



May Columbine 2020

Welcome to May - Our Lady's special month and a time when gardens are full of flowers and bird song - and with many of us confined to our homes, we've the time and the peace to enjoy it all. Too much peace for some - but an escaped from the anxieties of these disturbing times.

And for families trying to home school children - and work - it is a very trying time. Let's say the Rosary and remember them all in our prayers.



Message to everyone from Father Paul Vincent

"Let us be united in the Risen Lord. Like the disciples let us wait for a time of the Spirit. Then we will come out of locked houses and speak in different languages..."

STOP PRESS: St. Mark's morning mass for 29th April is now available on YouTube - search for St. Mark's Catholic Parish Ipswich.

The parish website also has a link to the May letter from Pope Francis:
www.stmarksparish.org.uk/documents/pope_francis_20200426.pdf

Other masses available on EWTN and:

- Walsingham national shrine have a full programme each day with mass at 9.30am and 12 noon as well as Adoration, Benediction, Rosary and Divine Mercy prayers.
- St Mary's Woodbridge Road: Father Peter and Father Alan are live-streaming mass each day on YouTube at 10am and on Sundays at 10am and 11.30am.

And some good news from John and Ronnie McCreadie:

"Perhaps you could include in the next edition of Columbine that our son Iain and his partner Dawn have had a baby girl, Rosie - our first grandchild. She was born on Sunday 19th April. Don't know when we'll be able to visit yet!"

Prayer requests

Sue Wilshaw asks for prayer for her sister-in-law Lynda who is very ill in hospital

Judi Burwood sent this message about her mother Veronica Campbell who recently had a fall and was taken to Ipswich hospital:

'Hi Jan - mum remains in Aldeburgh Community Hospital and the plan is still for her to come home, however she doesn't seem to be making much progress sadly. It's very difficult to communicate constructively as I'm obviously not able to visit but today I managed to see her face for the first time in over 2 weeks as I asked the nurses to help her to FaceTime. It was lovely to see her but sadly she seems to have lost her beautiful smile!! Xx

Dear Guardian Angel go for me to the church.
 Kneel there at Mass for me.
 At the offertory, take me to God and offer Him my service.
 What I am, what I have, offer as my gift.
 At the consecration, with your seraphic strength, adore my saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me and for those now deceased, that the Blood of Jesus may purify them all.
 During Holy Communion bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus, uniting Him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become His dwelling place.
 Plead with Him that through His sacrifice, all people throughout the world, may be saved.
 When the Mass ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing. Amen.

AN ACT OF 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.

Our Beloved Dead

John Wright	1 May 98
Josie Coe	17 May 06
Samuel Joseph Doyle	24 May

Recent deaths in April

Nick Dale's mother Janice died, we send our deep sympathies to Monica, Nick and the rest of the famil

Also Susan Scott's mother Monica has died.

May they rest in peace

LET'S SEE HOW WELL WE KNOW THE BIBLE

Some puzzles for us.....

Pairs Example: J O M A S E R P H Y – Joseph & Mary*

- 1. A D E A V E M
- 2. G O D A L V I A I T D H
- 3. B R O U T A H Z
- 4. J E S A C A O U B
- 5. S I P L A U A S L
- 6. D E S L A I M S L O A N H
- 7. C A B A I E L N
- 8. A B S R A A H R A M A H
- 9. M O A A S R E O N S
- 10. P A R I Q U I S C I L L A L A
- 11. M A M A R R T Y H A
- 12. S A N A P A P N H I I R A A S
- 13. I S I S H A M A A E C L
- 14. R A C L E H E A L H
- 15. C J O A S L H E U B A

. Bible quiz- clue: Book names.

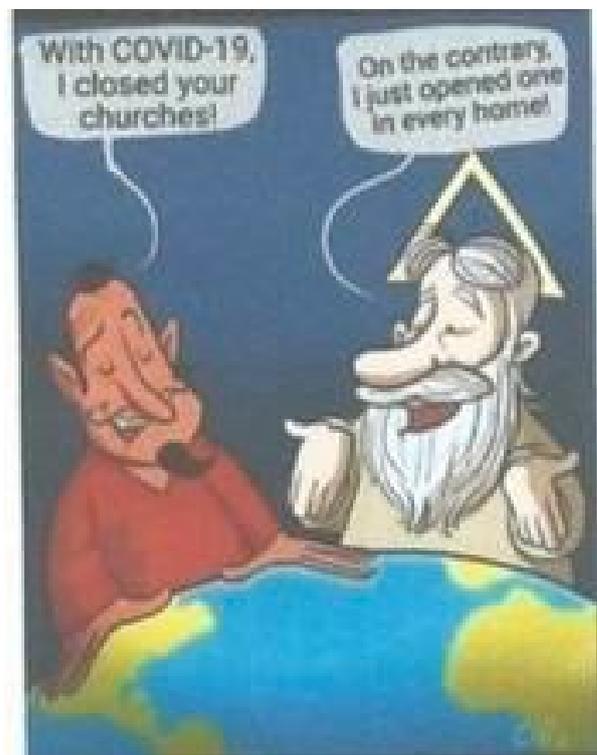
- 1. U T R H _____
- 2. T W A M H E T _____
- 3. B O P E R R S V _____
- 4. S U B N E M R _____
- 5. W R E S H B E _____
- 6. U S A J H O _____
- 7. M O R A S N _____
- 8. G E J D S U _____
- 9. S T R E E H _____
- 10. H M O L I P E N _____
- 11. L I N E D A _____
- 12. S E E S I N G _____
- 13. S H E E P I S A N _____
- 14. C L A I M H A _____
- 15. H A R M E E J I _____
- 16. A G H A I G _____
- 17. S N A G I L A T A _____

“How the Virus Stole Easter” – A Poem by Kristi Bothur

Inspired by Dr. Seuss!

Twas late in '19 when the virus began
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.
People were sick, hospitals full,
Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.
As winter gave way to the promise of spring,
The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.
People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.
April approached and churches were closed.
“There won’t be an Easter,” the world supposed.
“There won’t be church services, and egg hunts are out.
No reason for new dresses when we can’t go about.”
Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.
The world was focused on masks and on tests.
“Easter can’t happen this year,” it proclaimed.
“Online and at home, it just won’t be the same.”
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.
The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed.
The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.
“Pooh pooh to the saints,” the world was grumbling.
“They’re finding out now that no Easter is coming.
“They’re just waking up! We know just what they’ll do!
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo.
“That noise,” said the world, “will be something to hear.”
So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.
And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.
It started down low, then it started to rise.
But the sound wasn’t depressed.
Why, this sound was triumphant!
It couldn’t be so!
But it grew with abundance!
The world stared around, popping its eyes.
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!
Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small,
Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!
It hadn’t stopped Easter from coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!
And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine
Stood puzzling and puzzling.
“Just how can it be?”
“It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money.”
Then the world thought of something it hadn’t before.
“Maybe Easter,” it thought, “doesn’t come from a store.
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more.”
And what happened then?

Well....the story’s not done.
What will YOU do?
Will you share with that one
Or two or more people needing hope in this night?
Will you share the source of your life in this fight?
The churches are empty – but so is the tomb,
And Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.
So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,
As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.
May the world see hope when it looks at God’s people.
May the world see the church is not a building or steeple.
May the world find Faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection,
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival,
But not only that –
Let it start a revival.



PRAYER TO BE SAID DURING THE CRISIS

God our Father, Creator of the world, almighty and merciful, out of love for us You sent your Son into the world as the doctor of our souls and our bodies, look upon your children who, in this difficult time of confusion and dismay in many regions of Europe and the world, turn to you seeking strength, salvation and relief: deliver us from illness and fear, heal our sick, comfort their families, give wisdom to our rulers, energy and reward to our doctors, nurses and volunteers, eternal life to the dead. Do not abandon us in the moment of trial, but deliver us from all evil. We ask this of You, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit, live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

Mary, Mother of Health and Hope, pray for us!

April 29th was the feast day of **St. Catherine of Siena** who gave this advice:

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

May is Our Dear Mothers Mary's month so let her have the last word

This is a lovely reflection on Our Lady's message on Christmas Day 2019. It's been clear for some time that Our Lady has been preparing us for something. Whether this pandemic is it or whether there is more to come is in God's hands. Of course God did not create the pandemic but He can make good come from it.

"Cathy Nolan of Mary TV, April 21, 2020

Dear Family of Mary!

On Saturday, the 25th of April, we await a new message. So, for the next four days let's review the messages we have received the last four months on the 25th, from December 2019 to March 2020. One each day!!

December 25, 2019 "Dear children! I am carrying my Son Jesus to you, for Him to bless you and reveal to you His love, which comes from Heaven. Your heart yearns for peace, of which there is less and less on earth. That is why people are far from God and souls are sick and heading towards spiritual death. I am with you, little children, to lead you on this way of salvation to which God calls you. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Our Lady told us on that Christmas day that she was carrying Baby Jesus to us. We are told by Vicka that on every Christmas Day, Our Lady comes to her holding the infant Jesus. And Our Lady told us again this Christmas that she brings little Jesus "for Him to bless you...". It is hard for us to comprehend how Our Lady could bring the Infant Jesus to us. We don't understand the reality of eternal life outside of our time. It is a mystery for us. But she brings Him to us to bless us and to reveal His love to us.

St. Faustina had just such encounters with the Infant Jesus during her life. Here is one of them:

"When I arrived at Midnight Mass, from the very beginning I steeped myself in deep recollection, during which time I saw the stable of Bethlehem filled with great radiance. The Blessed Virgin, all lost in the deepest of love, was wrapping Jesus in swaddling clothes, but Saint Joseph was still asleep. Only after the Mother of God put Jesus in the manger, did the light of God awaken Joseph, who was also praying. But after a while, I was left alone with the Infant Jesus who stretched out His little hands to me, and I understood that I was to take Him in my arms. Jesus pressed His head against my heart and gave me to know, by His profound gaze, how good He found it to be next to my heart. At that moment Jesus disappeared and the bell was ringing for Holy Communion." (Diary 1442)

What a blessing St. Faustina received!! Jesus pressed His Head against her heart! He showed her how much He loved to be near her. It was a gift of love like no other!

Our Lady wanted us to experienced Jesus in a similar way last Christmas. Why? Because we needed (and still need) that experience. We were yearning (and still yearn) for peace, and there was and is less and less peace to be had on earth. Many found (and still find) themselves far away from God, with sick souls and spiritual death threatening them. We all could see (and still see) that spiral of sickness and spiritual death all around us. We knew (and still know) that we need to be led out of that spiral. And we knew (and still know) that it is Our Lady who has been sent to lead us to safety.

Looking back, we can see how prophetic Our Lady's words were for us. But we can still respond to them. Our Lady is still with us. Yes, things have changed. We can no longer travel to Medjugorje. Most of us cannot attend Holy Mass or receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament sacramentally. We are isolated from one another. Life is at a standstill. But this will not stop the Infant Jesus from coming to us and resting His little Head on our hearts. This will not stop Him from consoling us and saving us. He will come if we pray. He will come if we yearn for Him, the One who is peace!

Thank you dearest Mother for bringing Little Jesus to us even now. We long for Him...."

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph!

Cathy Nolan ©Mary TV 2020

