

Saturday 21st March

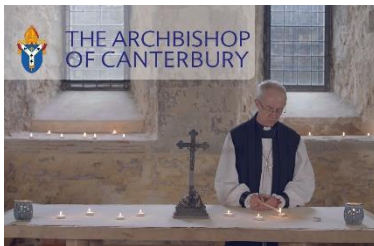
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday for the first time in who knows how long we will not be gathered as a Family at St Matthias to worship together.

However, we can still worship together yet apart.

Whilst it is Mothering Sunday, the Archbishops have called for us to join in a National Day of Prayer.

Although we have not been able to get a 'live-stream' organised this week from St Matthias, we urge you to join in one of the services being shared live.



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, is to lead a national broadcast as the Church of England responds to the challenge of becoming a "different sort of church" in the face of the challenge of coronavirus.

The service will be broadcast online and also on **BBC Radio 4's Sunday Worship at 08.10am and all** local radio stations in England at 8am.

The order of service can be downloaded from the website – some paper copies are available at Church to pick up if you can't print it or follow online.



The Church of England in Devon will be broadcasting a specially adapted 'service' led by the Bishop Jackie from Exeter Cathedral on Mothering Sunday.

The service will be broadcast on the Diocese of Exeter YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter social media channels on Sunday at 10am.

The BBC are scheduled to show a Mothering Sunday service from St David's Cathedral in Wales at 11.45am on BBC ONE.

The Church will be open for private prayer from 08.00 to 12.00.

Please observe the 'social distancing' measures advised by the

Government. We would ask that people spend no longer than 15 minutes in the Church in order to minimise the risks of transmission of the virus, and no refreshments will be served.

At **5:30pm** we would ordinarily have a time of prayer for an hour. We would encourage you to spend some time in you own household praying for the World, the Nation, the Church and for our Community at this time.

At **7.00pm** please join with others across the country in lighting a candle in a window, proclaiming that Jesus came as the light of the world. We will be lighting a candle to shine out through our new glass doors.



There are so many fantastic resources on line for those who can access them.

One we came across today is Sing In The Storm (<https://www.singinthestorm.com/>)

A chance to sing with others from your own home!

VOLUNTEERS

A Request From St Cuthbert Mayne:

At St Cuthbert Mayne we are looking for 9 volunteers on **Monday** to help us pack 200+ meals for our families from 9am - 4pm. If you can offer a member in your circle who can offer an hour or the full day, we shall be grateful. Refreshments will be provided.

We are also looking for as many bags for life as possible to give ingredients to those families in need. If you have some extra bags that you are happy to give away then please do bring them or let us know where to collect from and we shall collect from you. **Rev'd Nathan**

School Chaplain Tel: 01803328725 Nathan.Kiyaga@stcm.torbay.sch.uk

LOCAL SHOPS

We know several local shops and cafes are offering new ways of supporting their communities.

Joss and Jack at '**PICK OF THE CROP**' in St Marychurch are offering to provide vegetables, bread and dairy products either to be collected from their shop or Driftwood Café, or to be delivered. 07500181009 Starting on Monday

'**Me & Mrs Jones**' in Wellswood are offering home deliveries of Deli items as well as meals

**“The LORD is good,
a strong refuge when trouble comes.
He is close to those who trust in him.”**

Nahum 1:7

In these troubling times we might well find ourselves asking God ‘Why?’.
Psalm 31 (GOD’S Word version) opens with this verse:

I have taken refuge in you, O LORD.
Never let me be put to shame.
Save me because of your righteousness.

And it ends with this:

Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the LORD.

We might not know ‘why?’, but we can still take refuge in God and know that he is with us in the darkest of times.

Please keep an eye on the website or Facebook for updates.

<https://st-matthias-church.org/about-us/covid-19-corona-virus/>

There are links to the Exeter Diocese YouTube channel and their Coronavirus page available.

Copies of the Newsheet, the Order of Service for the Archbishop’s service and the Simple Acts of Worship sheet are out in the North Porch and in the Linkway when the Church is open.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Barton