



Dear All,

I must share two things from my Co-ordinator work this week:

- A phone call from Lazarus Frank, a key layman in the Punjabi Chaplaincy. I first got to know him in 1974 when I became the founding Chaplain for the West Indian people. His brother Peter came to England in 1964/65 and worked in his Community catechizing and preparing children for the Sacraments in St Elizabeth's, Coventry. Peter brought a number of people to the opening of the first West Indian Chaplaincy Centre in the old school hall in Prestbury Road, Aston. I was a support in the Punjabi Community at a time when a regular priest was not assured, though a retired Priest from Holland, Fr Geerdis, who spoke Urdu and Hindi, helped out. The point I wish to make is that it was Peter, a Catechist, who kept the small Catholic Punjabi Community together. Lazarus continues today working with other lay people too in supporting Father George, their Chaplain. Lazarus has been helping during the lockdown with Daily Scripture Readings, Prayers and Reflections for the Community. Messages keep the people in touch and there is Catholic TV in the Punjab. Lay people play a big part in our Chaplaincies, Eparchies and Missions. When you write your 200 words for the Diocesan website, it would be interesting to note how and when the Catholic Ethnic Community first came together in the Archdiocese, and the role of lay people in that, as well as Priests and Religious.
- The second matter I wish to share is the wonderful initiative of the Vietnamese Chaplaincy in drawing together large quantities of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to donate through Birmingham City Council to Care Homes, Children's Services, and Home Care Workers. This again was a Community initiative headed up by the Chaplain Fr Yen Vu. Those who couldn't come up with PPE have donated £1,000.00 so far to purchase it. The City is very pleased and their Appeal, initially targeting businesses and schools that have PPE they are unable to use, is now aware of the Catholic Church too, and its generosity.

I am attaching my Reflection/Homily for the Week of Good Shepherd Sunday, which is **NOT** intended to replace the Pastoral Letter of Archbishop Bernard. I do this regularly now for St Augustine's Church in Solihull, where it is put on their website for Monday of each week. You may find it a useful resource.

With prayer for you all
Monsignor Daniel McHugh

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Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese
