

2 The Grove, Kettering NN15 7QQ. Telephone 01536 512497

Website: www.stedwardskettering.org.uk

Email: parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk

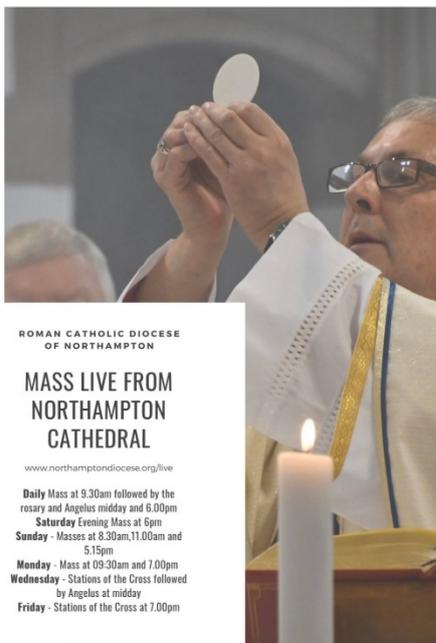
Parish Priest: Fr. Gregory Marchwiński

Pentecost

31st May, 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/>

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 – Thanksgiving Noone

Sunday – Dorothy and Martin Mannion RIP

Monday – Patricia Heenan RIP

Tuesday – Norah Mangan RIP

Wednesday – for all our front line health staff who have died looking after their patients

Thursday – Pam Smyth, 90th birthday

Friday – Maureen Kitson RIP, Laurence McCahill RIP

Saturday – for all our parishioners who are ill or died with Covid and their families

Sunday – Sister Theresa RIP

To request a Mass Intention please send an email to:

parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk

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.

Let us remember also:

Kathleen Donohoe – Her funeral will take place on 2nd June at 10am at Kettering crematorium

Catherine Mary Vince – Her funeral will take place on 10th June at 3pm at Kettering crematorium.

May they rest in peace.

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.

PENTECOST SUNDAY



The Holy Spirit, St. Peter's Basilica.

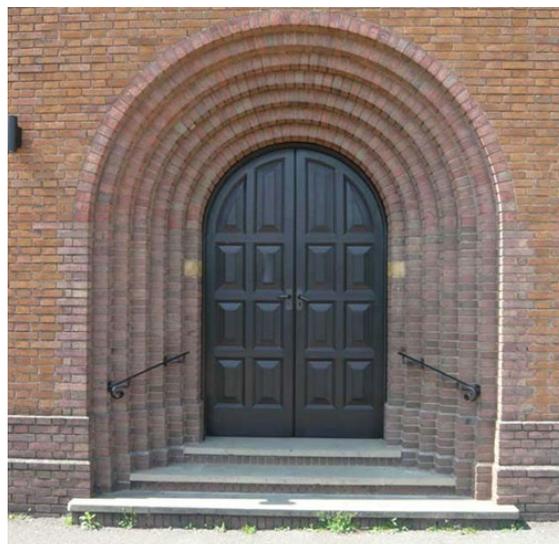
From the Gospel according to John
JN 20:19-23

*On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you."
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit.
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."*

Pope Francis (Holy Mass on the Solemnity of Pentecost, 9th June 2019)

It is no use knowing that the Risen One is alive, unless we too live as risen ones. It is the Spirit who makes Jesus live within us; he raises us up from within. That is why when Jesus appears to his disciples, he repeats the words, "Peace be with you!" (Jn 20:19.21), and bestows the Spirit. That is what peace really is, the peace bestowed on the Apostles. That peace does not have to do with resolving outward problems – God does not spare his disciples from tribulation and persecution. Rather, it has to do with receiving the Holy Spirit. The peace bestowed on the apostles, the peace that does not bring freedom from problems but in problems, is offered to each of us.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR RE-OPENING ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH
FOR PRIVATE PRAYER ONLY**



We have now received detailed instructions from the Diocese on how we must prepare for the eventual re-opening of our church for private prayer only. The instructions originate from the Ministry of Communities & Local Government working with the Bishop's Conference. We have also sought advice from front-line medical staff in our parish. There will be a risk assessment by Diocese appointed Health & Safety Consultants, then our implementation of the rules will come under the authority of (and auditing by) Kettering Borough Council. The danger of any virus spread or resurgence is being taken very seriously and our Bishop has to be satisfied that all procedures have been implemented (and that they will be followed by all entering the building) before he can give us permission to re-open our church.

As the layout of churches across the diocese varies greatly, each parish has to submit their plans for re-opening to Bishop's House for consideration that it is safe to do so. If a church cannot meet the criteria for social distancing, sanitation, routing of visitors to avoid contact, etc. then it cannot open. Similarly, if it opens but then fails to comply, permission could be rescinded. Therefore, we respectfully ask that all visitors for prayer adhere strictly to the rules for the benefit of everyone's health and to keep our church open. To qualify, our church must:

- **Have an area for private prayer with two points of access so that an 'in' and 'out' system can be established.** Parishioners will be asked to enter via the side porch door and take a seat only where signs permit. Exit will be via the side door (by the Sacristy) and out onto The Grove. The balcony will be closed because there can be no separate 'in' and 'out' provision with only one staircase present. Under the rules of distancing, the balcony would only provide for six additional persons anyway.
- **Have seats marked out** with social distancing of 2m (6 Ft.) in all directions. This will be achieved by placing notices on seats indicating where we can and cannot sit.
- **Have antibacterial gel dispensers** at both entrance and exit and stewards to remind people to use them. Visitors will be asked to avoid unnecessary touching of statues, pews, handles, etc. and are strongly advised to wear masks and gloves. Masks can help stop one route of infection via droplets expelled in our breath.
- **Display notices reminding people of social distancing.** Use of votive candles will not be possible as this could encourage unsafe distancing in confined areas and cause an extra zone to be sanitised. The confessional rooms will be closed to both minimise cleaning and because their very small unventilated areas could harbour infected airborne droplets from the immediately previous penitent. The Lady Chapel will not be accessible internally as it is too confined a space to enable good 2 metre distancing.
- **Keep Holy Water stoups emptied** and covered over.
- **Clean down seats and all touched areas** after each use (see arrangements below).
- **Remove all hymn books, prayer books, cards** or any other paper materials as the virus is able to survive on such surfaces for a while.

The Diocese advises that only the main parish church will be considered for re-opening. In creating a safe environment for prayer which works under the above rules, we will need a sufficient number of volunteers to act as stewards. Priests will not be able to manage the re-opening of churches on their own!

Stewarding

The Steward's role will be:

- **To responsibly control access** within the church's measured safe capacity limit,
- **To maintain social distancing** between parishioners at all times and remind if needed,
- **To wipe down seats and all touched areas** with antiseptic after each use, including the outside toilet if used (the diocese recommends that the toilet is not made available unless absolutely necessary, to minimise cleaning).
- **To keep a record of those attending**, to assist contact tracers should a visitor later develop symptoms.

These stewards will need to be healthy individuals and, regardless of age, **not** part of the group of people who are being 'shielded' or people with underlying medical conditions. They should also definitely be under 70 years old, although the World Health Organisation emphasises that even a healthy person's vulnerability to the disease increases more rapidly beyond the age of 60, thus requiring additional preventative measures. Please therefore consider very carefully your own circumstances before volunteering. We would rather you keep safe and well than be a volunteer!

Advice is to start off with a small number of access 'slots' to assess demand and increase as necessary. Further information and training for stewards will be provided in due course. In the meantime, any interested healthy volunteers in the appropriate age group are asked to contact the Presbytery and leave their contact details. Stewards will be provided with masks and gloves which are required to be worn.

This information concerns only the opening of churches for private prayer which is not likely to happen until at the earliest July 4th., always providing the number of Covid cases has further decreased. This information cannot be followed for other activities that may take place on parish premises, such as groups that would meet in church halls. In fact at present the hall must remain closed by law.

These measures may seem burdensome, or even a little daunting, but this virus is different to many others in that people can be infectious without being aware or displaying symptoms at the time. Also the measures are necessary because if any churches are seen to be operating in a way that may increase the spread of the virus, there is a risk that stricter measures such as prohibition or enforced closure notices could be served by local authorities or government. This is a very frustrating time for us all but we are trying our best within the confines of the rules to find ways of allowing safe access for limited numbers who wish to pray in church. Please bear with us and thank you in anticipation of your understanding and help. I will continue to post updates here and try to alert some of those in the parish who might not access our

website, but it would help if readers of this could also spread the information. Thank you, God Bless and stay safe.

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.

ST EDWARD'S PARISH - THE PARISH COMMUNITY IN LOCKDOWN

FACEBOOK GROUP



Our new parish Facebook group - [The Parish of St. Edward's, RC Church, Kettering, Northamptonshire](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2762598427183322/). Is beginning to grow. Find the facebook group at: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/2762598427183322/about/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2762598427183322/)

PARISH CALL AND CARE

The Parish is continuing with its "Parish Call and Care scheme" to support isolated and elderly parishioners, many of whom are facing months without significant social contact. If you are someone who would like to receive calls, from a fellow

parishioner, or know of someone who you feel would appreciate such a call, please contact Fr Gregory in the first instance on 01536 512497 or email parish@stedwardskettering.org.uk with your name and phone number (and if you are recommending anybody else to receive such calls, their name and phone number).

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
- **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.