



The Sacred Heart & Our Lady Main Street, Aston-le-Walls, NN11 6UF

Parish Priest: Fr James Evans

Tel: 01295 660592

Email: sacredheart_alw@btinternet.com

Website: www.sacredheart.btck.co.uk

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EASTER SUNDAY

“The Lord is truly risen, alleluia. To him be glory and power for all the ages of eternity, alleluia, alleluia.”

(Luke 24:34; cf Rev. 1:6)

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### Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

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O God, who one this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

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**As we Celebrate Easter**, we might look back over the last few weeks and see that we really have been in the desert with Jesus, more so this Lent than ever before. This situation is unlikely to change much for a while so as individuals, as a parish family and as a nation, we must continue to be patient - **and hopeful!** It is a fact of life that when some doors close, others open. A good approach is to find a level of acceptance for what we cannot change and focus on the positives, maintaining a sense of Thanksgiving for our many blessings and supporting and encouraging one another. No matter how trying and testing our circumstances, the seeds of Easter are at work. When humanity comes through this time of challenge, we will see that we have been protected and guided – protected from humanity's destructive self-centredness and guided towards the values of concern and care for the wellbeing of others.

For those of you who are finding this time of aloneness and isolation particularly difficult, **take courage!** Be assured that what is taken away with one hand is given back with the other ten-fold. Resurrection is guaranteed to those who patiently bear the Cross they are asked to carry.

Let us continue to pray for each other and look out for one another. Do not allow anything to drive from you the joy of this special time of year. Be patient. Just a while longer and the celebration of the Resurrection will be all-the-more gratifying. Whatever situation you and your loved ones find yourselves in, may the Peace and the Joy of the Risen Christ be yours this Easter.

Stay well and stay safe!

*Fr James*

**Please pray for the sick:** Fr Euan OP, Tess K, Tony B, Carmel R, Sarel S, Averil M, Bernard B, Paul C, Hester & Herman L, Colm E, Joy B, Kate C, Catherine R, Joan T, Alan and Jean R, Josie M, Eileen E-L, Michael B. Please continue to pray for all suffering with COVID-19 and for the doctors, nurses and others on the frontline!

**Next Sunday** is known as *Divine Mercy Sunday*. Fr James will be advising how we might all celebrate and give thanks for God's loving mercy upon us all! Watch this space!

**Mass Intentions +** Do please contact Fr James if you would like a Mass offered for a loved one for or a particular intention and do remember that, if you need any help over the next few weeks, please send an email or phone directly to the presbytery – his contact details are at the top of this newsletter!

**Offertory Giving** Many thanks to those who have set up standing orders or made donations for their contribution to the church finances and to support Fr James – see parish website for more details on how you can help. The staff of the Diocesan finance office are working from home, and it may be some time before we are able to get a full picture of the parish financial situation, but in the meanwhile many thanks again for your understanding and faithfulness.

**ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

St Mary's RC Primary School: [www.stmarysrc-astonlewalls.co.uk](http://www.stmarysrc-astonlewalls.co.uk)

Tel: 01295 660258

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Sally Doran 07866 701666

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