

	<b>Saint Mary's Cathedral</b> <b>Saint Francis' &amp; Saint Clare's</b> <b>Also serving the Shrine of Mount Grace, Osmotherley</b> <b>Under the leadership of Mgr. G. Robinson</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020</b>  <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>(Year A)</b>  <b>Divine Office: Wk. IV</b>
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Website: [www.middlesbroughrccathedral.org](http://www.middlesbroughrccathedral.org) Email:

[Parish@middlesbroughrccathedral.org](mailto:Parish@middlesbroughrccathedral.org)

St Francis' Website: [www.stfrancisacklam.co.uk](http://www.stfrancisacklam.co.uk) Shrine Website:

[www.ladychapel.org.uk](http://www.ladychapel.org.uk)

St. Francis Hall & Social Club: 07521 097144 (Secretary – Peter Dunne)

**Parish Secretary:**

Marie Duffield

(Thursday

9am - 1pm)

	<b>St Mary's Cathedral Mass Intentions</b>	<b>St Francis' &amp; St Clare's Mass Intentions</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	Mena and Ambrose Salvatore	Anne Dechan
<b>Sunday</b>	Get well Ann Foster	Angela Grimes.      John and Agnes Mannix
<b>Monday</b>	Special Intention	Doug Stevens
<b>Tuesday</b>	Tom Joyce	Peter Cooper
<b>Wednesday</b>	Canon Pat Bluett	Vin Martin
<b>Thursday</b>	Arthur Leaper	Thomas and Ann Boylen.      Patrick Kilbane
<b>Friday</b>	Edna Cruden	Mary and Douglas Hemsworth
<b>Saturday</b>	Jim Hetherington	George Aston

**Diary This Week:**

**Feast Days:**

Monday: of Lent

Tuesday: of Lent

Wednesday: Annunciation of the Lord

Thursday: of Lent

Friday: of Lent

Saturday: of Lent

**Clergy:**

Dean/Parish Priest:      Mgr. Gerard Robinson

Associate Pastor:      Mgr. Gerard Dasey

Assistant Priest:      Fr. Albert Schembri

Permanent Deacon:      Rev. Ken Senior

**WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** those who have died recently especially: Kathleen Heaney, Maureen Dowd, Paul Dunn, David Sargeant, Ryan Hodgson, Ellen McGowan, Pierino Pelusi, Ken Foreman & John Durham, George Quinn.

**Mgr. Gerard's reflection:** I was telling a friend about a woman with lung cancer. He asked, "How long did she smoke?" Actually, the woman has never smoked, but I understood the question. There's something scary about having an element of random chaos in our lives. Never has there been so much as we face today with COVID-19. We like our world ordered and reliable, a world where virtuous non-smokers don't have to worry about lung cancer. The Pharisees in today's gospel like an orderly, reliable world too. They see blindness as the result of sin. So when Jesus gives sight, their worldview is threatened. The blind man, however, seems to be living with random chaos. He is blind, and it's nobody's fault. And then Jesus walks by...

It's a powerful contrast. The Pharisees, clinging rigidly to their ideas, move deeper into darkness. But the beggar's eyes are open, literally and figuratively. He moves through stages towards faith and becomes a sign of the works of God. The same with us. God comes to us in the random chaos of our lives and touches us with grace. But we have to open our hearts and minds to him. This is when we see Jesus at work in our lives and become like him, especially during this difficult time, where people are self-isolating, the elderly are housebound, parents are coping with children at home. We all need to look out for one another, random acts of kindness, even a phone-call to check people are coping. We must be aware of our neighbour, stop panic buying and be kind and thoughtful towards others.



## **Coronavirus and the Catholic Church**

**The Bishop's Conference of England and Wales, after consultation with the Bishops of every diocese, have agreed that all public Masses must cease as of this weekend until further notice.**

**The obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is removed.**

**Monsignor Gerard, Monsignor Dasey and Fr Albert will still be celebrating Mass every day privately, and every week on the newsletter the intention will be given.**

**At this moment we are hoping to live stream our Sunday Mass at 10am on 22<sup>nd</sup> March from the Cathedral via the diocese of Middlesbrough facebook page, [facebook.com/middlesbroughdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/middlesbroughdiocese)**

**We hope that daily Mass from the Cathedral can be live streamed including all Masses involving the Bishop during Holy Week, all this is still a work in progress so please bear with us. To get all information you can go to the diocese of Middlesbrough website.**

**The Cathedral website and St Francis website will have updates regularly and hopefully links to the live streaming (all of this in the hope that you have a computer?)**

**I have had to suspend all baptisms and confirmations as-well as the First Holy Communion Masses that we were going to celebrate in May.**

**There have also been weddings starting in May that have now been postponed, and we will be contacting all those with wedding planned for June and July. We have been asked to defer these celebrations until such time that people can gather in numbers safely.**

**I am afraid that no pastoral visits can be made to people who are self -isolating. However, we are available via telephone to anyone who needs to talk, or a friendly voice to help. Many of our care homes now have definite restrictions**

**Regarding funerals during this period, this is going to be a very difficult time for family and parish, as we cannot celebrate Mass or have any public gathering. The advice from the Bishops is that we should have a funeral service at the graveside or at the crematorium, subject to the conditions laid down by the cemetery or crematorium authorities. Arrangements should be made for a Mass to be celebrated in memoriam when congregations are allowed to gather.**

**In the interim period our Churches will open at the following times:**

**St Clare's Church; Wednesday, Friday and Sunday 9am - 11am**

**St Francis Church: Thursday, Saturday, Sunday 11am - 1pm**

**St Mary's Cathedral: Everyday 9am-10am. 2pm -4pm**

**On Saturday and at request a Priest can also hear confessions in the confessional box.**

**I encourage you to come to Church IF YOU CAN to say a prayer, light a candle, write an intention and bring it with you to place in our intention's basket near the altar. Pray at home, say the rosary, if you need to chat anytime give us a call. Also, if you would like a member of the parish to call you each week to see how things are then let me know. The Priests keep you in their daily prayers and Mass, lets' all keep safe and pray for one another. God Bless you all Monsignor Gerard. (01642 597750)**

