

Thought for the week
10th May, 2020
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Divine Physician,
we ask you to guard and protect us
and all people from the
coronavirus and all serious illness.
For all who have died from it ,
have mercy;
For all who are ill now,
bring healing;
For all searching for a remedy,
enlighten them;
For medical caregivers, helping the sick,
strengthen and shield them;
For all working to contain the spread,
grant them success;
For those afraid,
grant peace of mind.
By your grace,
may you turn the evil of disease
into moments of consolation and hope.
We abandon ourselves into your
infinite mercy.
Amen.

This week's gospel tells us to not worry, but to trust in Jesus, and in God our Father. In these troubling and strange times I suppose that is an instruction that we must all try to follow. John goes on to tell us that Jesus said

'In my Father's house there are many places to live in; otherwise I would have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you'.

This is also a very pertinent sentiment for me today, especially, as I think about something to write. Today my friend and former colleague Father Antony Conlon was laid to rest at his Parish in Goring at a ceremony attended only by Father David Elliott and his sisters.

I have known Father Antony since I moved down to Reading and began working at the Oratory Prep School seventeen years ago. He was an incredibly clever, knowledgeable and thoughtful man. He played a huge part in the shaping of the school we love and was fiercely passionate about our ethos and values, but mostly about our children.

I have three overriding happy memories of Father Antony - the first of him stood in our beautiful chapel talking to our children and celebrating the Eucharist together. The second is in our staff room, as he did again, only a couple of months ago, laughing and chatting with his friends (of which he had many) summing up our motto of *'heart speaks to heart'*. The third is on the many wonderful Year 7 Rome trips he had. He was determined that as many children as possible should know, experience and love Rome as he did. Whilst there he was in his element, a beautiful place steeped in history and religion and also with great food and wine! I led the trip for five years after he left the school to go to Goring, and he called me before every trip to wish us well and say he wished he was going too!

Many thanks to Father Paul Fitzpatrick at Sacred Heart for today's streamed Requiem Mass. Father Antony you will be greatly missed and I hope that in the fullness of time we will all be able to give you the send off you deserve!

*O Lord,
support us all the day long,
until the shadows lengthen,
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in thy mercy,
grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest,
and peace at the last.
Amen.*





Prayers Please

Please pray for James Mintoff grandson of The Hardiman's, who has coronavirus—he is a trainee nurse.

Please pray for Irenka's sister Ludmila Morris who is a teacher at a school open for keyworkers' children—they have no PPE.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 7 and has recently started chemotherapy for leukaemia.

Please pray for Maddy Sharman who has started a new round of chemotherapy.

Please pray for Antonita's nephew Peppin who is in intensive care.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please prayer for all teachers — those still going into schools to give lessons to children with parents working on the frontline and those working out the technology to deliver their lessons from home.

Please pray for family and friends who work on the front line in the NHS and in the Care sector.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbey Crest and St Luke's.



Please Pray for the repose of the soul of: Geoffrey Gibbon (Barry's brother) who died recently.

Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including; Margaret Mary (Peggy) Grey, Julia and Michael Keogh, Peter Ridge, Raymond Dockerty, William Kenny, Kenneth Pereira, Patrick Joseph Dockerty, Bill Newman, Eileen Savage, Richard Taylor, Leslie Peach, Mary Scullen, Kenneth Alfred Dean, Fr. Robert O'Neill O.F.M., Fr Xavier O.F.M.