



**Our Lady & St Columba
Wallsend**

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Parish Priest Fr. David Smith

10th January 2021 - 17th January 2021

UPDATED NEWSLETTER - CHURCH CLOSURE

Please pray for all the sick of Our Lady & St Columba Parish including: Fr. Pat McKenna, Fr John Ulaganthan Rona Bojke, Eddie Aspreno, Merle Hall, Joyce Burns, Peter Mulholland, Beryl Boulton, Ann Green, Bill Baxter, Christopher Brown, Mandy Setford, Mary McAlinden, Janice O'Brien, Caleb Anthony Barns, Suzanne Luck, Vin Donnelly, Lee Stephen McRae, Stewart, Winnie Parkins, Cath Duffield, Daniel Hindmarsh, Moira Chilvers, Graeme Ward, Fred Moran, Joyce Nesbitt, Mary McElwee, Maureen Cuggy.

Ruth Lloyd RIP

Ruth's funeral will take place on 13th January at 12.15pm. Please keep Ruth's family in your prayers at this sad time.

Masses and Intentions for Next Week

Sunday 10th January - Mass 9.30am	Jack Uibel and the Uibel and Iosue Families
Tuesday 12th January - Mass will be streamed at 7.00pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday 13th January - Mass will be streamed at 10.00am	
Thursday 14th January - Mass will be streamed at 10.00am	Sheila Lavel
Friday 15th January - Mass will be streamed at 10.00am Fr David will lead us in the Virtual Rosary at 4.00pm.	
Sunday 17th January - Mass will be live streamed at 10.00am	Therese Boyd

Please note that Mass will be now streamed via YouTube.

Virtual Rosary

The Rosary will be live streamed on Friday at 4pm. To access the Rosary and Sunday Mass via YouTube please subscribe (there is no cost attached to this) to our channel – St Anthony and St Columba RC Churches. As the church is now closed Sunday Mass will be lived streamed at 10.00am. The St Columba Facebook page and the parish website will publish updated information regarding any additional Masses to be streamed.

Spiritual Communion

The Catholic Church encourages us to make frequent, even daily Communion. Although our churches are still open for worship, for any number of reasons people may feel the need to remain at home and access the masses via YouTube or Facebook. We are also mindful that there are some people who cannot access the technology to join with those parishioners who are still able to come to church.



When we cannot make it to daily Mass, however, we can still make an Act of Spiritual Communion. This involves expressing our faith in Jesus and in His Presence in the Eucharist and asking Him to unite Himself with us. The basic parts of an Act of Spiritual Communion are an Act of Faith, an Act of Love, a desire to receive Christ, and an invitation to Him to come into our hearts.

St. Teresa of Jesus wrote: 'When you do not receive Communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual Communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it, the love of God will be greatly impressed on you.'

Here is a prayer for those times we would like to make a spiritual Communion.

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.

Lockdown 3

Many people may be feeling the strain as we enter the third, and hopefully, the final lockdown. We are approaching a year of restrictions in one way or another.

If you know of anyone who needs support in any way, or you yourself need help, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. Parishioners who have volunteered may be able to collect shopping, offer phone support and just listen!

Contact the Parish via the Office on 0191 2623882, leave a message or send an email.

National Lockdown: Closure of Churches

In light of the current serious and worsening situation of the coronavirus, the government's advice to all people is very clear – 'stay at home' and limit our contact with other households. This is reiterated by scientists and Directors of Public Health across the country.

I have come to a difficult and painful decision that the churches will be closed – except for funerals – until the current national restrictions are lifted. Should the situation regarding funerals change I will liaise with families of the deceased.

The warnings about the highly contagious nature of the new strain of COVID-19 are quite stark. Medical Officers and Public Health Directors have spoken of how this situation is going to worsen over the coming weeks and that as many people as possible must stay at home this time.

On March 2020, our churches were closed when the first national lockdown was announced. The situation with the new virus and the new variant strain is worse now than it was at the very beginning.

While churches in England may remain open for public Mass and other services it is not acceptable to ask volunteer stewards, cleaners and others taking part in Mass to risk their health or be the potential cause of others being infected.

We also have a moral duty not to do anything that would endanger the staff in our hospitals and the limited facilities of the NHS. As the clear message from health officials is that this already dangerous situation is going to get worse over the coming weeks, there is no alternative but to close the churches immediately.

This situation will be reviewed on a regular basis, but I expect this closure to be in effect until the national lockdown restrictions are lifted. Masses will be live streamed on YouTube at the following times:

Tuesday 7.00pm, Wednesday 10.00am, Thursday 10.00am and Friday 10.00am. Sunday Mass will be live streamed at 10.00am.

The YouTube Channel you will need to access for the live streaming of Mass is - St Anthony and St Columba RC Churches. Please subscribe and you will receive alerts.

Please check the parish Facebook Pages and websites for regular updates.

God bless,

Fr David Smith