

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



**Newsletter, Issue 13: 21 June 2020
Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist (observance)**

Dear Friends,

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

Collect:

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance: lead us to repent according to his preaching and, after his example, constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 St Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 1.57-66, 80

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. 58 Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. 60 But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' 61 They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' 62 Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. 63 He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. 66 All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. 80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel. *(pause)*

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

Sermon for The Feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist

The two enormous bells in the church's tower, at the base of the steeple, are called Mary and Elizabeth, which is pertinent to today's Feast Day, The Nativity of John the Baptist. The two bells are named after two ladies who were related by blood, namely the Blessed Virgin Mary the mother of Jesus and St Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist. Jesus and John Baptist Baptist were therefore cousins.

John the Baptist is hugely significant in the whole of the Jesus account, being the last in the line of the OT prophets and at the same time, the first of the new, proclaiming the immanent coming of the Messiah, in the person of Jesus the Christ.

No other Saint is accorded, so many feast days of his own as John the Baptist, other than of course, his aunt, the BVM the mother of the Jesus. This quite deliberately shows the importance that the church gives to John Baptist in our salvation history. An importance that we here in St Peter proclaim, every time the bells are rung.

John the Baptist, had a pivotal role in the account of the life of Jesus, whose birthday we remember and celebrate today. His divine calling and ministry was made clear from the moment of his conception, by St Luke, in his gospel. We remember the BVM visiting her cousin Elizabeth, and

“the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!’” ([Luke 1:41–45](#))

Even though both Jesus and John the Baptist were in that extract, not even yet born, their destiny in terms of our salvation was already laid out by God. Jesus the saviour and John Baptist the forteller, the announcer of this fact. John Baptist was a brilliant preacher whom many thousands of people flocked too, as he embraced, with fervour, the austerities of an ascetic, out in the desert, to which he had travelled, in order to come closer to God. John was shown in adulthood to be very aware of his role and mission from God in this respect. Remember he said,

‘I must decrease and he must increase’

He humbly submitted to this with equanimity, whilst continuing to proclaim the righteousness of God, and the putting into effect of his laws in many different ways, for eg., in what he said about Herod and the way that he should live. We know of course that he paid for all this with his life.

His life therefore was short, like that of his cousin, Jesus. But the effect of his ministry is felt even today, an inspiration to all the baptised, reminding us that we are called to serve God throughout our lives, whatever the consequences to ourselves as individuals, and that all praise for our assigned ministries be given to the glory of Jesus, God’s only son, our saviour. **Amen.**

Please take some time to reflect on the Homily and to just 'be' with God, then when you are ready, conclude this period of Listening, Reflection and Prayer, by offering to God, the following collect:

Post Communion Collect:

Merciful Lord, whose prophet John the Baptist proclaimed your Son as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world: grant that we who in this sacrament have known your forgiveness and your life-giving love may ever tell of your mercy and your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



LEPROSY MISSION STAMP COLLECTION BOX

Please keep putting aside any used stamps from your mail and due course bring them to church, once we reopen and put them in the special LEPROSY MISSION STAMP COLLECTION BOX at the back of the church. The Mission can redeem these stamps for its funds. This is a wonderful Anglican charity. The stamps may still be attached to the envelope paper: please cut around the stamps. Jersey stamps have more value than those from the UK as *comparatively* they are rarer: a much smaller number are produced.

Thank you to all who have given already: please keep it going! Father Michael

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 Useful contacts, one of which is the Church Facebook page: click on that and look through until you find the service for the week you want. The service for 21 June 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 Facebook page. The Service for 28 June will be placed on there about 1300.

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.

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.

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:

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

THE NEXT SERVICES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC in Church WILL BE ON SUNDAY 28 JUNE, which is the FEAST OF ST PETER, our Patronal Festival, as follows: 0800 Mass; (max 40 people!)

1030 Mass with Music (max 40 people)

Each Sunday after that, there will be services at those times.

Evensong is sadly now discontinued.

Each Monday (starting 29th June) and each Friday (starting 3rd July) the

Church will be open for Private Prayer from Noon until 1300

Each Wednesday, starting the 1st July, there is Mass at 1000.

75th Anniversary Liberation Badge



If you have not yet received one of these, the remainder will be given out on the Feast of St Peter, during each Mass. I hope you will wear it with pride, during this particular year.

THIS WEEK'S MASS: 21 June

Go on www.stpeterschurch.org.je and click on Useful contacts, one of which is the Church Facebook page: click on that and look through until you find the service for the week you want. The service for 21 June 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 Facebook page.

FEAST OF ST PETER, our PATRONAL FESTIVAL, 28 June

will be with the Congregation present, the first time for fourteen weeks, which will indeed be a joyous occasion. This service will be filmed, so that it can be put onto the Church website Facebook page for all those unable to be in Church to view in their own homes, later that day: it should be on the Facebook by about 1300. We will continue to film the Service each week thereafter for this purpose. I hope therefore people will feel less isolated, especially if they are not able to come to the Church themselves.

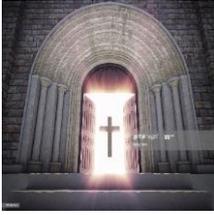
NEWSLETTERS

A Newsletter will continue to be produced each week, for the same reason outlined above with respect to filming.

COMING TO CHURCH ON 28 JUNE 2020 FOR OUR PATRONAL FESTIVAL AND IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

1. Because of government requirements we are required to take the names and addresses of those attending any church service, for tracking and tracing purposes. 
2. **Those people in the vulnerable or severely vulnerable categories or with a pre-existing health conditions who wish to attend worship, should obtain medical advice before deciding to come to church.**
3. You will **need to book ahead** if you wish to come to Church either by the preferred method of an E-mail (rector@stpeterschurch.org.je) **or** by leaving a message on Father Michael's answer phone (481805) **or** to speak to him directly on the same number.
4. You will need to say which service (0800 or 1030) you would like to attend and whether you would be coming on your own or with any other members of your family, *who live in the same house as you*, giving their names too. 
5. We are restricted to the total number allowed by the government being a **maximum of 40**. It is vital therefore, during the current emergency, that you email or phone ahead. It would be awful to have to turn people away at the door if we go over 40.
6. If you are wanting to come to the 1030 Mass this is especially important to do. This is because on average we get an attendance of between 40 and 55.
7. If any of you who usually come to the 1030, would like to come to the 0800 Service (which would be far less crowded), this would be most helpful in balancing numbers out between the two Masses: please indicate this. 
8. You will need to rebook each week, please remember to do this, in order to gain admission.

NOTES ABOUT THE SERVICES



1. The doors to the church will be pinned open to reduce cross infection on door handles and for ventilation throughout each Mass.

2. Use the sanitizer on entering the church which you will find near the door. You are to leave by the other door and to use the sanitizer at that door before leaving.



3. Upon arrival, your names will be ticked off on the pre-prepared list which will have been drawn up showing that you have booked.

4. In Church only sit in a seat which has a green tick. If you are coming as a couple you will see two green tick seats adjacent to each other. People coming singly should not occupy these spaces.



5. The booklet for the service will be on the seat when you get there, please take it away with you at the end: it must not be used at the next service, as they are designed to be used only once, to reduce cross infection. Everything you need for the service will be in that booklet.

6. At 0800 there are no hymns. At 1030 there will be no hymn singing but there will be music during the service: if you would like to hum along that will be fine!

7. When the service starts, please follow it in the 'one-use booklet'.



8. **At the peace, please wave, do not shake hands or hug!**

9. When it comes to receiving communion, this will be in one kind only, namely the bread, to reduce infection.

10. The Lectern side will come up first, row by row, via the central aisle. The priest will stand on the Chancel Step: please put your hands out towards the priest and he will place the bread in your hands without touching them: after receiving it into your hands, turn sideways towards the side aisles to put the bread in your mouth and walk back to your seat via those side aisles, *not* up the central aisle. Again, this is to reduce cross infection.



11. At the end of the service please leave by the other door.



12. The collection plates will be near the door: please put your collection into those plates. For those who have not been able to give during the last fourteen weeks, it is much hoped that you will make up for lost opportunities by giving generously at our Patronal Festival, as a sign of your love for God.



13. It would be appreciated if you would talk to your friends outside after the service not inside, so that there is no congestion inside as people are leaving, which could lead to people unwittingly infecting others.

14. Though all of this might seem onerous, nevertheless if it is all observed then the services will not only be enjoyable, but also **be safe!**

How to contact me:

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

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Address: The Rectory, La Rue du Presbytere, St Peter, Jersey. JE3 7ZH

Church Website: www.stpeterschurch.org.je

Church Facebook: go on the website and click on Useful Contacts, one of which is the Church Facebook. Scroll through to see Mass you want from The Parish Church of St Peter. All previous services are also available on the website.