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Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Marchwiński

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

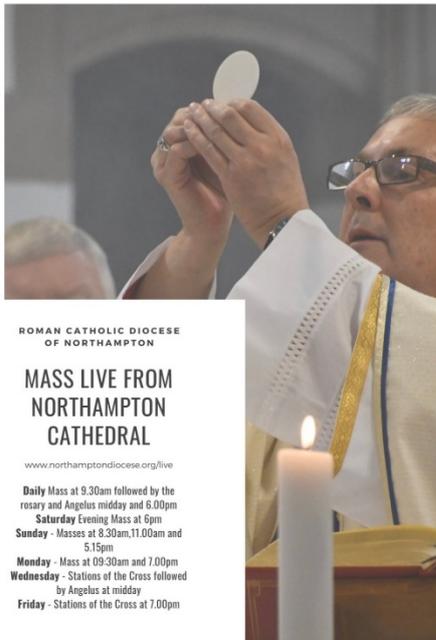
17th May, 2020

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

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## 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/>

Alternative Masses, adoration, prayer, etc. can  
be found at:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Sunday or Daily Readings:

<http://www.stedwardskettering.org.uk/spirituality/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** – For the parish

**Sunday** – Sister Theresa Gleeson RIP

**Monday** – Maureen Russell RIP, Lauren Nalepa, Canon Jason Jones 50<sup>th</sup> birthday

**Tuesday** – Mary Hypher RIP

**Wednesday** – Malachy McMullan RIP

**Thursday** – Bishop John Keenan

**Friday** - For the parish

**Saturday** – For the parish

**Sunday** – Peter Hughes RIP

To request a Mass Intention please send an email to:

[parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk](mailto:parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk)

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## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED**

In our prayers, let us remember our deceased parishioners, family members and friends.

Let us especially remember those who have recently passed away:

**Sister Theresa Gleeson** died very peacefully and suddenly on Thursday 14th May at Nazareth House. Please remember her in your prayers. All the details of her interment will be announced later. Fr. Gregory said a Mass for her Intention on the day of her death.

Please pray also for **Canon Michael (Mick) Hazell** who sadly died on Tuesday 24th March. Canon Hazel was ordained in July 1958 and served in our Diocese for decades before retiring in 2005.

Let us remember also:

**William McNulty** – His funeral will take place on May 19 at 12 noon at Kettering crematorium.

**May they rest in peace.**

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## **SICK CALLS AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME**

In accordance with official advice and to minimise the chance of Fr. Gregory passing on infection he cannot undertake to visit the sick or housebound except in case of serious need.

However please do not hesitate to call on him to visit those in in imminent danger of death.

Please telephone 01536 512497 with any such requests. Fr. Gregory will of course be happy to pray for anybody who is sick but not close to death, if requested.

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**Please See Updates to the following sections further below:**

- **Parish Community in Lockdown**
  - **Weekly Donations**
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## **NEW GIFT AID ENVELOPES**

New Gift Aid envelopes are already available in the parish office. Please book a day and time with Father Gregory by phone or email for you to pick them up.

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## **WHEN ARE OUR CHURCHES RE-OPENING? A CLARIFICATION FOR PARISHIONERS.**



Many rumours are circulating following the various government statements this week so, to avoid any disappointment or misinformation, the current view of the Bishops of England and Wales is given below.

### *Statement from the Bishops:*

*The timing and the manner of the opening of churches touches profound sensitivities and spiritual needs. The Government's document and statements fail to recognise this. The Government's position, established 11 May, includes these steps aimed at opening churches as soon as possible: the establishment of a task force for places of worship, to work closely with 'stakeholders' in ensuring that premises are COVID-19 secure; and heeding the experience of other countries in which churches are already open for worship.*

*In dialogue with the Government, the Catholic Church will continue its engagement in this process and has already submitted a detailed plan, in full accordance with public health guidelines, for churches to be opened for private prayer. The Church is ready to play its full part in the task force, understanding that this includes the possible earlier use of churches for private prayer, as a first safe step towards their use for public worship.*

The government set out a cautious plan for easing existing measures in a safe and measured way, subject to successfully controlling the virus and being able to monitor and react to its spread. The plan will be kept under review as the epidemic, and the world's understanding of it, develops.

It can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>

Church opening is deemed to be the last stage of the easing process, the same stage as other buildings where people congregate in an enclosed space such as in theatres or restaurants. The plan states the earliest is July 4 but could be later, although there may be some concession earlier for private prayer only, under strict conditions.

### **Therefore, here's something for our parish community to think about in the next few weeks...**

When some form of re-opening eventually happens, it looks like it will initially be for **private prayer** only and under strict conditions of limited and controlled access with social distancing and sanitisation procedures in operation. If so, as a parish we will need volunteer stewards (wearing face covering and gloves) to admit and direct parishioners and, as each parishioner leaves, to sanitise all areas touched before another parishioner might touch them.

Depending on advice at the time, parishioners coming to church may also need to wear a face covering etc. and to sanitise their hands on entry to the church using the sanitiser provided by the stewards. Notices on pews (as used in Parliament, for example) will indicate where parishioners can sit in order to ensure safe spacing.

Depending on numbers attending church, a one-way system similar to that now used in some supermarkets may need to be used especially in "gathering" areas such as around the candle stands.

ALL parishioners will at all times need to remain at least two metres from anyone not in their own household. This will inevitably limit the numbers we can admit at one time but is essential in order to protect everyone, particularly our elderly and more vulnerable, especially as transfer of the illness is now known to be possible from people who do not show any symptoms but are nevertheless carriers.

We must accept that we are all in this for the long haul if we are to avoid a second epidemic. The norms and procedures that we have grown accustomed to at Mass are not likely to resume in the same ways for a considerable time, even when we re-open.

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to the day when we can gather together in confident safety, albeit perhaps with a very different perspective on life!

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### MESSAGE FROM FATHER GREGORY



***HAPPY 100 BIRTHDAY IN HEAVEN SAINT JOHN PAUL II!!!!***

*"Whoever wants to understand the poet - should go to his homeland" W. Goethe*

On May 18, we will celebrate the 100th birthday of Saint John Paul II. The Polish Pope would not be the same man, the same priest, actor and poet, bishop, philosopher and pope, were it not for the influence and example of his parents' life.

It was in the family that Karol Wojtyla learned to love, believe and understand the world. On March 11 - that is, a few weeks ago - the archbishop of Krakow, Marek Jędraszewski, decided to start the beatification processes of Emilia Wojtyla née Kaczorowska and Karol Wojtyla (father) - parents of Saint John Paul II. Who would Karol Wojtyla be, if not for the influence of his parents? How strongly did his family home in Wadowice shape his personality, priestly calling and spirituality?

**Mother:** As John Paul II himself emphasized; his mother was the soul of the family home. Emilia Wojtyla, née Kaczorowska, was born in 1884 in Krakow. *"If I live at all, it is only because she was the one who gave me this life"*, the Pope used to say many times. She gave birth to him despite the fact that pregnancy was a threat to her life and the doctor offered abortion, explaining that in order to save herself she has to get rid of the conceived child. From the very beginning she surrounded him with boundless love. *"This child will be someone great!"*, she used to tell her friends and neighbours. She hugged and rocked him many times in the wood cradle, singing to sleep. It was his mother who taught him the sign of the cross and the first prayers. *"My faith was taught to me by my mother's hands, who folded my little hands to a prayer and showed me how to make the sign of the cross - the sign of Christ, who is the Son of the living God"*, recalled the pope many years later. Emilia dreamed of one of her sons becoming a priest and the other a doctor. John Paul II once said: *"My mother wanted to have two sons: a doctor and a priest, and it happened - my brother became a doctor and I became a priest despite all adversities."*

From the birth of Karol, Emilia felt very unwell. Exhausted by a difficult pregnancy, she never recovered and her life was marked by illness and weakness. From 1927, Emilia's disease progressed very quickly. She never left the house, only on sunny days her husband carried her on a chair to the balcony where she liked to sew or mend her son's clothes. Then she just lay in bed. Emilia Wojtyla died on April 13, 1929. She was 45 years old. Her son Karol, the future pope, was 9 years old.

There is a high probability that it was the mother's illness that made John Paul II so sensitive to human suffering that he spoke and wrote so much about it. Perhaps Emilia's heroic attitude and her decision to give birth to a child, even at the cost of sacrificing her own life, contributed to such intensive teaching of the Pope about respect for the lives of conceived children.

**Father:** John Paul II had more memories about his father than about his mother. Once he said about him: *"My childhood is primarily associated with the figure of the father, whose spiritual life after the loss of his wife and older son has deepened. I looked closely at his life, I saw how much he demanded of himself, I saw him very often as he knelt to pray. Looking at him, I learned that I had to set my own requirements and try to fulfil my duties as best I can. I considered my father as an extraordinary man"*.

Karol Wojtyla (father) was born in 1879. When he was 21 years old, he reached the recruitment age. After several years of military service, he decided to remain in the army permanently. After Emilia's death, Karol Wojtyla (father) took over all parental responsibilities. First, however, he organized for his sons, Edmund and Karol, a pilgrimage to the Marian shrine in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska near Krakow. When the mother was missing, he showed them another Mother - Mary, that they would entrust their suffering to her, praying and participating in the Way of the Cross on the famous Calvary paths. In this way he directed their thinking.

He never married a second time. He remained a widower and focused on the education of little Karol - the future pope. The older son, Edmund, was already an adult and studied in Krakow. Karol Wojtyla (father) perfectly fulfilled his duties as the father and head of the family. He was preparing breakfasts and dinners and only for lunch they were going to the restaurant which was located opposite the house. In the eyes of his neighbours and friends he was the model for an ideal parent. A strong man, but at the same time like a loving mother he shaped the character of young Karol. He took care of his son's comprehensive development and education, raised him in a spirit of patriotism. Karol Wojtyla (father), as befits a soldier, also taught Karol to follow the regular rhythm of the day, which was determined by: meals, doing homework together, evening walks and many other activities. He took care of his son's spiritual life, hence he included a systematic prayer in the schedule of the day, which they said together at specific times, as well as before and after each meal. In addition, both father and son used to go to the Latin daily mass at seven o'clock in the parish church.

John Paul II remembered his father from those times: *"I could observe his everyday life, which was very strict. He was a military man and when he became a widower, his life became even more a life of constant prayer. Sometimes I woke up at midnight and I saw my father kneeling, just like kneeling as I saw him always in the parish church"*.

When the future pope was 12 years old, he heard memorable words from his father: *"You are not a good altar boy! You don't pray enough to the Holy Spirit! You must pray to him much more!"*. The Pope recalled after many years: *"It was a great spiritual lesson for me, more permanent and stronger than all I had thanks to reading and studying. It is thanks to him that after many years I wrote the encyclical to the Holy Spirit."* His father's strong faith had a great impact on his son, and John Paul II was aware of this to the end of his life.

The pope's father died suddenly. John Paul II recalled: *"In 1941 my father died, and it was February 18. I returned home from work and found my father dead"* and he added *"I have never felt so lonely..."*. The period of mourning was for him one of the most difficult but also the most important in his life. It is significant that Karol Wojtyla decided to become a priest just after the death of his father. It was this moment in his life that was a breakthrough, and his father's departure had an impact on his life choices. It was the father who shaped his spirituality and relationship with God. John Paul has repeatedly confirmed this: *"We have never talked about the priestly vocation, but this example of my father was for me the first home seminary."*

John Paul II would not be the same man, the same priest, actor and poet, bishop and philosopher, and finally the pope, if not for the huge influence of his parents. It was in the family that the pope learned to love and understand the world. He gained knowledge and faith, learned patriotism and love for people.

If John Paul II did not carry the family home in Wadowice in his heart, if he did not carry the world of his childhood, his whole message and holiness would have a different dimension. That is why, when Pope Benedict XVI came to Wadowice on a pilgrimage in 2006, he said: ***"The great German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said: "Whoever wants to understand the poet should go to his homeland. So, to understand the life and ministry of John Paul II, I had to come to his hometown."*** To royal Wadowice where 100 years ago this wonderful journey to holiness began. And finally, I would like to write for you something very similar that I came up with

recently: *Whoever wants to understand John Paul II should get to know the life of his parents.*

*Happy 100 Birthday in Heaven Saint John Paul II! Together with your parents you will always remain in our hearts!*

*Fr Gregory*

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## ST EDWARD'S PARISH - THE PARISH COMMUNITY IN LOCKDOWN LATEST NEWS



The Parish has begun a “Parish Call and Care scheme” to support isolated and elderly parishioners, many of whom are facing months without significant social contact.

Many thanks to those who have already volunteered to “Phone and Chat” to anyone who would welcome such a chat. While other volunteers to make calls will be very welcome, at the moment we are short of people who feel they would like a call!

If you are someone who would like to receive such calls, from a fellow parishioner, or indeed know of someone who you feel would appreciate such a call, please contact Fr Gregory in the first instance with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number).

Fr Gregory can be contacted on 01536 512497 or by email [parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk](mailto:parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk)

**Data Notice** The personal details you have given will only be stored and used by the parish named above (part of the Diocese of Northampton) for the purposes of administering the Parish Call and Care Scheme. They will not be otherwise

disclosed, unless for your urgent and vital welfare. Details of how we process your data, and your rights, are on the full Privacy Notice which may be seen on the Diocesan website at [www.northamptondiocese.org/data](http://www.northamptondiocese.org/data).

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## **WEEKLY DONATIONS - UPDATE**

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
  - **Make a donation to your own parish over the phone** - The Diocesan Finance office has now introduced 'Giving Tuesday'. Each 'Tuesday' between 10.00am and 4.00pm, a member of the finance team will be available at Bishop's House to take your calls to donate to your parish community over the telephone. To donate simply call 01604 712065 with your debit or credit card details. (If you get the answering machine just leave your name and number NOT bank details and you will be called back). When you get through you will be asked for your name & address, your parish, envelope number (if you have one) and gift aid status. You can make one-off catch-up donations or regular weekly or monthly payments, on any Tuesday until further notice.
  - You can also support the Parish by **making a donation through the letterbox** of the presbytery at any time.
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**PRAYER TO YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL  
WHEN YOU CANNOT ATTEND DAILY MASS.**

O HOLY ANGEL at my side,  
Go to Church for me,  
Kneel in my place, at Holy Mass,  
Where I desire to be.

At Offertory, in my stead,  
Take all I am and own,  
And place it as a sacrifice  
Upon the Altar Throne.

At Holy Consecration's bell,  
Adore with Seraph's love,  
My Jesus hidden in the Host,  
Come down from Heaven above.

Then pray for those I dearly love,  
And those who cause me grief,  
That Jesus' Blood may cleanse all hearts,  
And suffering souls relieve.

And when the priest Communion takes,  
Oh, bring my Lord to me,  
That His sweet Heart may rest on mine,  
And I His temple be.

Pray that this Sacrifice Divine,  
May mankind's sins efface;  
Then bring me Jesus' blessing home,  
The pledge of every grace. Amen