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FR. MICHAEL
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St Andrew's Parish, Teesville

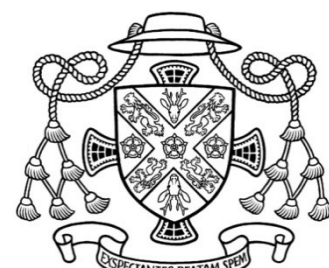
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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Pastoral Letter
Of
Terence Patrick Drainey



Bishop of Middlesbrough

18.03.2020

We pray for ourselves and our world under the threat of the coronavirus pandemic, that the Almighty and Merciful Lord look with compassion on our afflictions and so lighten our burdens and confirm our faith that we may always trust without hesitation in his providential love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit and is God for ever and ever. Amen

Lent is certainly a time of mortification and fasting, but, in the light of the instructions which I have just brought to your attention, I never thought that it would be a fast from our daily and weekly Eucharistic celebrations and the comfort that these bring us.

Without over-dramatizing the situation, perhaps we are tempted with Jesus on the cross to cry out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" For some of us this is how it might feel. As God's people we are certainly being invited to join our inconvenience, our pain and sickness, our suffering to those of the Lord.

However, we can't take Jesus cry from the Cross out of the context of the whole of the psalm from which he quotes. Neither is Jesus' prayer nor the psalm (22) one of despair; rather it is a song of praise and trust in God's providence for his people. The psalm ends on a very upbeat and joyful note:

All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
will bow down before him,
future generations will be told about the Lord.
They will proclaim his righteousness,
declaring to a people yet unborn:
He has done it! (Psalm 22)

So, as we face this difficult time we do so with hope and trust that the Lord will indeed save us and lift us up. To Him be glory and praise for ever more. Amen.

Yours in blessed hope,

+ Terry

A NOTE FROM FR. MICHAEL

All public Masses have been suspended in England from Saturday, 21st March until further notice.

The Sunday obligation is suspended.

Mass will be offered each day in St. Andrew's Church without a congregation.

There are some prayer leaflets entitled 'WHEN MASS CANNOT BE CELEBRATED PUBLICLY', at the back of St. Andrew's Church. Please take one home to help with your daily prayer life.

The newsletter will not be printed until further notice.

Some churches are streaming Mass including :

St Therese Ingleby Barwick https://en-gb.facebook.com/pg/stthereseingleby/videos/?ref=page_internal

St Peter's Scarborough: <https://www.scarboroughcatholicparishes.org.uk/#modal>

Our Lady and St Edward's Driffield: <https://www.churchservices.tv/driffield>

Our Lady of Lourdes and St Peter Chanel: <https://www.facebook.com/chanelparishhull>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZnDApaiq78kIBbk-iM6ddA>

St. Wilfrid's of York. Recordings of these Masses will then be available for the rest of the day. Their Youtube channel is called 'York Oratory'.

Although normal parish activities are suspended let us keep ourselves strong in faith with daily prayer, daily rosary, reading the Scriptures and Lives of the Saints.

If anyone is in urgent need of a priest to attend someone who is dying please telephone the presbytery. Anyone in hospital can ask the ward to contact the Catholic Chaplain.

Funerals can only take place with a graveside service or brief cremation. Masses can be arranged at a later date.

Let us pray for each other and offer practical support to the needy where we can.
Be assured of my prayers for you all.

Fr. Michael Sellers

RECENTLY DECEASED

Sharon Trainor (nee Nugent), John Doyle, Ginger McNeil,
Dennis Pluck, Peter McNulty.

BONUS BALL DRAW

Wednesday, 18th March: **No — 5 —**
£30 each goes to: **Pat Wilson and Cath Miller**
Contact Paul Terry with your winning ticket to claim your prize.
The sale of Bonus Ball tickets is suspended until further notice.

300 CLUB

The 300 Club Draws will take place as normal and we will endeavour to contact the winners. The results will be published on the website.

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