

WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF ST. BERNARD

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SUNDAY FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10th MAY 2020

Message from the Archbishops of the Catholic Church

When the Prime Minister announced the lockdown, this included places of worship and therefore Catholic churches. These measures were put in place to stem the general transmission of the virus. It is right that the Catholic community fulfils its role in contributing to the preservation of life and the common good of society. This must continue until the restrictions applied by the Government are lifted.

None of us would want to be in the situation in which we find ourselves. While the live-streaming of the Mass and other devotions is playing an important part in maintaining the life of faith, there is no substitute for Catholics being able to physically attend and participate in the celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments. Our faith is expressed powerfully and beautifully though 'seeing, touching and tasting.' We know that every bishop and every priest recognises the pain of Catholics who at present cannot pray in church or receive the sacraments. This weight heavily on our hearts. We are deeply moved by the Eucharistic yearning expressed by so many members of the faithful. We thank you sincerely for your love for the Lord Jesus, present in the sacraments and supremely so in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The bishops and priests of every diocese are remembering you and your loved ones at Mass each day in our churches as we pray in hope of

health and well-being. We thank our priests for this faithfulness to their calling.

As the Government's restrictions are relaxed step by step, we look forward to opening our churches and resuming our liturgical, spiritual catechetical and pastoral life step by step. This will also be of service to those beyond the Catholic Church who depend on our charitable activity and outreach through which much goodness is shared by so many volunteers from our communities.

None of us knows, as yet, now or when the lockdown will end. There is likely to be a phased return to travelling and gathering. As a church we are now planning for this time and our discussions with the statutory public health agencies and Government representatives are ongoing. Together with Catholics across England and Wales we desire the opening of our churches and access to the sacraments. Until then we are continuing to pray and prepare.

We want to acknowledge with gratitude the service of our fellow bishops and priests our deacons and religious our families and lay faithful, together with all our parish communities for the wonderful ways the life of the faith is being nourished at this time, especially in the home. We also pay tribute to the Catholic organisations and networks that are working to support the vulnerable and needy.

On that first Easter day, the disciples were in lockdown and the doors were closed. In their isolation the Lord Jesus came among them and said, Peace be with you. May the peace of the risen Lord reign in our hearts and homes as we look forward to the day we can enter church again and gather around the altar to offer together the Sacrifice of Praise

We unite in asking the intercession of Our Blessed Lay and assure you of our prayers and blessing. Cardinal Nichols, Malcolm McMahon, Bernard Longley, George Stack, John Wilson.

Sunday St. Bernard's 10.00 a.m. [Anne Keane L.D.]

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 1.30 p.m. St. Theresa's [Paddy Coulson]

Tuesday 10.00 a.m. St. Bernard's [Peggy Bekus]

Wednesday 10.00 a.m. St. Theresa's

Thursday 10.00 a.m. St. Bernard's [Joan Owens Aniv]

Friday 10.00 a.m. St. Theresa's [Holy Souls]

Saturday 10.00 a.m. St. Bernard's [Holy

CONFESSIONS Saturday 9.15-9.45 a.m.

COLLECTION Last Sunday £

People are invited to visit www.halifax-deanery.org.uk

Our Sick and Housebound. Erminia Pacsai, , Lawrence Ward, Mr and Cox, Barbara McDonald, Jean Barraclough, Winifred Cafferkey, Francis Marshall, Shirley Tidswell. Eileen Lee, John Moore, Angela Romanic, Hylda O'Brien, Florence Robertshaw.