





**CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS WORK BOOKS.** Many of you will be keen on guiding your children through this season of Lent. To help you, there are copies of the children's Stations of the Cross colouring and workbooks in the stand at the back of church. These are only £2 and are a great help to our children in developing their understanding of this important time in the faith year.

### **Gift Aid & Weekly Offertory Envelopes 2020/21.**

New boxes of Offertory Envelopes are now ready. If you're a tax-payer, why not join our Gift Aid scheme? You can either use the weekly envelopes or make a Standing Order. Payments by Standing Order are sooooo much easier, saving us time, effort, and heavy bags being carried to the Post Office... ..and you searching for tenners, fivers etc. as you head for the door! Whatever you donate to our parish via either method, enables us to retrieve the tax that you've already paid to HMRC. The Gift Aid and standing order forms, more are now available at the back of church.



### **The Coronavirus.**



As you may have seen on our website or via the letter that went home with the children in our primary school last Wednesday, the Bishops of England and Wales have provided us with a number of crucial changes to our national faith practice:-

1) Priests are to celebrate Mass for the foreseeable future in private. This is for the health and well-being of the faithful and to support the efforts of the NHS.

Due to the extraordinary nature of these circumstances, section 2181 of the Catechism is being invoked – the Obligation to celebrate Mass on a Saturday/Sunday is being suspended until further notice. It may be useful to know that you can watch the celebration of Mass on the EWTN channel on your TV or online at [www.ChurchServices.tv](http://www.ChurchServices.tv) You can read the full details on our parish website.

- 2) Baptisms have been suspended;
- 3) Until circumstances alter, all funerals will now be celebrated either at the Crematorium or in a service at the graveside – the Requiem Mass will be celebrated with and for you at a later date.

I know that these changes and our current circumstances will be difficult for you. Rest assured that we will do all that we can to continue to support you, your families and our local community in the weeks ahead.

### **Here at Stella, we will strive to fulfil the following in the weeks ahead:-**

- a) I will offer Holy Mass each day at the High Altar – the Mass Intentions will appear in the newsletter;
- b) Our church here at Stella will be open daily from 9.00 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. for private prayer (access via the side door);
- c) Our website will be updated with our weekly newsletter & other information as it becomes available;
- d) If you (or a neighbour) aren't online, I will endeavour to deliver a paper copy to your home address – please leave your name, address and telephone number on the parish answering machine;
- e) We are looking to provide help and support to those who are in need of a listening ear, or a bit of shopping – again, please leave all your details on the answering machine;
- f) If you need to speak to me urgently, please do use the mobile number;
- g) I will still be available for urgent sick calls.

**Many thanks to those who have volunteered to be part of our 'Buddy Team' – your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. If anyone would like to join the team, please do give me a ring.**

It is crucial to our sense of personal and communal well-being, that we do not succumb to a selfish approach to life, but strive to put our faith into practice by continuing to support each other and the vulnerable in our community. May our faith in action continue to sustain us as we look to the future with hope. J.G.R.

### **\*\*\*If you have 'booked' a Baptism here at Stella, please contact Fr. Rose as soon as possible.\*\*\***

All Baptisms from Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March onwards have been suspended, so please contact Fr. Rose as soon as possible to rearrange the date if you or a family member have already 'booked' a Baptism with him. Please pass the word on!

### **'Humour?!'**

A man lay sprawled across three entire seats in a theater. When the usher came by and noticed this, he whispered to the man, "Sorry, sir, but you're only allowed one seat." The man groaned but didn't budge. The usher became impatient. "Sir," the usher said, "if you don't get up from there I'm going to have to call the manager." Again, the man just groaned, which infuriated the usher who turned and marched briskly back up the aisle in search of his manager. In a few moments, both the usher and the manager returned and stood over the man. Together the two of them tried repeatedly to move him, but with no success. Finally, they summoned the police.

The cop surveyed the situation briefly then asked, "All right buddy, what's your name?" "Sam," the man moaned. "Where ya from, Sam?" the cop asked. And with pain in his voice, Sam replied, "The balcony."



