

The Parish Epistle - *Mini edition*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Our Parish Archive	1
Mass for the Sick, their Families, NHS Front-line workers & those in Social Care	1
Helping St Chad's Sanctuary	2
Parish Lockdown Boredom Buster	2
Live Masses Online	2
Thank You	3
Parish Gardening Group	3
Make an Act of Spiritual Communion	4
Look	4
Just for Fun	5-6

Our Parish History

Back in the 1980's Bill Ozanne wrote a pamphlet called "Parish Of S. John & S. Martin De Porres: A Brief History. 1896-1986". This is a fascinating document with lots of interesting facts - Fr. Bunce's "fund raising Grand Eastern Scenic Bazaar" in the Balsall Heath Institute, is just one of them.

Since then there have been articles in Parish Magazines – the Parish Epistle being the latest. But little other work has been done in capturing the history of our Parish, building on the work started by Bill.

The arrival of Fr. Mario brings a new chapter in the life of our Parish. It is also an opportunity to capture for posterity what went before and our role in the life of Balsall Heath, Moseley and the surrounding areas.

Are you interested in the history of our Parish? Would you be interested in helping update our Archive and capturing some of the many stories of our Parish before they fade from memory and are lost forever?

If you are, then drop an email to the Parish Email address – sssjohandmartin.bham@rc.aob.org.uk

Fr. Dominic used to say there was someone else working on a history of the Parish. If anyone knows who this is, please let us know.

Mass for the Sick, their Families, NHS Front-Line workers & those in Social Care

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join. This will take place every Thursday at 7.00pm.

28th May Bishop Terence Draney, Middlesbrough Cathedral



Helping St Chad’s Sanctuary

The Sanctuary are running out of food.

They desperately need tinned and long-life food, such as vegetable-based soups, kidney beans, chickpeas, vegetables, tomatoes and fish.

If you have any you can spare and are able to, please drop them into the Presbytery on Wednesday mornings, between 10 and 1 pm,

we will make sure they get them.

Just ring the bell and leave them with a note to say who they are from.



“We pray for those who have died of the Coronavirus. Into your hands, Lord, we commend their souls”

We want to hear from you.

We’d love to know about what you are doing either looking after each other or just managing the situation we now all live with.

If you have a story to share about what you have been doing or hints and tips to share with others and are happy for them to appear in the next edition please email them to us with any photos.

We miss you.

Parish Lockdown Boredom Buster

I know at least one of you had a go at the quiz in the last edition.

the end of this edition.

The questions and answers can be found at



Live Masses Online

Several of you asked about live-streaming of Mass. We do not have that capability at the moment, but others do.

Please follow this link to find out more

[Parishes and resources online - prayers and resources for Catholics](#)



Thank You

Our thanks and Prayers go to all the staff at our Schools who have done so much to help keep our children educated and entertained during lockdown. Please remember them in your prayers especially the staff at our Primary Schools who are all working hard getting things ready to welcome back some of our children.



*Let us continue to care
and pray for everyone.
May we continue to
grow through prayer in
love, strength and faith.*

Parish Gardening Group

We are lucky to have Steve who is keeping our lawns mown, hedges trimmed as well as lots of other general maintenance around the site. However, there is still lots to do.

Our gardens need care and attention most of the year and we would like to set up a Gardening Club to help us look after them. Whether you like clearing leaves, planting pots, weeding and pruning we would love to hear from you.

There are lots of benefits. Gardening has been linked to improvements in physical and mental health because it's active, therapeutic and if you join our Parish Gardening Group very sociable.

Some of the tasks you might get involved with are: weeding and trimming, replanting pots and containers, watering, digging, pruning and cutting back, composting, sweeping and clearing

If you are a keen gardener we'd love your input on planting and layout of the garden. We would also like your help supporting anyone new to gardening.

If you are interested let us know by sending an email to the Parish email address.

We hope to have enough interest to start something once the current restrictions are lifted.



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We're on the Web!

www.ssjohnandmartin.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter

@SsJohnandMartin

Make an Act of Spiritual Communion

We are now entering a time when we cannot attend Mass for a valid reason, and are therefore exempt from our Sunday obligation.

During this time we are encouraged to make a Spiritual Communion when we desire to be in union with Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. This can be done whilst you watch a live stream of Mass being offered.

There are 2 options of prayer you can say.

You can make an act of Spiritual Communion by saying the following prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

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.

Or

I wish, my Lord, to receive You with the purity, humility and devotion with which your Most Holy Mother received You, with the spirit and fervour of the saints.

Come Lord Jesus.

Give me, good Lord, a longing to be with You,

give me warmth, delight and quickness in thinking upon You.

And give me Your grace to long for Your holy sacraments,

and specially to rejoice in the presence of Your very blessed Body,

Sweet Saviour Christ, in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. (From St Thomas More)

Look

On Sunday we usually hand out a copy of the activity sheet "Look" to primary aged children. Each week the Gospel story is explained in age appropriate language. A

prayer and a variety of activities that will engage children are included to help each child get to know the person of Jesus.

Please email us with your name and details of where to send them if you would like copies to use at home.



Just For Fun



Who Are They?

1. Scottish Civil Engineer, best known for his construction of the Menai Suspension Bridge
2. Physicist, whose discoveries in electromagnetism led to the invention of the dynamo
3. Danish Physicist, who was first to apply the quantum theory to atomic and molecular structure
4. Fifteenth Century Portuguese Navigator who died on the voyage that accomplished the first circumnavigation of the world.
5. English Admiral who commanded HMS Bounty when, in 1787, there was a mutiny on board
6. German Brothers who wrote folk tales and are best known for their Fairy Tales
7. French King from 1830 who was nicknamed the Citizen King
8. Official dressmaker to the Queen and late Queen Mother until his death in 1979
9. Thirtieth President of the United States
10. French inventors who pioneered cinematography
11. Jazz singer whose career spanned from the 1930s with the Chick Webb band to the 1970s.
12. Writer of spy thrillers, possibly best known for *The Ipcress File*
13. Football Club manager of the 1970's and 80's who led Derby County and Nottingham Forest out of the then Second Division and also played for England
14. Nobel prize-winning French writer best known for works such as *The Stranger* and *The Fall*
15. Austrian physicist who devised a system of speed measurement relative to the speed of sound
16. Nineteenth Century Poet whose long narrative compositions include *The Song of Hiawatha*
17. Nobel prize winning Physicist who developed the special and general theories of relativity
18. Seventh Century Anglo Saxon King of Northumbria who restored Christianity in his kingdom
19. English explorer who discovered a great bay off the Canadian coast on August 3, 1610
20. Scottish dramatist and novelist who created Peter Pan
21. 25th President of the United States who was assassinated in 1901
22. British Admiral of the fleet who commanded at the Battle of Jutland in the First World War
23. Marxist Chilean statesman who was overthrown and killed in a 1973 military coup led by Pinochet

24. Italian-Jewish chemist who wrote of his time in Auschwitz in his 1947 book *If This Is Man*

25. Welsh Composer and playwright famous for the song "*Keep the Home Fires Burning*" and his prolific output of romantic musicals

Answers Below

Just For Fun

ANSWERS

Who Are They ?

1. Thomas Telford
2. Michael Faraday
3. Niels Bohr
4. Ferdinand Magellan
5. William Bligh
6. Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
7. Louis Philippe I
8. Norman Hartnell
9. Calvin Coolidge
10. Auguste and Louis Lumiere
11. Ella Fitzgerald
12. Len Deighton
13. Brian Clough
14. Albert Camus
15. Ernst Mach
16. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
17. Albert Einstein
18. Oswald
19. Henry Hudson
20. J. M. Barrie
21. William McKinley
22. Sir John Jellicoe
23. Salvador Allende
24. Primo Levi
25. Ivor Novello