

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



ASCENSIONTIDE

Newsletter, Issue 9: 21-30 May 2020

Dear Friends,

Before reading my Homily, please read these prayers and short piece of scripture:

Ascension Day

Collect:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also thither ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24.44-end

44 Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Collect:

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ: mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Dear Friends,

Ascensiontide

Ascensiontide is always one of the seasons of the Church's Year that I most enjoy. Here at St. Peter's we are blessed with a wonderful East window. It is a triptic window, meaning that there are three parts to it, the central part of the whole, (which is on the front cover of this week's Newsletter), is of the 'Ascension of Jesus'. It forms an incredible focus for each of us in our private devotions and most especially in our services. It indeed, certainly lifts one's eyes and inner spirit.

In Jesus Ascending back to his Father, his mission on Earth is complete. He returns to God his Father in triumph, full of love for his Father. On arriving in heaven he is crowned, King of the Universe. Ascension Day is therefore, quite definitely 'Coronation Day', for all is accomplished. Having suffered, died and been raised from the dead and appeared to his apostles and many more for forty days, now there is glory; now there is beauty; now there is purity; now there is goodness and above all, now we see in the Ascended Christ, absolute love in all his majesty.

The vision of Jesus Christ paints a wonderful picture for us: a vision to keep before our eyes. It is a wholesome gathering together of all that life itself is about. It is the confirmation of all that is, has been and is to come.

As Christians, all of us need to 'hold on' to this vision of loveliness, beauty and strength, (particularly during this present emergency) and hold it, that we may allow God to reveal his 'awe-ful-ness' so that we his mortal creatures, may truly adore and worship him.

To worship God in this way, affirms that 'love is stronger even than death'. To worship God is an end in itself, for there is no higher state of being or activity, of which we, as human beings are capable, for worship is the giving of 'worth - ship' to God.

The stunning beautifully East Window is then worth keeping in our mind's eye in these difficult times especially. It will help each of us to focus our lives, whether they be sad or happy, difficult or easy, on Jesus, King of the whole universe.

May you let be your King. Give your life to him, each and every day, that you may see him, your king, in due course, in Heaven. There is so much to look forward to!

God bless,
Father Michael

A note about The High Altar Window in the Parish Church of St Peter



This shows three important stages in the life of Christ. To the left is the Nativity of Jesus with the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Joseph looking at the baby. The right hand section of the window commemorates the Baptism of Jesus by St John the Baptist in the river Jordan, whilst the centre portion shows the Ascension of Jesus Christ, the Paschal Lamb, hence the upper pane shows a lamb, to indicate this.

The Window sits just above the High Altar and can be seen the entire length of the Church, reflecting its importance as the physical representation of Christ's life and sacrifice for communicants to reflect upon, while receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the Mass.

75th Anniversary Liberation Badge



As I go around the Parish, I have been and will continue to give out, these specially produced 75th Anniversary Liberation badges, for your delight and interest! These have been produced by the Parish, which were to have been given out on Liberation weekend, but because of the virus, I'm doing it bit by bit, so please be patient and eventually you will receive your badge, I hope you will wear it with pride, during this particular year.

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 advice 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

When you read this on line it will already be Ascension Day which 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.

A note of thanks from Carol and Robin

Dear Fr. Michael,

We look forward to your Newsletter each week, it is good to be connected! Thank you.

Please would you include this little note in the next edition of the newsletter:

'We would like to thank you all for your care, kind thoughts and prayers whilst Robin has been sick. We are pleased to say that he is now well on the way to recovery. His Consultant, Mr Cathcart, in ENT is very pleased with his progress and has decided that Robin does not need to go back to Southampton yet for an MRI scan, due to COVID-19 etc.

God Bless you all, stay safe and healthy.

Robin and Carol'

Robin and Carol, I am very happy to put this in the Newsletter as requested. We are all delighted that Robin is making *such* good progress. Prayers have certainly been answered. Love to you both. May God continue to bless you. Fr M

This Sunday's Service

The service this weekend will be put onto the Church Website Facebook page at about 1730 on Ascension Day, which this year is the 21st May.

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.je) 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 THE PARISH CHURCH or ST PETER'S RECTORY or GARDEN:

Go on 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:

0800 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: 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:

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

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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Church Website: 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. All previous services are also available on the website.