

International English-speaking Catholic Community, Parish of Luxembourg Notre-Dame
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UPDATES: Parish Office - Please contact the office for all enquiries: (+352) 661 127 962 / parish@catholic.lu Office hours are 08:00 - 12:00 Mon - Fri.

Masses this weekend will be celebrated by Father Michel Remery, Diocesan youth chaplain.

Fr Michael Cusack CSsR will arrive in early October in Luxembourg.

Vigil Mass: With increasing numbers at Mass the priests with the Pastoral Council have decided to re-start the Vigil Mass from **Saturday 17 October at 7.30pm** to allow time for disinfecting.

Urgent need for volunteers: with more Masses and some ministers still shielding, we need volunteers for Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Welcomers (preparing the church before Mass and seating the congregation safely). If you can volunteer please contact the parish office.

Weekday Masses at St Alphonse: the 7.30 am Mass has been cancelled until further notice.

First Holy Communion 2020 important update: This will be celebrated at two special Saturday Masses: 11.00 am on 14 and 21 November. More information has been sent out via email.

Rosary: you are invited to join in saying the Rosary on Sundays either from 10.30 am in the Garden Room or from 5.30pm before evening Mass.

Conférence Saint Yves invites you to a talk entitled 'Catholic presence in the Holy Land', Thursday 8 October at 7pm in the Church of St Alphonse. More information on catholic.lu or at the back of church.

Christmas in a Shoebox Appeal: We will be running the appeal until the end of October 2020. If you wish to fill your own box, empty boxes with instructions will be available on a table outside the main doors of the church. Filled boxes can be dropped off during any English speaking mass on Saturdays or Sundays until the end of October. There will be no stand to purchase pre-packed boxes this year. Instead, you can make a donation and we will pack the boxes for the amount received. The base price for a filled shoebox, including transportation fees, is 30 Euros. You can transfer the money to the parish account with "Shoebox appeal 2020" in the reference: *Paroisse Europ./ Section anglophone; LU18 0019 3755 5648 2000*. Thank you for your support - Shoebox team.

Children's Liturgy: There is no Children's Liturgy during the 11.30 am Mass at the moment.

Confirmation programme for adults: If you are interested please contact the parish office.

Message from Fr Ed

I am currently in Cambridge in quarantine, and have had the time and space to reflect on my time with you in Luxembourg, and on the wonderful Mass on Sunday – the great spirit of joy (albeit tinged with sadness) so evidently present is still with me. It has been a true privilege to minister with you and to be part of a community that is so alive, so attentive and joyful in prayer, and so sensitive and generous to those in need.

Before I focus on Sunday, a word about the previous Wednesday evening when I received a wonderful surprise. I celebrated the French Mass, and noticed Kristine in the congregation, which was unusual for a weekday. At the end of Mass, I was invited into the garden where I was ambushed by a gospel choir! Caroline and other members, who had given the gospel music workshop for us last year, were assembled and sang various songs they had taught us. It was a wonderful, touching half hour – many thanks to all involved.

Back to Sunday. A big 'thank-you' to everyone who contributed in any way to Sunday's celebration – I know that there were teams at work setting up the 'garden church', welcoming (and disinfecting!), serving, reading, distributing communion, and, of course, making music (especial thanks to Klaus to came from Italy to sing 10,000 reasons).

I was overwhelmed by the kind words said by the Cardinal, Alex Isaebert, John and Nicola; while the praise was being heaped on me, I just wanted to hold up a giant mirror so the praise would go to you too, who deserve it.

The presentation to me, including the superb watercolour of Luxembourg and the photo album, was very generous indeed, as were the individual gifts I received, and I am truly grateful. I have a dilemma, though: I have decided to buy a bicycle, but can't decide whether I will buy a pedal bike to keep me fit, or give in to my advancing age and buy an electric/hybrid one: should I give in to the temptation of an easy life or not... I'll let you know what I decide!

I hope to be back in Luxembourg from time to time and to catch up with you after Mass.

Once again, a huge 'thank-you' to everyone. Please keep me in your prayers, as I keep you in mine. Every good wish, and God Bless, Fr Ed.