



Newsletter: Sunday 9th May 2021

Dear All,

This weekend the Parishes of the Archdiocese are taking part in the International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians. The focus is on the Middle East, an area where our brothers and sisters are suffering so much because of persecution, especially from radical Islam, and the fraught Politics of the countries there.

My Reflection/Homily picks up on this initiative of Archbishop Bernard in co-operation with FACE (Fellowship and Aid for Christians of the East), and I highlight the different Catholic Christian Churches there: Chaldean, Maronite, Melkite, Coptic, Syriac and Armenian. In the Diocese we have a strong presence of the Chaldean Community from Iraq with Fr Andrawis being their Chaplain, and a smaller number of the Maronite Community from Lebanon, with their Priest, Father Shafiq, coming occasionally.

I will be preaching, at the Cathedral on Sunday 10a.m. Mass to mark this occasion, and Dr Subhi Zora will be delivering an appreciation at the end of Mass. You and your people can find the link to the livestream Mass on St Chad's Website.

A second collection is being taken up in Parishes which will go to FACE projects in those countries, so, if your people are in a position to help in that regard, I know it will be much appreciated.

Tomorrow, Friday, a special event is taking place in which two Diocesan schools link up with the Immaculate Conception School in Beirut in Lebanon: a joint Assembly where music, song, prayer and sharing of their stories will take place. This will be available afterwards on the Diocesan Website. I hope there can be an extension of this Project later, perhaps to include Catholic Schools in other countries of the Middle East and elsewhere.

Attached is my Reflection for this Weekend; the Burning Bush VLOG will be available on our website from tomorrow, Friday. It includes a picture of the Eastern Catholic Patriarchs with Pope Francis and a picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa to remind people of the Rosary Marathon, led by different National Shrines, for an end to the Pandemic. One of the Shrines this week was Czestochowa, another was the National Shrine in Edele, Nigeria. My Podcast (the [LINK is HERE](#) and in addition you can find it on the Diocesan Website and our Website too) this week is on "The Rosary: the Prayer that brings the world together." Many people are enjoying being able to join with people all over the world praying for an end to the Pandemic.

I had a lovely message from Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, this week. As the Ukrainian Community celebrated Easter last Sunday, I sent him greetings and prayers. He

Monsignor Daniel McHugh

Co-ordinator for Ethnic Chaplaincies in the Archdiocese



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

Ethnic Chaplaincies

responded saying he looks forward to coming to Birmingham before long, and meeting Archbishop Bernard.

With prayers and all good wishes.

Mgr Daniel McHugh

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