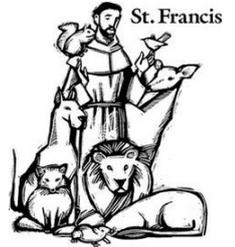




St Francis of Assisi Parish, Hunters Road B19 1EB
Newsletter 18-21 Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)
Week beginning Sunday 2nd May 2021.
Telephone: Mobile 07894427648 or landline 0121-554-0905
St Francis Centre: 0121-554-6708
Parish Website stfrancis.livevideostream.co.uk



See also St Francis' Centre Website

Fr Gerard Kelly (Parish Priest) **Fr Yen**, (Vietnamese Pastoral Centre Wye Cliff Rd 0121-554 8082;
Safeguarding representatives: Tim O'Hanlon, Veronica Middleton

Religious Houses in the Parish: The Sisters of Mercy 0121 554 3271

St Mary's Convent Heritage and Retreat Centre 0121 554 3271

The Missionary Sisters: Servants of the Holy Spirit. 0121 515 2341

May Mass Intentions

1	Sat (for Sun)	5.00 pm	Eileen Ward, Nora McBrine, Wm Harty (Dec'd)	
2	Sunday	8.00 am	Fr John Kearns (LD)	
		11.00 am	People of the Parish	1.30 pm Vietnamese Mass
		5.00 pm	Jeremiah Devine (A)	
3	Monday	9.15 am	Gwendolyn Truman (A)	
4	Tuesday	9.15 am	Antoinette Badiane (A)	
5	Wednesday	9.15 am	Frances & George Cockayne (GE)	
6	Thursday	9.15 am	Peter Dau (A)	
6	Thursday	7.30 pm	Ned Flynn (LD) (Novena Mass to OLPS)	
7	Friday	9.15 am	Peter Nguyen and Maria Tran (A)	
7	Friday	4.00 pm	Holy Spirit Sisters Mass:-Krystofer and Malgorzata (LD) (Sr Agnieska's brother and g'mother)	
8	Saturday	11.00 am	Maria Thoa and Peter Ru (A)	
8	Sat (for Sun)	5.00 pm	Ann Jennings (Dec'd)	
9	Sunday	8.00 am	Eileen O'Keefe (LD)	11.00 am Patrick Molloy (LD)
		1.30 pm	Vietnamese Mass	5.00 pm Teresa Doherty (A)

'Universe', 'My Day by Day' and 'Messenger of the Sacred Heart' If you would like a copy of any of these, please put your name on the list in the porch

Lockdown Restrictions

Please continue to follow the restrictions in place until the lockdown is lifted, especially as regards sanitising and social distancing

- During this time of the Corona Virus pandemic, if you are not able to come out to Mass, it would be a great help to the parish if you could set aside your normal Sunday Offerings and bring it all in when you are able to come back to Mass Thank you Thank you to all those who have set up Standing Orders in favour of the Parish to take care of your Weekly Offerings. It is the most secure way of supporting the parish. If anyone else would like to do this, forms are available to pick up from the church. If you do not wish to set up a Standing Order, I would encourage you to use the 'Repairs and Maintenance' and 'Offertory Envelope' system.

The Second Collection **next Sunday** will be for Catholic Communications. **The average Offertory Collection for the Sundays of April was £476**

Please note: I have reintroduced the Thursday evening (7.30 pm) Perpetual Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, through the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation has asked for a Daily Prayer to be offered during the month of May for an end of the Covid-19 Pandemic; each day of the month will focus on one of the international Shrines of Our Lady. Today, 1st May, the focus is on Our Lady of Walsingham, and we are asked to pray especially for those who have died.

Today, in this country, we are asked to pray the Rosary in spiritual unity with the Holy Father, asking especially for the intercession of Our Lady of Walsingham.

On Sunday, 2nd May, the focus is on the **Shrine of Jesus the Saviour and Mother Mary at Elele** in Nigeria, praying especially for communities which do not have appropriate access to proper health care.. The names of other shrines for the other days of May and the prayer intentions will be announced each day at Mass, and are displayed on the noticeboards at the back of the church. As the Month of May is especially the month dedicated to Our Lady we could make an effort to pray the Rosary, or a few decades of it, every day throughout the month

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Charity Number 234216

- **Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Frances Niland**, who died during the week. Frances, who attended the Wednesday Senior Citizens Club regularly, was always a faithful member of this parish. Funeral arrangements have not yet been completed

- **After the lockdown, our 2020 Cash and Car Draw will resume on 27th June.** The monthly draws will then continue on 11th July, 1st August, 12th September, 3rd October, 7th November, and 19th December. There are still seven draws remaining, including our celebration December draw, with it's star prize of a car. Tickets are just £70 for the last 7 draws– would still make a beautiful present for a birthday or other occasion
- **Reopening of St Francis Centre: Great News! St Francis Centre will reopen on Sunday, 23rd May! We will still be operating under the 'Rule of 6' , which means that we can accommodate 6 people at each table. Ray and Carol have been busy preparing to welcome you back!**

- **Please pray for the Sick of the Parish:** Patrick Pender, Bridie Keelan, Beatrice Thompson, Patrick Fahy, Brigid Donohue

- Bishop Challoner TSA is currently working with around 40 Primary and Secondary schools in the Birmingham area to help new teachers into the profession. Anyone is welcome to join for a free online information event on **Wednesday 28th April at 6pm** or **Thursday 13th May at 5pm** to find out more about the School Direct / PGCE route into this exciting and rewarding profession. See www.bctsa.org for details, or email teachschool@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk.

Reopening of the Adoration Chapel after the Lockdown: The Adoration Chapel will be open from 10-11 am on Mondays. If you would like to spend one hour in Adoration Prayer, get a friend to join you and give your names to Fr Kelly. We must have two people in the Chapel at any one time. You may know another person who would be pleased to share this hour with you.

First Communions will be celebrated in the parish on the following days:

Children at St Francis School	10.00 am	Saturday	26th June
Children at St Clare's School	10.00 am	Saturday	3rd July
Confirmations with Bishop Evans	7.00 pm	Thursday	21st October

Now that the schools have reopened, I would urge parents to see to it that all their children get into the habit of being present at Sunday Masses in their parish.

Annual Solemn Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

- While the lockdown is easing gradually, there will still be some restrictions in place for some considerable weeks. We hope, however, to celebrate our Annual Solemn Novena in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour again this year, beginning on 17th May. It is unlikely that Fr Derek Meskell will be able to travel from Ireland-Ireland will still be under more severe restrictions at that time. **The plan at the moment is to have just one Novena Mass at 7.00 pm throughout the Nine Days of the Novena. I hope to have a variety of speakers at each of the Novena Masses. Please do tell people that the Novena will indeed be celebrated again this year, beginning on 17th May with Mass at 7.00 pm Full details of the Novena Schedule next week**



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Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. If you are aged between 20 and 50, and think you might have a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, come and talk to us!