

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:**

We pray for Vera Musto who has died recently and also: Tommy Gaffney, Vera Musto, Owen Giblin, Michael O’Sullivan, Kathleen Brennan, Hannah and William Gaynor and deceased family members and all the faithful departed.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK**

*The list of those who are sick may be found on the parish noticeboard.*

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

<b>Sat 21st</b>	<b>Mass - Pro Populo</b>
<b>Sun 22nd</b>	<b>Mass - Tommy Gaffney (RIP - anniv)</b>
<b>4th SUNDAY</b>	<b>Mass - All Mothers</b>
<b>OF LENT</b>	<b>Mass - Vera Musto (RIP- LD)</b>
<b>Mothering Sunday</b>	<b>Mass - Aid to the Church In Need</b>
<b>Mon 23rd</b>	<b>Mass - Owen John Giblin (RIP - anniv)</b>
<b>Tue 24th</b>	<b>Mass - Jonny &amp; Christopher Seidler (ints)</b>
<b>Wed 25th</b>	<b>Mass - The NHS</b>
<b>Thu 26th</b>	<b>Mass - Hannah &amp; William Gaynor &amp; deceased family members (RIP)</b>
<b>Fri 27th</b>	<b>Mass - Jane Than (ints)</b>
<b>Sat 28th</b>	<b>Mass - The Sick and the Housebound -</b>
<b>Sun 29th</b>	<b>Mass - Pro Populo</b>
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY</b>	<b>Mass - Michael O’Sullivan (RIP - anniv)</b>
<b>OF LENT</b>	<b>Mass - Kathleen Brennan (RIP - 1st anniv)</b>
	<b>Mass -</b>
	<b><i>Regular Confessions: Sat 10.30 - 11am</i></b>

**A prayer for our times.**

*Dear Guardian Angel, go for me to the church, there kneel down at Mass for me. At the Offertory, take me to God, and offer Him my service: What I am, what I have, offer as my gift. At the Consecration, with your seraphic strength, adore my Saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me, and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all. During Holy Communion, bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus uniting Him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become His dwelling place. Plead with Him, that through His sacrifice all people throughout the world may be saved. When the Mass ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing. Amen.*

We are still surrounded by the angels and by the saints who are glorifying God and protecting and assisting mankind. Why should we not make them our particular friends and allies in situations where we are touching limits that we cannot overcome?



**CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**

**60 Rylston Rd, Fulham, SW6 7HW:  
020 7385 4040**

**Email: [fulham@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:fulham@rcdow.org.uk)**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Dennis Touw-Tempelmans Plat**

**Asst. Priest: Fr Linferd Fernandes**

**Parish Deacon: The Rev Wayne O’Reilly**

**Parish Administrator: Mr Gerald Daly**

**Catechetical Co-ordinator: awaiting appointment**

**Email address: [fulhamcatechist@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:fulhamcatechist@rcdow.org.uk)**

**Safeguarding Representative: Mr David Belcher**

**Website: <https://stthomasfulham.com>**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

You need no words from me to state the grave seriousness of the crisis of the spread of the coronavirus around the world and throughout this country. We know the steps and the sacrifices we must take in order to play our part in slowing its spread, saving lives and enabling the NHS to continue its vital work. These things are our duty before God.

There are other vitally important aspects of this moment in our history that are less prominent in our media and conversations. At this moment we stand before God. That is never to be forgotten. Together we turn to God in prayer, at this moment as never before.

Our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is the bedrock on which we live. Prayer is the first and loving expression of this relationship. Prayer is an acknowledgement that we are not in ultimate control of our lives or of our world. That is so clear at this time. Prayer is the recognition that our lives, individually and communally, are marked by failure and sin. Prayer is an expression of our turning to God for that grace which alone can heal us, strengthen us and give us the resolve and generosity to do all that is rightly expected of us today. Please make this a time of prayer, personally, in the family and wherever you happen to be.

The highest form of prayer is the celebration of the Holy Mass. This is at the heart of the rhythm of the life of the Church, the rhythm of prayer which sustains us all. The present crisis will not disturb that rhythm. Mass will continue to be celebrated, day by day. The prayer of the Church will continue day by day.

What will change is the manner of our participation in those celebrations of the Mass. In response to the pandemic and the official guidance, which we must follow, public participation in the celebration of the Mass is not, for now, possible. This is a sacrifice we have to make. It is not easy, for any Catholic, but it is what we must do.

I want to make it exceptionally clear that the teaching of the Church is that, in these circumstances, the obligation of attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days no longer applies. Please have no doubt about this.

This does not mean that we lose our love of the Mass or our desire to take part in the celebration of the Mass. Mass will be celebrated, day by day, in your church. There are many ways of taking part in this prayer. Associate yourself with the celebration of the Mass spiritually. Read the Scriptures of the day. Use some of the materials that are available to be close in your heart. Learn again the practice of spiritual communion. If you are helped by a visual participation in the Mass, then go to one of the websites on which that celebration is being streamed. The list of those websites is available to you. There are many ways in which we can deepen our participation in the Mass and our life of prayer in these strange and stressful days. Indeed, they are an opportunity for us to do so.

Two other points. Being unable to attend Mass is the experience of many, many Catholics around the world. They are deprived of the Mass through distance, or through violence, or through persecution. We can unite our experience with them and, like them, return to the Mass with fresh love and enthusiasm when, again, it is possible for us to do so, in bigger numbers than ever.

Secondly, you understand well that from our prayer, and from the prayer of the Mass, flows the love and compassion which we want to show to those around us who are in need. Jesus gives Himself entirely for us in His sacrifice, the sacrifice made present again for us in every Holy Mass. What we receive from Him we offer to others. So please do look out for every way in which you can help those in need around you. Thank you.

We know that this time of crisis is not going to be brief. We are involved in a lengthy battle. We encourage each other. We pray for each other. Together we turn to Mary for her special protection, especially on 29 March when again, in keeping with our ancient tradition, we offer ourselves and our country to her, as our gift, and seeking her protection.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, pray for us  
Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us  
Mary, Mother of Joys, pray for us.

Yours devotedly,

**+Cardinal Vincent Nichols**

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**My dear friends, you will notice that there are no times of mass indicated on our weekly sheet. This is as a result of the ban on all public worship that this medical crisis demands. However, you may rest assured that each of these Masses will be offered privately but behind closed doors. Let us pray fervently for our world and for each other in these difficult days. God Bless and keep well!**

**A list of churches which are offering mass “online” can be found at both church doors - please help yourself to one of these.**

**This is Mothering Sunday an important day for us to give thanks to God for our mothers - yes - mothers - plural!**

**Our Blessed Lady who is Mother to us all.  
Our earthly who brought us in to this world.  
And our Holy Mother - the Church who nurtures us through  
her life and sacraments.**

**There are bunches of flowers in church for every mother please feel free to help yourselves and have a holy and blessed Mothering Sunday**

Many of you have expressed your concern with regard to the financial situation of our parish and our vital weekly giving. Any donations can simply be dropped through the Presbytery door; it may also be useful to let you have the parish's bank details so that donations may continue during these difficult weeks.

**HSBC 69 Pall Mall, London SW1y 5EY  
Sort Code: 40-05-20 Account No.: 11263137**

**FINALLY THERE ARE NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

### **PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK during this time of National emergency**

There is a great danger at this time, when many may be isolated in their homes, that they are overlooked. Perhaps you have a solitary and elderly neighbour whom you have not seen out. Please, during these next weeks/months reach out to them. See that they have what they need and offer them a little of your time. Let us remember that we are followers of Christ - people of love and compassion.