

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Philip Harrop**Assistant Priest:** Rev. Fr. John Waters**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. David Fairbotham**Pastoral Assistant:** Sr Catherine Burke**Telephone:** 0121 444 1386**Email:** stdunstan.bham@rcaob.org.uk**Facebook:** St Dunstan and St Jude's**Parish Twitter:** stdunstanandstjude**Sunday 14th March 2021**www.stdunstanandstjude.co.uk

Sat 13 th	<i>Lent Feria</i>	11.00am 5.30pm	Holy Mass Vigil Mass	Bridget McGrath and Pro Populo Frances Dixon
Sun 14 th	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9.15am (<i>St Jude's</i>) 10.30am 12noon 6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary Carney and family RIP Ted Woodcock Rita Phipps Ian Grundy (RIP)
Mon 15 th	<i>Lent Feria</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Fabienne Wright (RIP)
Tues 16 th	<i>Lent Feria</i>	10.00am (<i>St Jude's</i>) 7.00pm	Holy Mass <i>Followed by Stations of the Cross</i> Holy Mass	Edward Walsh (RIP) Alan Thomas
Wed 17 th	<i>Feast of St Patrick</i>	9.30am 7.00pm	Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Susan Byrne
Thurs 18 th	<i>Lent Feria</i>	6.45am 7.00pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Thomas Martin Mannion (RIP)
Fri 19 th	Solemnity of St Joseph	9.30am 7.00pm (<i>Latin Extraordinary Form</i>)	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Billy Morrissy (RIP) Aninah Cruz (RIP)
Sat 20 th	<i>Lent Feria</i>	11.00am	Holy Mass	Mary Masterson (Ints.) Pro Populo
		11.30am-1pm	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
		11.30am-12.30pm 4.45-5.15pm 5.30pm	Confessions Confessions Vigil Mass	Mena Moran
Sun 21 st	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9.15am (<i>St Jude's</i>) 10.30am 12 noon 6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Kathleen, Tom and Angela Finn Tyd Rose Martin Doherty (RIP) Eamon Hogan (RIP)

Today is called both Mothering Sunday and Laetare Sunday— *laetare* simply means 'I rejoice'. The opening antiphon of today's Mass makes plain today's theme of joy: *Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all you who are mourning, exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.* The city of Jerusalem is here pictured as a mother because for the Jews it was, and still is, the personification of home! In the New Testament we sometimes find Jerusalem used as a symbol of heaven, the place where God is. St Paul writes of this 'new Jerusalem': The Jerusalem above is free and is our mother (Galatians 4.26).

It is due to this maternal theme of 'mother Jerusalem' that today evolved into Mothering Sunday, or as the card's would have it 'Mother's Day' – which is actually a secular day in May dedicated to mums in the USA!

Even so, it is a good opportunity to show our love and to pray for all those who are mothers; for those mothers who are expecting babies; for parents nursing sick children, and for God's blessing on all mothers and their families. We pray also for mothers - and fathers - for whom family life isn't presently easy, and those for whom parenthood has provided its challenges! Motherhood isn't purely biological of course, and so we pray for those who exercise a maternal role in whatever way.

We also remember at the altar those of our mothers who have departed this life, that they may enjoy for ever the happiness and peace of the heavenly Jerusalem, our mother.

This year is a special year dedicated to St Joseph, and this Friday is the Feast of St Joseph. There will be said Mass at 9.30am and a Sung Mass (*Missa Cantata*) in Latin at 7pm.

Below is a novena prayer to St Joseph that you might like to use. Presently we have no statue or image of St Joseph in St Dunstan's. Originally the side chapel was dedicated to Our Lady before becoming the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Now that the Blessed Sacrament has returned to the sanctuary, we have a chapel without a dedication! Fr Philip is proposing that this will become the chapel of St Joseph, and for a suitable image to be installed there. In his letter '*Patris corde*' (with a father's heart) Pope Francis speaks about the various reasons that he wishes to strengthen devotion to St Joseph in these challenging times. It's well worth a look.

St Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of having been chosen by God to be the foster-father of His Divine Son. As a token of your own gratitude to God for this your greatest privilege, obtain for me the grace of a very devoted love for Jesus Christ, my God and my Saviour. Help me to serve him with some of the same self-sacrificing love and devotion which you had on earth with Him. Grant that through your intercession with Jesus, you foster-Son, I may reach the degree of holiness God has destined for me and save my soul. Amen

Please take note of the guidance below to ensure that we make each other as safe as possible. We remember in our prayers those who are not with us due illness or because they are isolating. They are very much part of the prayers and the sacrifice we offer today.

- Please use hand sanitizer when arriving and leaving.

- Wear face coverings in church unless age (younger children) or medical conditions preclude this.
- Keep social distance at all times – especially being mindful when moving about for Holy Communion or leaving church.
- Please follow the one-way system around church.
- If you will not be receiving holy communion or coming forward for a blessing mention this to a steward and they will find you a seat where you won't block others in.
- Do not leave newsletters you have used in church, but always take them home with you.
- Remove face covering immediately before receiving Holy Communion in the hand and replace after receiving the Sacred Host.
- Do not gather in groups outside church with those outside your 'bubble' for conversation without keeping a good distance.

Some of these – especially the way of receiving Holy Communion and wearing face coverings – a few have found onerous. Nevertheless, it is a price worth paying for the continuation of public worship.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER LITURGIES

Due to the restrictions entailed in social distancing at the moment YOU WILL NEED TICKETS for attendance at the main Masses and liturgies of Holy Week and Easter at both our churches.

This means.....

Palm Sunday: 5.30pm, 9.15am (*St St Jude's*), 10.30am, 12 noon and 6.30pm.

Maundy Thursday 7.30pm at both churches,

Good Friday: Liturgy at 12 noon and 3pm at St Dunstan's, and 3pm at St Jude's.

Holy Saturday: Vigil at 8pm at St Dunstan's.

Easter Sunday: 9.15am and 10.30am at St Jude's and 10.30am, 12noon and 6.30pm at St Dunstan's.

You may notice that, following on from the high demand last weekend, we have made additions to our schedule.

*There will be an extra celebration of the Liturgy of the Passion at St Dunstan's at 12 noon, and an extra Mass on Easter Day at St Jude's at 10.30am. **For those on the waiting list for Good Friday at St Dunstan's from last week, please go to the Conference Room today to collect your tickets which will be waiting for you.***

There will be other services that don't require tickets – Morning Prayer on Good Friday and Holy Saturday, and Stations of the Cross on Good Friday evening. There will also be Mass each day of the Easter Octave when each succeeding day is an 'Easter Day'.

Collection of Tickets at St Dunstan's: Before and after Mass today – including the Saturday Vigil - *where* two of our stewards will be in the **Conference Room** where you can collect tickets for Masses and liturgies at St Dunstan's. Please help our stewards by waiting to be called in.

At St Jude's today there will be two stewards in the porch area before and after the Sunday Mass where you can collect tickets for the Masses and Liturgies at St Jude's. We thank them for this extra commitment.

To avoid confusion – tickets for St Dunstan's will be available at St Dunstan's, and for St Jude's at St Jude's.

Please note that ticket distribution began last weekend, meaning there are limited tickets for some Masses. Please collect your tickets this weekend.

Please read the following so that you are clear in your mind.

-There will be a different ticket for each of the services, so a ticket for Maundy Thursday will not get you into Good Friday. You need one for each. Obvious we know – but worth saying!

-Please understand that it might not always be possible to attend the Mass at your preferred time – or place – if the building has already reached capacity.

-Initially, until we are sure of demand, there will be a limit of one Easter Vigil/Easter Day Mass per person/family.

-You can collect tickets for those in your 'bubble' who will be sat with you in church at Mass (in accordance with government regulations), but not for other people/groups. They will need to come themselves.

- The seat allocations will be sorted out when you collect your tickets. Stewards will have a plan of where people will sit which maximises capacity and accommodate special needs...so no 'usual seats'!

- You will need to be at church 20 minutes before Mass begins. The logistics for Mass will be quite complex, and we will all need patience. If you come late, then you may not be able to enter church.

- If you have taken tickets for a Mass, and then can't go, please return ASAP to the presbytery in an envelope with your name so that they can be redistributed to those without. It was a shame that, at Christmas, a number of people had tickets and chose not to come, and a few didn't have tickets who wanted to come, leaving spare spaces.

-if you have any symptoms of COVID19 please do not attend church.

Church Flowers for Easter There will be a collection for church flowers after all Masses today.

Easter Offering Envelopes will be available at the back of both churches from this weekend. Do please use them – especially if you are unable to come to church and wish to make a donation towards the upkeep of your priests. As there is no salary structure, the Easter offering (with Christmas) are the priest's main source of income – not only personal but for the support of their ministry in the parish too.

Church Readers Needed. If you have previously read in either St Dunstan's or St Jude's and would like to re-join the rota, or if you would like to start reading in church, please contact the Parish office.

We pray for those who have died recently: Mary Coffey, Eileen Middleton, Ann O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Brown (Requiem 6th April), Derek Coen and Peggy Ensor.

Queen Elizabeth and Birmingham Women's Hospitals and St Mary's Hospice. If you know that you (or a family member or friend in the parish) will be going to hospital for significant treatment, it is important to have confession with anointing of the sick before you/they go into hospital as these sacraments are not presently readily available during your stay. **There is a cover rota provided by priests around the area. This is for emergency use only when there is danger of death. Such visits are arranged from the hospital so that the priest on call will be allowed admission.**

Funerals. A number of families have been concerned about the length of time it now seems to take (often over a month) between a loved one's death and the funeral. It can be an advantage, when arranging a funeral, to have a week for the funeral in mind and then look around at different firms to see what they can do.

Confessions are at the normal advertised times. Social distancing means using the side chapel at St Dunstan's. **Please keep the time spent in the confessional to a minimum (5 minutes max) to both make it as safe as possible, and so that others have opportunity for the celebration of this sacrament.**

Please note that the toilets are presently closed due to COVID regulations, and the side chapel is out of bounds apart from for Confession.

Weekly offerings can be placed in the baskets in church during Mass or posted through the Presbytery letterbox. Please place offerings in either the usual Gift Aid envelopes or a plain envelope marked 'St Dunstan' or 'St Jude'. Standing orders are also a great way of giving. Standing order forms can be requested from the Parish office.

The Parish Office will be open from 9.00am until 5.00pm on Wednesday and Friday each week. In order to minimise the number of people in the office and for the safety of those at work, until further notice we ask you to observe the following:

If you need to see the Parish Administrator or one of the Priests: we would ask that you phone or email in advance, so that an appointment can be arranged at a convenient time for both. You will not be invited in the office unless you have a re-arranged appointment.

If you have an enquiry: please phone or email first to see if it can be sorted in this way.

For those wishing to book Mass intentions: please bring a sealed envelope clearly labelled with the intention details (person's name, required date etc) and include the offering inside. This can then be handed in at the office and if requested a Mass card be signed and given.

FIRST READING *Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept, remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps. **R.**

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' **R.**

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! **R.**

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys. **R.**

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son: everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

GOSPEL READING *John 3:14-21*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.'

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

COLLECTIONS		
	St Dunstan's	St Jude's
Gift Aid	£ 528.00	£ 230.00
Non-Gift Aid	£ 578.60	£ 150.12