

**Newsletter of the  
Parish Church of St Peter,  
Jersey**



**Issue 8: 17 May 2020  
ROGATION SUNDAY  
(Sixth Sunday of Eastertide)**

Dear Friends,

Before reading my Homily, please read this short piece of scripture:

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

***John 15.9-17***

15.9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 12 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. 16 You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. 17 I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. *(pause)*

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

***Dear Friends,***

One of the first things, the human baby learns, even before s/he can speak is... to ask for food, or for its nappy to be changed or for the need to have company and comfort. S/he does this by crying to be attended to. It is totally natural and indeed, it makes sure that the little one 'survives and thrives'!

As times goes on and babies become toddlers, asking continues and widens in its scope... then middle years of childhood come and s/he moves into teenage years. Asking for things and/or money is ever greater, as it is in university years! What is asked for changes over the years the years into adulthood, but the theme of asking is there in *all* of us.

As we 'grow up' spiritually, (and we do this at different rates and ages) we, in our prayers, never stop asking God, our Heavenly Father, for this or that.

When praying to God the asking is often for ever deeper and for more difficult things. From the child who prays 'Father please make mummy better', to the adult who prays, 'Father please make my child well and healthy again', the theme is the same.

All this is, at one level natural, yet at another level is it, at the same time, profoundly and deeply spiritual 'asking' in both cases, for these are prayers from the heart from a Creature, you or me, to the Creator.

I mention all this because today is Rogation Sunday, which has a number of interrelated themes running through it, as we on *the one hand* ask God for his blessing upon the crops and live-stock, so that we have enough food to eat, but on *the other hand* there is also the raw asking to God to stop this disease or that.

Both these aspects are there day to day, in many of our own personal prayers, but especially so during Rogationtide, remembering that the word Rogation comes from the Latin 'to ask'. The season of Rogationtide runs Sunday to Wednesday inclusive, leading up the great Festival of Ascension Day, one of the seven great festivals of the Church's Year, as it observes the Christian Calendar.

In the minds of our early forebears, the thinking was a straightforward and simple one... Jesus is about to ascend/go back to his Father in Heaven, so *now* is the time to ask him, for all the really difficult things, because Jesus is just about to see his Father again in heaven and can therefore ask him for all these things on our behalf.

In this sense then, Rogationtide, is in no way anachronistic: it is as relevant today as it always has been. For through the observance of Rogationtide our utter dependence on God our Father is highlighted and demonstrated yet again.

At no time in my own experience, has Rogationtide been more relevant than now, in this present emergency.

May God in his infinite mercy and love, bless us all and those whom we love, both directly by answering our prayers, but also indirectly by working through the skills, learning and determination that he has given to those who care for and look after us.

May we in our turn, do the same for others, following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all,

Father Michael

## **Has your Newsletter appeared correctly on your screen?**

Thank you for reading the newsletter each week. I hope that you enjoy reading it and also viewing the services on the Church Website Facebook.

I have had some very useful feedback as to the Newsletter's transmission. A small number of you, have found that some of the pages have been 'over printed' on top of the page that you are reading, which makes it very difficult to read.

I have taken advise from several people and they have suggested sending the Newsletter as a PDF, rather than as a Word Document. As I am not very good with computers, I have no idea what this all means, but I have done a test run from me to a parishioner: it now seems to be working fine as a PDF.

Thank you to those who have let me know about this! If you had not let me know, then this improvement could have not been made. Please do let me know of any such problems in the future.

## **Your Priest can now go into church!**

Last week all the Clergy in Jersey received a letter from Bishop Trevor. In that letter he explained that it is now permitted for each priest on the Island to go into his *own* church again. He very clearly stated however, that public services cannot take place. This is because of the need for social distancing for the protection of each of us.

As a result of this welcome change, this week's service, which you will be able to see on the Church Website Facebook page will come from the church itself, and not from the Rectory garden! It is a joy to be able to celebrate the Eucharist at the High Altar at the Church again, so that you can view it in your own home.

## **Ascension Day**

This Thursday is Ascension Day and that marks the first day of Ascensiontide. This is one of the seven great festivals of the Church's Year and I look forward to celebrating that with you 'online' next week

## **Rotas**

The present Rota (which because of the present emergency we have hardly had to use!) runs out on 7 June. I will shortly be putting a *new* rota together, so that one is ready, should the restrictions on Public Worship be lifted. This way, there would not be huge rush to organise things at the last minute.

If you are going away, once this is allowed and if you are on a rota of any sort, during the next three months (June, July, August), please could you let me know, so that I don't put you down to read or whatever, on a Sunday for which you would be away.

Probably it will be some months before public Worship can happen again, but I am just trying to think ahead.

## **This Sunday's Service**

The service this weekend will be put onto the Church Website Facebook page on, Sunday, 17th May at 1030.

Could I re-emphasize that to access this and previous services on the Church Website you do not have to have Facebook yourself. Once on Church Website ([www.stpeterschurch.org.ie](http://www.stpeterschurch.org.ie)) click on the Facebook to see them.

I say this because some people have thought that if they didn't have Facebook themselves that they wouldn't be able to see the services.

Happy viewing!

Father Michael

## £ A Word About Money £

Many thanks to all those who have already sent cheques, in lieu of money, that would normally be put on the collection plate at services inside the church. It is much appreciated.

For those who have not donated, The Treasurer and I, plus the Church Officers, earnestly hope that you are putting money aside each week in a 'jam jar' (real or metaphorical!) so that when the churches are allowed to reopen, you will be able to bring that money to church or of course to put the cheque 'on the plate'. I hate to even write about money, but having talked with The Treasurer it was felt that a word to you all might be useful.

We have had a letter from the Chairman of the Deanery Finance Committee, stating that they estimate that by October, at the present rate, they will have exhausted all the reserves that they had.

As a priority, St Peters Parish Church is continuing to pay its Share allocation of £1,500 per month towards its Share Allocation of £36,000 per annum as requested, being mindful of The Treasurer's letter in a previous Newsletter, that that is half the amount of £72,000 per annum, the starting point in the Share Allocation process, for each Church in the Deanery of Jersey.

Because of the lack of services, we are not receiving anything like that amount in because there are no 'collections', so there is a danger of things become critical in the not too distant future. As indicated above there is no huge pot of money held by The Deanery from which we could be helped and of course there are other churches on the island, in the same position as us. If we all give methodically and regularly then things will go well, but if we don't then...! 'Cash flow' is so important not only because of our contribution to the Deanery of Jersey but because of the many bills which still have to be paid each month, as is the case in any organisation. I hope you will take this matter to heart.

Father Michael

### **Annual General Meeting and Election of officers**

Each church in the Church of England in the Deanery of Jersey has received an email from The Dean of Jersey about these matters.

Basically there will be no AGM this year or Election of Officers within this Calendar Year and all the current officers are asked to remain in post, until the next AGM actually does take place, which would not be until next year.

Having said all that, each church is to send its Annual Accounts for 2019 to The Deanery of Jersey Finance Committee, once they have been inspected by an 'Independent Examiner'. They will also be sent out to everyone on the Church Electoral Roll, for your interest.

## **WAYS TO WORSHIP IN YOUR OWN HOME:**

### **SERVICES FROM ST PETER'S RECTORY GARDEN:**

Go on [www.stpeterschurch.org.je](http://www.stpeterschurch.org.je) and click on the Church Facebook page. The service for each Sunday will be placed on there at **1030 on the Sunday** and can be viewed at any time of day after that: it will remain on the Face book page.

*You do not need to have Facebook yourself to view these services, provided you view them via the Church website:* a number of people have asked me about this.

### **SUNDAYS Radio & TV:**

**0810** Each Sunday during the emergency there will be a Service on **Radio Jersey** linked in with the national UK radio.

**1315** Songs of Praise (BBC 2, TV)

**1500** As always, *every week of the year* on **Radio 3** listen to the glories of **Choral Evensong** from a different Cathedral or Abbey each week which is a repeat from the previous Wednesday 1530 broadcast. Available for 30 days on BBC Sound.

### **SUNDAYS: 1900 - LIGHT A CANDLE AND PLACE IT IN A WINDOW VISIBLE FROM YOUR STREET**

This simple initiative is from the Archbishop of Canterbury: it will help you and others to know that God, through Jesus, is the light of the world and is always with us. Beware of curtains!! Electric candles are best, if you have them. Please leave them lit for at least an hour, but preferably all evening. Look at the candle: think about what some are already going through and pray for them.

### **WEDNESDAYS on Radio 3**

**1530** As always, *every week of the year* on **Radio 3**, listen to the glories of **Choral Evensong** from a different Cathedral or Abbey each week, repeated on the following Sunday at 1500. Available for 30 days on BBC Sound.

### **CROSS, PALM CROSS especially at this time, CRUCIFIX, ICON**

Use these as a focus for your prayers in your own home. Thank you for the many calls of appreciation about the Palm Crosses being sent to you at home.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Suzette Bradshaw; Dave; Elis; Donald English; Audrey Gem; Peggy Harrison; Jonathan Harvey; Peter Heath; Lester Huelin; Jack Johns; Robin Mallet; Molly; Stephan Mauger; John Le Riche; Riley.

Also, please pray for all those who are ill with the coronavirus.

**PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED:** Father Tony Hart; Alan Churchill

Also, please pray for all those who have died from the coronavirus.

***A Prayer for use each day in Eastertide: The Regina Coeli***

During Lent it is the custom to say the say the Angelus each day, *but throughout Eastertide* a different Marian devotion, the Regina Coeli, is used, on the theme of the Resurrection: it is also used at the end of Mass, as indeed is the custom at St Peter's. I have put it here, so that you can use this at home if you wish in your daily devotions:

<b>All Sing:</b>	<b>Joy to you, O Queen of Heaven.</b>	<b>Alleluia!</b>
	<b>He whom thou was meet to bear,</b>	<b>Alleluia!</b>
	<b>As He promised hath arisen,</b>	<b>Alleluia!</b>
	<b>Pour for us to God thy prayer.</b>	<b>Alleluia!</b>

**Priest says:** Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia!

**All Say:** For the Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Priest: Let us pray....

O God, who by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ has brought joy to the whole world: grant, we ask you, that we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



## **Prayers about the current virus Epidemic**

I hope that you will find these prayers useful in your own prayer life at home. Prayer is at the heart of any Christian's life, just as much as it is at the heart of our communal life as the Body of Christ, which is The Church. These prayers have been specially produced by the Church of England, for use at the present time.

### **FOR ALL WHO WORRY**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Lord Jesus Christ your taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need, as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety give us strength to comfort the fearful,  
to tend the sick and assure the isolated of our love and your love,  
we ask this for your name's sake. Amen

### **FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL**

Merciful God, we entrust to your care those who are ill or in pain,  
knowing that whenever danger threatens  
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.  
Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **FOR HOSPITAL STAFF, CARERS & MEDICAL RESEARCHERS**

Heavenly Father we ask you to give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strength them with your Spirit,  
That through their work many will be restored to health, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.



## **HATS for the MISSION to SEAFARERS!**

Many thanks to those who have kindly offered to knit some hats for the Mission to Seafarers, to be given to those who work upon the seas: There are a selection of designs. If you know of anyone else who might like to do this work and you want me to send copies of the patterns on to them, please just let me know their address. I look forward to seeing the hats in due course!

Father Michael,

### **How to contact me:**

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Rector of St Peter, & Hon Chaplain for the Mission to Seafarers, Jersey*

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*Church Website: [www.stpeterschurch.org.je](http://www.stpeterschurch.org.je)*

*Church Facebook: go on the website and click on the Facebook to see Mass from The Parish Church of St Peter at 1030. All previous services are also available on the website.*