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**Our Lady, Mother of the Church.**

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**Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. (a)**

**Sunday: No Mass or service in Our Lady’s or St. Cuthbert’s**

**Weekday: No Mass or service in Our Lady’s or St. Cuthbert’s**

**Please remember the following parishioners, relatives and friends in your prayers:**

**Sick:** Anne Bardsley, Dominic McQue, Ara Grigor and all those who are suffering as a result of the virus whether physically, emotionally or spiritually.

**Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity.** We are told in the Catechism of the Church that the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity lies at the centre of our faith. The mystery that is the Trinity is always to some extent beyond us and our human capacity to comprehend fully. St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, who died in 1906 and was canonised by Pope Francis in 2016 had a specially vivid awareness of the indwelling of the Blessed Trinity. She was an ordinary girl, from an ordinary family but was graced to experience profoundly the Divine Persons in her daily life. In her own writings there is a prayer she wrote. *“O my God, Trinity whom I adore, grant my soul peace. Make it your heaven, your beloved dwelling and the place of your rest.”* In these days that are so often a struggle it is a prayer that perhaps we can make ours each day. It reminds us that we are made for communion, communion with each other and communion with God.

**Speculation, rumours and questions are still growing** as to when our Churches will be open and we will be able to gather for Mass and prayer grow. As it stands, the Churches will be open at some stage during phase 2 of the government plan. At that stage they will only be open for private personal prayer and not for Mass. The Churches in St. Cuthbert’s and in Our Lady’s will only open for set times on set days during this period. Depending on how well the guidelines both in Church and in State are kept and the government moves on to the next phase. There will be further instructions as to what can be done or not done until we reach phase 4.

Once we reach the time when the Church can open for Mass there will be restrictions on the numbers who can attend since the 2 metre social distancing will have to be observed. The Parish Pastoral Councils are working on a method to ensure this is done sensitively and fairly since it will mean that we cannot have everyone at Mass as we were used to before the lockdown.

What is clear is that before the Church can be used, both will need a thorough cleaning and parts will be cordoned off. Volunteers will be needed to take on this first step and then more volunteers will be needed to manage the coming and going of the people since if the Church is used it will have to be cleaned immediately before it can be used again. In an extreme situation if the Church is not cleaned then it could be that it will not open.

The number of committed volunteers we have will not be able to cope and as things become clearer requests will be made for more and more people to be involved. New areas of volunteering will emerge. The two Parish Pastoral Councils are getting together this week to draw up what will be needed not just as a once for all effort but to build the communities into

a richer sign of the Body Of Christ. Watch this space as the weeks pass by and a clearer picture emerges to which you will be invited to respond.

This will be to carry out practical roles as well as spiritual ones. I hope that when the request for volunteers, existing and especially new ones, comes you will be ready to follow the example of the apostles and bring the Church in limbo back to fullness of life.

I hope you are continuing to cope with the lockdown and the gaps it is leaving in our lives and in the lives of those who are close to us and also those we do not know but who need our prayers and support. It is not easy for any of us. We do need to look out for each other and make sure no one is left cut off or isolated. Nothing is clear about the future but it seems we as a parish like the rest of society have to face the likelihood of large parts of the lockdown continuing for some time to come. I encourage everyone to take some time during the day to pray. There are an increasing number of valuable resources online that are very useful to Catholics during the lockdown. One which you may find worthwhile is on a website called Thy Kingdom Come, which has issued a range of neatly formatted resources, including Morning, Evening and Night prayer.

**There is an important letter from the Bishops of Scotland if you can access the Parish website.**

**Strong in the Face of Tribulation:** The Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See has made available a free book ‘Strong in the Face of Tribulation’, that contains prayers, supplications and the Holy Father’s homilies. Its purpose is to offer “a support in a time of trial”. It can be read/downloaded at: <https://www.vaticannews.va/content/dam/lev/forti-nella-tribolazione/pdf/eng/strong-in-tribulation.-20042020.pdf>

**Parish Income:** Many thanks to those who have continued to support the Parish either by using the envelopes and popping them through the Church house door either at Cuthbert’s or at Our Lady’s or those who have decided to use electronic banking or standing order. Thanks to those who have decided to use electronic banking or standing order. If you wish to set up a standing order please use the details as follows: The Parish account details for the standing order are online banking are: Sort Code: 80-02-28; Account Number: 010079762. Account name: Arch St Andrews & Edin – Church of Our Lady Currie.

**Congratulations** and best wishes to Mr. Pat Brack who has been appointed as permanent Head Teacher of St. Cuthbert’s Primary school after working as acting head teacher for over six months. I look forward to working with him for the good of the school and assure him of the prayers and support of the Parish community as it moves forward.

**Mount Vernon Cemetery:** Please note that the Cemetery is now open to the Public at the weekend from 4.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. on Fridays and from 8.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Weekday access is restricted to funeral services only. Further information if required is available from the manager on 623.8906.

**This is not the time** to maintain a social distance from God.

*May God Bless you all and bring you his peace and his comfort*

**Monsignor Tony & Father Martins**