on [peter.mcgale@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.mcgale@btinternet.com) or 512745.

*Thoughts from Fr Paul*

The Gospel reading today can seem a little long, but like all of the signs in John's Gospel, the story is much greater than the events it contains. Reading between the lines, I think John is saying that Martha and Mary are us. As you read the story, which of the two do you most identify with?

And in another way, John is also saying that Lazarus represents all that Jesus deeply loves; "See how much he loved him." And what does Jesus want for Lazarus, what does he want for us? He wants us to live, he wants us to be unbound. He wants us set free.

In a time when we are told to stay indoors, to socially distance ourselves, this Gospel has much to say to us. The freedom he gives us is not about our physical situation, it's about our hearts and our innermost lives. Jesus raises us up by his love. His love for you is boundless, as personal and as deep as his love for Lazarus. As you accept his love, in prayer, in reflecting on the scriptures, in reaching out to those around you, you experience the freedom that only he can give. And that is good news in these troubled times.

May God bless you, keep you safe, and lead you a deeper experience of his freeing love.

**Re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at Our Lady's Shrine at Walsingham. Pope Francis prays that the act of re-dedication will inspire all to persevere in the urgent task of sharing the joy of the Gospel with the men and women of our time. In the light of the restrictions under which we now operate, the Re-dedication will not now take place at the Sunday Mass, but it is a prayer that can take place anywhere. A range of resources, including the livestream and prayers for the Re-dedication are available from [www.behold2020.com](http://www.behold2020.com) and Walsingham Live has 24/7 prayers from the Basilica at [www.lentinisolation.com](http://www.lentinisolation.com)

**Offerings** ó some people have asked how they can continue to give to the church during this time. If you usually make your offerings by cash, please consider changing to paying by standing order. Banker's Order forms are available by emailing the parish office.

In these strange and challenging times, you might like to consider saying the **Angelus** at noon each day. If it's been a while since you last said it, or you've never done it before, here are the words to help you:

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, *And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

Hail Mary, etc...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord. *May it be done unto me according to Thy Word.*

Hail Mary, etc...

And the Word was made flesh, *And dwelt among us.*

Hail Mary, etc...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy Grace into our hearts;

that we to whom the incarnation of Christ, thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His passion and cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.

Through the same Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The **Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)** would like all their loyal supporters and parishioners to know that you are all held in their daily prayers in these extraordinary and challenging times. The Lord has the world pleading with him for a swift end to this. In light of the current guidelines, the Annual General meeting (20<sup>th</sup> April), Great Big Diocesan Quiz (24<sup>th</sup> April) and Annual Mass (18<sup>th</sup> June) have all been postponed, but hope to rearrange these wonderful events and resume fundraising with renewed vigour as there will be many more families in need of love, support and financial assistance once this is all over. In the meantime, they are looking for enthusiastic new Trustee Directors to fill vacancies that have arisen as a result of retirement. Experienced members of the public who have strategic vision, independent judgement, the ability to think creatively and a willingness to speak their mind are needed to guide the charity and ensure it is managed effectively. Call 01364 645420 for more information. Stay safe and well and when this is all over, we will celebrate the Mass of thanksgiving.

#### *Resources*

[www.churchpaper.co.uk](http://www.churchpaper.co.uk) over 600 editions of UK Catholic Diocesan newspapers all in one place

**The God who Speaks** – this series of Diocesan teaching is available at [www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk](http://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk) and further scriptural resources are available on [www.stpaulrepository.com](http://www.stpaulrepository.com)

**Daily Liturgy of the Hours and Mass Readings** [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

Catholic Bishops of England and Wales prayers for times of no public Masses

[www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/prayer-and-worship-2/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/prayer-and-worship-2/)

11am Mass at Plymouth Cathedral every morning available:

<https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/> and <https://www.plymouthcathedral.co.uk/>

Live streaming Mass

[www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv)

[www.livemass.net](http://www.livemass.net)

**Last week's collections**

Standing Orders £275.46

Please make all cheques payable to **RC Church Sidmouth**

**Newsletter**

Rebecca [sidmouth@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:sidmouth@prcdtr.org.uk) 489902

**Hall Bookings**

St Teresa's Hall is closed to the public until further notice.

**Parish Safeguarding Reps**

Una Cunningham 577391, Cathy Gunnell 519302 Ann Murphy 07779986217

Sidmouth Parish is part of Plymouth R.C.Diocese: Reg charity No. 213227