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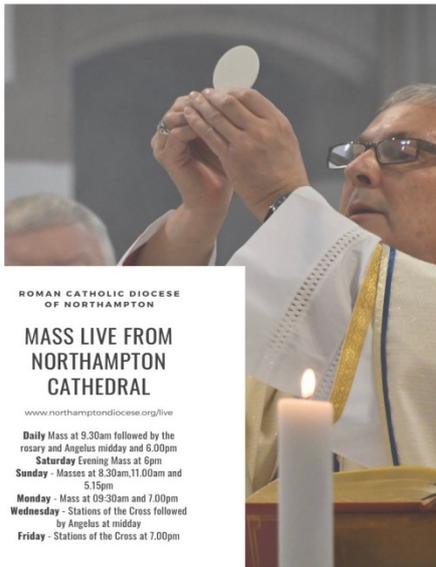
Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Marchwiński

Third Sunday of Easter

26th April, 2020

**No Public Masses will take place in any of our Churches
from Saturday 21st March until further notice**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



Please join us in saying a **Spiritual
Communion** at:

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/when-mcannot-be-celebrated-publicly-making-a-spiritual-communion/>

Or visit live streaming broadcasts of Mass from
Northampton Cathedral at

<https://northamptondiocese.org/live/>

Sunday or Daily Readings:

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/spiritualit/sunday-and-daily-readings/>

Keep an eye on the Vatican News channel for live streaming of events.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday – Chris Lally 3 Anniversary

Sunday - Richard Nolan RIP, Bel Stephens RIP

Monday - Matt Whitehouse int, Loraine Thornley RIP

Tuesday - Marion Forsdyke RIP, Mary O'Haren anniv.

Wednesday - Bishop Leo McCartie RIP

Thursday - Marion Forsdyke RIP

Friday - for the Parish

Saturday – Tommy McCarney

Sunday - May Jeffenes RIP, Jean Ayrton RIP

To request a Mass Intention please send an email to:

parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk

THANK YOU TO LEIGHANNE

After several months of her ministry in the parish office, Leighanne has finished her work as a secretary in Saint Edward's parish. It was a difficult decision and a big dilemma for her, but many practical reasons influenced this decision.

As a parish priest, I am very grateful to Leighanne for good and fruitful cooperation and for her professional support, and I am sure that many of our parishioners will miss her very much.

Leighanne, you are always very welcome in our parish.

Fr Gregory

SICK CALLS AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME – A MESSAGE FROM FR. GREGORY

In accordance with official advice and to minimise the chance of me passing on infection I cannot undertake to visit the sick or housebound except in case of serious need. However please do not hesitate to call on me to visit those in imminent danger of death. Please telephone **01536 512497** with any such requests. I will of course be happy to pray for anybody who is sick but not close to death, if requested.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED

Please pray for those who have passed away, especially for especially for Bishop **Leo McCartie**

Please also pray for:

Bernard Cox. His funeral service will take place on Wednesday, April 29 at 1.30pm at the crematorium.

Patricia Timson, her funeral service will take place on Tuesday, 5th May at 9.30 am at the crematorium.

Mary Nikitoruk, more information about her funeral will be given next week.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

BISHOP LEO MCCARTIE RIP



I am very sad to inform you about the death of Bishop Leo McCartie who served as Bishop of Northampton from 20 February 1990 to 29 March 2001.

Bishop Leo, Bishop Emeritus of Northampton, passed away on Thursday 23rd April at St. Joseph's House in Birmingham, aged 94. In these challenging times, his funeral will undoubtedly be a small affair.

Bishop Leo was born in Hartlepool on the 5th September 1925 and having been a priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Fr Leo was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham in 1977. In February 1990 he was appointed the tenth Bishop of Northampton. He retired in 2001 having reached the retirement age of 75 after 43 years as an active Bishop. Last July Bishop Leo celebrated 70 years of priesthood with Mass attended by the then current Bishop of Northampton, Bishop Peter Doyle (now Emeritus) and Archbishop Kevin McDonald.

He was the oldest living Bishop in England and Wales. He is remembered as a pastoral man of God who relentlessly shared the Gospel through word and action.

On **Wednesday, April 29 at 9.30am** I will celebrate a private mass for Bishop Leo in our parish house. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

WEEKLY DONATIONS Some parishioners have asked how they can maintain their donations which would normally be given via the collection plate. It is true that church income will significantly reduce as a result of the current ban on public liturgies while we are all being asked to stay at home and avoid unnecessary travel. While I will endeavour to keep parish outgoings as low as possible, please could I ask those parishioners who can afford it at this time, and do not currently give by Standing Order, to consider donating online.

There are several ways of donating during this crisis so that you do not need to leave home:

- **Online** This can be done via the Diocesan website which can be found at <https://northamptondiocese.org/> . Scroll down to find the 'Donate' button and follow the instructions on the Catholic Diocese of Northampton Virgin money giving page. By indicating in the notes section of the donate page that the donation is for "St. Edward's Kettering" your donation will go into our parish account with the diocese, and will at the same time help our diocese as a whole. Please note that there is the facility to Gift Aid any donation to your parish if you are a taxpayer. Thank you for any help you can give.
 - **Standing Order** via your own bank. Alternatively, you can set up a standing order for donations to your parish using your online bank account. The information required to make the donation is as follows. Bank; NatWest Sort Code; 60-06-11 Account Name; 46898093 Account Name; Northampton Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Payment Ref; St. Edward's, Kettering
 - **One-off donation by telephone** The facility is available in the central office at Bishop's House to take donations by card payments over the phone. As above they would need to be informed at the time of the call where the donation is to be attributed to.
 - You can also support the Parish by **making a donation through the letterbox** of the presbytery at any time.
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TIPS FOR COUPLES TO SURVIVE THE CORONAVIRUS LOCK DOWN

The Coronavirus is not just a threat to our physical health – it's also a challenge to our relationships. Across the world, couples are rediscovering the joy – and the pain – of living together 24/7. Without warning, billions of previously interdependent spouses now share living AND workspace with each other and with their children under various lock down protocols. For some, this is a welcome disruption to their routine but for others, it's bringing into sharp focus the abrasive edges of their relationships. How do we deal with this wild pandemic situation and channel it's energy for good in our families and in our relationship?

Here are some tips from the authors of the marriage courses we use in our parishes.

Change the Direction of Your Marriage!

<https://smartloving.org/lockdown-show-down/>

It's easy to get discouraged by our disconnection; arguments over petty incidents, too busy to romance each other, crowded with other responsibilities. We all experience this especially during this time of isolation. But there is a way to BreakThrough the resentment and re-establish connection.

All marriages go through periods of stress and disillusionment. It's important for all of us to be proactive in keeping our marriages healthy by healing any hurts we may have accumulated and resolving any resentment.

Follow the SmartLoving BreakThrough Course

This is an online course that teaches participants how conflict arises, and how to take simple steps to heal the wounds and restore hope. It is private, confidential and effective and can be worked through in three hours. Watch the short video at <https://smartloving.org/breakthrough/>

- Learn how arguments happen: manage them better or avoid them altogether
- Understand your internal drivers: and how your spouse is triggering you
- Process the pain of past injuries: making you stronger and less reactive
- Restore hope for your relationship's future: with practical strategies

Marriages: some food for thought...

During the closure of our church and hall, we have ensured that our marriage preparation courses continue to be offered using our programme's online facility at <https://smartloving.org/uk/>

With the ever increasing pressures on marriages and family life, it is more important now than ever to reveal to engaged couples the beauty and true meaning of this sacrament in our Church.

The latest figures for marriages in England and Wales reveal that the **number of men and women getting married has fallen to a new low**. In 2017, there were a total of 235,910 marriages between opposite-sex couples - a decrease of 2.8% from 2016, and a decrease of 45% in the past 45 years. Only 22% of marriages were religious in 2017, the lowest percentage on record. In addition, around 81% of couples that had a religious ceremony cohabited before they got married.

Interestingly, cohabitation has been shown to significantly *increase* the divorce rate! There are complex reasons for this, one being that the criteria one may have for selecting a 'cohabiting partner' is much lower than one would have for an intended 'life-time partner'. Once cohabiting, it can become difficult to break up as constraints naturally accumulate, eg: shared furniture, pets, bank accounts and so on. This 'commitment creep' can cause couples to never make a decisive choice to become life-long partners, but rather *slide* into marriage without a deep felt commitment to the marriage itself.

LETTER FOR THE MONTH OF MAY FROM POPE FRANCIS



Pope Francis standing in front of the the image of Mary, Salus populi Romani, during the Mass for Easter Sunday

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/letter-on-the-month-of-may-full-text.html>

Pope Francis has issued a letter for the month of May, a time of when we express our love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. He encourages everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home and shares with us prayers he will be saying at the end of the Rosary, so that we can say them in spiritual union with others.

FIRST PRAYER

O Mary,

*You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.*

*"Protectress of the Roman people",
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.*

*Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.*

*We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.*

SECOND PRAYER

“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God”.

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

For those wanting to discover more about the Rosary, and find details of the individual mysteries see: <https://www.rosarycenter.org/homepage-2/rosary/how-to-pray-the-rosary/>