

NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER, JERSEY

Issue 3, Palm Sunday, 05 Apr 2020

Dear Friends,

Something I am constantly and understandably hearing from people who live alone is, how lonely they feel, because they are frightened to go out and meet others: they end up not seeing anyone at all each and every day.

Whilst visiting is not advised at all now, nevertheless if *you* know of someone who is in that situation, give them a ring and have a chat on the telephone or even send an email, you have no idea how much that will be appreciated.

It reminds me of how alone Jesus was on his way to the cross. Even his friends had deserted him: indeed, even our own St Peter. Yet after his great act of self-giving on the cross, his love brought out love *in them*, giving them the strength to face all things. So, if you phone or show another type of kindness, that will bring out love too.

Jesus gained strength from his Father in heaven: remember his words, 'Yet I am not alone for the Father is with me'. Through prayer to our Father and acts of love and kindness, *we* are also given strength.

This Sunday (Palm Sunday) we remember the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, when he was acclaimed as King, the sign and custom for which, was the placing of Palm branches and leaves upon the road, hence the present international sign of honour through what we now call, the 'red carpet treatment'. How quickly that same crowd changed by the end of the week, when they were baying for his blood. All fell away.

Pray that the present difficulties and sadness's that people across the world are facing will not lead to us, as committed Christians, falling away from God, as the crowd did from Jesus.

Each of us needs to remain faithful and resolute to Him. Strength to do so will come from acts of kindness to others, for in so doing, self-giving love is drawn out, is nurtured and flowers. May God give to each of us, the strength to respond with love to others in the midst of this epidemic.

I close these few words with a new poem written by a friend, Tony Bellows, who has given his permission for me to print it in this Newsletter. It is called:

The Isolate Tower *(by Tony Bellows)*

Alone, alone, and no one here:
All alone through time of fear;
And as the plague rages outside,
Alone, inside, it is time to hide;
The sun is shining upon the land,
But days are trickling by like sand;
And yet the words still coming out,
As if there's time for final shout;
A secure tower of words, turrets tall,
But a lightning stricken tower fall,
As in the cards, turned one by one,
As clouds across blot out the sun;
And night is falling, ending day,
I want to speak, but cannot say
What must be said, wherein I dwell,
For in isolation, I find my hell:
Devoid of hug, of touch, of feel,
A closed door, with waxen seal;
And yet I hear the distant cry,
The seagull wheeling in the sky,
And I write down the words again,
As joy returns with quiet amen.

Thank you, Tony, for this poem. Beautiful and thought provoking. God bless you all,

Father Michael

PALM CROSSES

These will be blessed in the Palm Sunday Mass in the Parish Church with the customary prayers. They are a vital and much valued focus for prayer in any Christian household: I commend their use to you in this way. In a very simple, quiet and reserved way, adorning your home with one also makes a statement that you are a follower(s) of Jesus and that you rely on his love and protection. I will be sending the Crosses out to you in the post on Holy Monday: they having been placed in each envelope by someone wearing gloves.

BELLS: THURSDAYS AT 2000HRS

I hope you heard the bells being rung with 'gusto' on Thursday evening at 2000hrs from our Church Spire for a full five minutes. This was a new and excellent idea sparked by the Vicar of Goray, (who suggested all churches join in), building on the clapping taking place in the UK, at that time each week, as a way of supporting and showing appreciation for, all those who work in the field of Health and also of Care, to those in hospital or at home or in residential homes. The Church bells made a joyful and merry sound to lift the spirit and to say 'thank you' for all that such wonderful people do. They will continue to be rung every week during to current emergency. Remember the piece of metal inside a bell that strikes the bell case is known as a 'clapper', so the bells are clapping with the people..... literally!!!!

DO YOU HAVE A UK STATE PENSION?

New regulations came into force (was it last year or the year before?) that in order for a UK state pension holder to continue receiving their pension a person such as a priest, doctor, lawyer etc., has to witness a Life Care Certificate being signed by the Pension holder. Last year I was asked to witness over 20 of these for members of the congregation and I am happy to continue doing so this year: I don't want anyone in the congregation to be without their pension! I have already done this for two people this week, so presumably the forms are all being sent out now!

How to do this safely, during this time of emergency? The only way I could think of doing this for those who cannot get out, was by watching the person sign through a closed window or glass front door, the form being on the inside windowsill, they then pass it outside with the passport or driving license so that the relevant number can be put on the form. I then give the passport or driving license back and take the form and the stamped addressed envelope back to The Rectory for me to counter sign and affix the Church Seal. Then I pop it in the post box for the Pension Holder.

The other way, if a person can walk or drive, is to arrange an appointment with me, park in our drive and I can come out to the car, see you sign and do my bit back in the office after which you take it and post it after that. Which ever way I will be wearing gloves and we keep our distance. I never charge a fee! Hope it helps.

ARE YOU BORED AT HOME OR CAN'T GET OUT, YET YOU SOMEHOW WANT TO HELP PEOPLE?!

By the way, can you knit? Well putting on my Mission to Seafarers Chaplain's "hat", how would you like to knit a woolly hat or hats for Seafarers to be given out in Advent, just before Christmas when we go onto the ships to give them out, to those Seafarers whose ships are docked in our port here in Jersey whilst cargo is unloaded. They really do appreciate them. A pattern can be provided: if you want one please email me back and I can supply one to you.

Sadly, the virus means that we are unable to go onto the ships at Easter, to give out Easter Eggs as is normally done, so it would be a really great gesture if we could make a big effort to knit lots of hats in readiness for Christmas!

WAYS TO WORSHIP IN YOUR OWN HOME:

SUNDAYS on CHURCH WEBSITE:

1030 Mass from St Peter's on the theme of the day.

(On Palm Sunday it will include the blessing of the Palm Crosses)

Go on www.stpeterschurch.org.je and click on the Church Facebook page. The service can be viewed at any time for seven days.

SUNDAYS Radio & TV:

0810 Each Sunday during the emergency there will be a Service on **Radio Jersey** linked in with the national UK radio: the first week's service was led by The Archbishop of Canterbury.

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.

EVERYDAY: LENT BOOKLETS

Another way to nourish your spiritual life is to buy available in the Church price £2, take home and use this year's Church of England **Lent Booklets**: they really are excellent.

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

Use these as a focus for your prayers in your own 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; Stephan Mauger; John Le Riche; Riley. All who are sick with the virus

PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED: All those who have died from this terrible virus

THE ANGELUS BELL: THIS WILL RING AT 0955, 1155 & 1555 EACH SUNDAY

Listen out! The Angelus Bell will ring out from the Church Spire, sounding across the village and Parish at 0955, 1155 and 1555: do use this sheet and join in the prayer when you hear the Bell.

(It should be rung at 10, 12 & 1600, but can't be because of the clock chiming!)

The ringing sequence is 3-3-3-9: between each of those numbers, prayers are said for all by the ringer. Know that you are being prayed for at that moment.

The Angelus

Please pray for all those affected by the virus and their families, as well as for your loved ones and yourself.

V. The Angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

V. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are you among all women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

R. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to Your Word.

V. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are you among all women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

R. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. And the Word was made flesh,
R. And dwelt among us.

V. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are you among all women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

R. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

V. We beseech You, O Lord, to pour your grace into our hearts; that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by His and + cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

R. Amen.

*Father Michael Phillips,
Rector of St Peter, Jersey*

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Church Facebook: go on the website and click on the Facebook to see the Sunday Mass from The Parish Church of St Peter at 1030 on Sunday and for seven days thereafter