

The Catholic Church in Crewe

Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish

Newsletter

Saturday 13th January to Sunday 21st February 2021



FATHER JEROME'S MESSAGE FOR THE WEEK

Lent 2021 will open on Ash Wednesday, 17th February. Due to the pandemic, it is not possible to distribute blessed ashes in the customary manner. There was an alternative given: that the priest sprinkle blessed ashes over people's heads. Well, this goes back to the Old Testament penitential tradition. But the last thing your parish priest needs is to hear that you spent Ash Wednesday finding stray bits of ash in your hair (if you are graced enough to have hair that is) or, waking the next morning and wondering why you have found ash on your pillow. So, I have come up with a suitable alternative.

There will be no Mass on Ash Wednesday. There will be a service at 12:15pm with readings of the day. Cards with a cross of ash will be blessed and distributed for you to keep in your homes during Lent.

Attendance at the service is limited to 65 people. Ash Wednesday is not a day of obligation, nor are any other days during the pandemic. Again, I would encourage you to remain at home and keep safe. You will find a wide variety of Lenten activities online, such as the Stations of the Cross. I will offer the stations in private each Friday for the intentions of the parish.

Birthday greetings and blessings are extended to Margaret Bravey who celebrated a special birthday on Friday 12th February.

We are unable to make any plans to facilitate those whose Sacraments were postponed during 2020. There are also no plans for new Sacramental programmes.

Please remember that if you have coronavirus, cold, or flu like symptoms you must not enter and will not be granted access to Saint Mary's church. If you do not wear a face covering (even for medical reasons) you are not allowed to enter Saint Mary's church.

Keep safe and well.

With my blessing and prayers,
Father Jerome (Parish Priest)

CHURCH OPENING GUIDELINES:

1. You must wear a face covering to enter Saint Mary's church. If you do not wear a face covering (even for medical reasons) stay at home.
2. Saint Mary's parish church is staffed by stewards when the church is open.
3. Please provide a note with your full name and telephone number in block capitals for the registration steward (and take the note away with you) Please also respect social distancing when you are registering. Avoid touching the registration table. Be aware and protect the health of our stewards.
4. Stewards will monitor the number of people allowed in church. (67 is the current limit) When that limit is met the doors will close.
5. Social distancing is to be strictly observed. You must sit in your allocated seat **and remain in your seat for the duration of Mass.**
6. There are no toilet facilities available.
7. Father Jerome will provide you with instructions for Holy Communion at each Mass. You must wear your face covering when receiving Holy Communion and you must not say "Amen" or speak when receiving Holy Communion! When you have received the host then stand aside and consume the host and then make your way to the exit.
8. There is a clearly marked one way system for entry and exit. Enter only via the main front door and exit only via the disabled access door.
9. Our stewards will sanitise your hands on entry and exit. Please remove your own gloves when you enter the church and keep them off until you leave. Yours hands must be sanitised.
10. **Children must remain with and be supervised by adults at all times. It is recommended that children aged over 3 wear a face mask or face covering.**
11. **If you have any symptoms of the virus, or cold/flu like symptoms, then you must not under any circumstances come to, or visit the church.**
12. Please bring all your belongings with you to receive Holy Communion as you will be directed by

do continue to pray for all those involved in steering us through this crisis.

14. The Sunday and Holy Day Obligation does not apply during the Pandemic.

15. Parishioners may only attend funerals if they have been directly invited by the family. Only 30 people may attend a funeral and the guest list is maintained between the family and Father Jerome.

Test and Trace QR Code

In helping with the national Test and Trace initiatives a QR code has been displayed at our front entrance. This may also serve as a source of additional encouragement indicating that we aim for the highest standards of Covid safety. In the event of a positive test amongst a congregation member this will give some reassurance as the app will alert those in closest contact to self-isolate. If you have the NHS Covid-19 Test and Trace App please scan the QR code **and then turn your mobile phone off when you enter the church!**

Offertory Collection

The total offertory for the weekend of 6th/7th February came to £845.36.

Each total includes standing orders. Thank you for all you do to support the mission of Saint Mary's Parish. The collection basket is available at registration table and at the Sanctuary within church.

The Faithful Departed

We ask your prayers for those whose funerals will take place through the parish over the coming weeks: Paul William Sharrock, Freda Smith, Shirley Margaret Conway, Betty Dennis. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

You may only attend these funerals if you have been directly invited by the family and your name is on the attendance list which is collated by the family and is then held by the presbytery. A limit of 30 invited guests may attend funerals during the pandemic.

Retired Priests' Fund Special Collection

While it is not practical to hold this important collection this year, it is still possible to contribute to the annual Collection for the Retired Priests' Fund. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please make your donation Online. To donate Online please go to www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/retired-priests-fund

Mass Times during the week

Saturday 13th February

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Church opens at 5pm, closes at 5:40pm)

5:30pm Mass Intention

(Secular Clergy)

Sunday 14th February

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Sunday Mass

(Church opens at 8:15am, closes at 9am)

8:45am Mass Intention

(The People of the Parish)

Second Sunday Mass

(Church opens at 9:30am, closes at 10:10am)

10am Mass Intention

(Private Intention)

Third Sunday Mass

(Church opens at 10:45am, closes at 11:25am)

11:15am Mass Intention

(The NHS)

Weekday Masses are offered without a congregation.

Saturday 20th February

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

(Church opens at 5pm, closes at 5:40pm)

5:30pm Mass Intention

(Peter Losa)

Sunday 21st February

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

First Sunday Mass

(Church opens at 8:15am, closes at 9am)

8:45am Mass Intention

(Bridget Patricia Goode)

Second Sunday Mass

(Church opens at 9:30am, closes at 10:10am)

10am Mass Intention

(Danny and Lena O'Connell, Doris Oliver)

Third Sunday Mass

(Church opens at 10:45am, closes at 11:25am)

11:15am Mass Intention

(Lily James and Mary Roberts)

CHURCH SERVICES TV

You will find daily and Sunday celebrations of Holy Mass and other devotions throughout the lockdown on <https://www.churchservices.tv/>

Father Jerome also recommends the many sources of information and prayer that are available on the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales website:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In place of the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confessions, please pray the following prayer in your homes.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

SAINT VINCENT De PAUL UPDATE

Over the past two week the Saint Mary's SVP had their first Zoom meeting. It was great to see each other and chat, but most of all it was reassuring to know that the work of the SVP has continued throughout the lockdowns. Visits have been replaced with phone calls, FaceTime chats, and cards, or simply a brief exchange in the street or garden. Members have visited residential homes wearing PPE when permitted or just smiled and waved through windows.

We have supported needy families with essential electric goods, furniture, supermarket vouchers, and gas and electricity bills. Donations have been made to St Paul's food bank, and we arranged for food to be delivered to a vulnerable lady. At Christmas, with the support of Caritas, over twenty food hampers were delivered to local families. We would like to thank Morrison's for their generous and professional support with this project.

We were concerned that, since we were unable to have our usual Sudan baby feeding appeal, the most-needy would lose out. But with the support of our parishioners over £600 was raised. At our Zoom meeting we committed to supporting a project for the needy in India over the next three years.

We would like to thank LATH, Rotary, and individuals from the parish for their great support, and to thank parishioners for all the donations made in the wall box in the church entrance hall.

If the SVP can be of assistance to you, please contact Martin Massey on 567263 or 07707 781500

New year - new start?

Do you have **questions about life?**



Everyone should have the opportunity to explore faith, question the meaning of life and share their point of view.

Alpha is a chance to do that with coffee and a chat in your own home whilst on line.

If you join, we won't call you after or write unless you wish - the ball is completely in your court.

What have you got to lose?

When: Thursdays 7:30pm
14th January to 25th March 2021

Where: Zoom meeting: ID 885 8876 7580
Password: 807850

Contact: Tel: 01270 669126
Email: lovecrewealpha@gmail.com
Web: www.lovecrewe.co.uk



2021
Alpha
online

ATTENTION ALL GIFT AID DONORS (those with envelopes numbers 1-150)

The tax year 2020/21 will be coming to an end on 5th April and the Parish will then undertake the process of claiming back the Gift Aid refunds on donations made in the tax year. If your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay income tax (or if for any other reason you do not wish to remain in the Gift Aid Scheme) please contact the Parish Office by email by 5th April, otherwise it will be assumed you have paid sufficient income tax for the Parish to reclaim Gift Aid on donations made in the tax year.

CREWE FOOD BANK REQUEST

We have been so grateful for people's generosity over recent months and we really appreciate all the food donations we have received, particularly leading up to Christmas. Unfortunately, we have started to run short of certain items:-

- UHT milk
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned vegetables
- Pot noodles/ instant noodles
- Instant pasta and sauce
- Tinned sandwich meat
- Jam
- Rice

Donations of any of the things listed above would be really helpful, and can be dropped off at our back gate in St Paul's Street anytime between 9.30 and 3.30 Monday to Friday. Thank you for your ongoing support.

The next **Love Crewe Zoom Prayer Meeting** to be held on 17th February at 7:30. Please do join us to pray for our town and nation! **The link is:**

<https://zoom.us/j/92084783505?pwd=YURybjA5NHFLeWdjZUIMRTdsMjBIQT09> Meeting ID: 920 8478 3505 Passcode: Prayer

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM

The Collective is here!

Calling all young adults! Join us once a month for The Collective, a new online group for young adults age 18+.

We'll be meeting together on Zoom to chat, have some fun and grow in faith.

The remaining dates for this year are:

4th March

1st April at 7pm

If you'd like to take part, simply send us an email!

MASS PARTS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) Psalter Week 2 Weekday Cycle 1

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46

Response to the Psalm: You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Second Reading: 1 Cor 10:31-11:1

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:40-45

SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: Genesis 4: 1-15.25; Ps 49; Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday: Genesis 6:5-8.7:1-5; Ps 28; Mark 8:14-21

Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:12-18; Ps 50; 2Cor 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6.16-18

Thursday: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Ps 1; Luke 9:22-25

Friday: Isaiah 58:1-9; Ps 50; Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday: Isaiah 58:9-14; Ps 85; Luke 5:27-32

Sunday: Genesis 9:8-15; Ps 24; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

Parish Priest: Father Jerome A.P. Fagan, Saint Mary's Presbytery, 13 Gatefield Street, Crewe, CW1 2JP

Telephone: 01270 212533

Website: www.stmaryscrewe.org.uk **Email:** sdvoc@yahoo.com

Personal Assistant to the Parish Priest and Parish Administrator: Mrs Helena Jarecka (Furloughed until further notice)

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity, Number 234025.