

LORD, THE ONE YOU LOVE IS SICK

When Lazarus is sick, his sisters Mary and Martha sent out a word to Jesus, saying, “**Lord, the one you love is sick**” {Jn 11:3}. This is the same message many of the people worldwide are praying out. The picture across the globe is very disturbing as the pandemic Coronavirus is spreading like a wildfire. During these difficult times, it is an opportunity for us to meditate on the word of God to renew our faith in our Lord, who is capable of defeating death.

Today’s readings exhort us to believe in the supreme power of our Lord and that He has the authority over everything including death. In the first reading, prophet Ezekiel went to the Valley full of dry bones and the Lord our God asked him to prophesy over them to give them life. As Ezekiel prophesied, the dry bones came together, and flesh appeared on them {Ezekiel 37:8}. The whole Chapter 37 of Ezekiel gives a miraculous picture of how the dead bones followed the Word of God. The valley that is full of dry bones turned into a new creation by the Word of God. When the Spirit of God breathed on them, they got a new life {Ez 37:10}.

The Lord our God wants the people of Israel to know Him. He says that if He opens the grave and gives life to it, only then will the people know Him. He further assures us, “I will put my Spirit in you and you will live” {Ez 37: 14}. It is a joint operation of the Word of God and that of the Holy Spirit, which brought life out of death. When the Holy Spirit came upon these dead bodies, they stood up and became a mighty army of soldiers for the Lord. It is the same even today. Our broken, stiff and dead spiritual lives too will get a new creation only if we start believing and strive to live to be filled with the supernatural power of God’s Holy Spirit. God is willing to create a new life in us, but it happens according to His time.

We read in the Gospel of John, “Jesus loved Martha, her sister Mary and Lazarus. Yet, when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days” {Jn 11:5}. He finally arrived in Bethany four days after Lazarus had died. God’s ways are not our ways. He said, “It is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it”. We should believe that everything that is happening to us, be it sickness or famine, everything happens according to God’s plan and time. We have to believe Him and in His sovereignty. Though Jesus could have saved Lazarus when He initially heard of the sickness, He waited upon God and we can see that this wait has resulted in saving the lives of other people too.

The theme is similar to what we have read in the past few weeks, be it with the woman at the well, or the blind man. Jesus encounters the person and starts a deep spiritual conversation resulting in the conversion of him/her and the community at large. We see it happen even in today’s gospel. Martha, who was depressed, still has faith in Jesus by saying “even now, God will give you whatever you ask”. The conversation continues, and Jesus comforts her saying, “I am the resurrection and the life” and poses an important question, “Do you believe this?” {Jn 11:25}; Jesus asks you the same question today.

Martha responded by saying, “Yes, Lord”. We know the story after that. Lazarus came out of the tomb alive. We read, “Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in Him” {Jn 11: 45}.

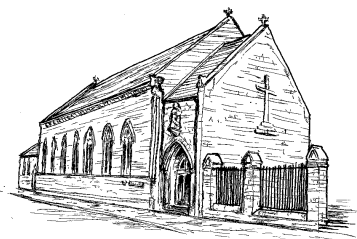
Our response, to Jesus’ question on believing Him, will be the game-changer. It can bring a new life in our dead spiritual lives. Let us pray to God to fill us with the Holy Spirit and create a new life in us. May God bless us all. **Amen.**

Rev. Fr. Y. Jaya Praveen.

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

1. “I am the resurrection and the life..... Do you believe this?” Jesus says in today’s Gospel! In the midst of what we are currently ‘seeing’ and ‘experiencing’ this may be difficult. What do you believe? Tell God!!
2. “I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live.....” God says through Ezekiel (1st reading). How do you enable/allow God to be ‘in you’? Through your life style, prayer, action, attitude?
3. “Your interests”, St Paul writes (2nd reading) should “be in the spiritual”. What does that mean to you? Can you take comfort from the spiritual in this present situation? How? What helps you?

Vincent Harvey



29 MARCH 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

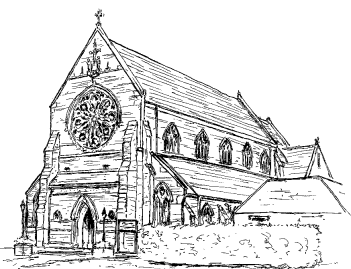


ST JOSEPH’S & ST EDMUND’S CITY CENTRE CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTHAMPTON

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
PORTSMOUTH REG. CHARITY NO. 246871

STELLA MARIS DEANERY INCLUDES:

- ST. BONIFACE, SHIRLEY
- HOLY FAMILY, MILLBROOK
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL,
LORDSWOOD
- IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
PORTSWOOD
- CHRIST THE KING &
ST. COLMAN’S, BITTERNE
- OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION,
HEDGE END
- ST BRIGID, WEST END
- ST. PATRICK’S, WOOLSTON
- THE ANNUNCIATION,
NETLEY ABBEY



A few words from Father Vincent:

"I hope you are well and keeping safe. Many of us are in 'self-isolation' due to age or illness, which is frustrating and life-limiting. On top of this there is the ongoing 'fear' of coronavirus and the possibility of being exposed to it. Most, if not all of us, worry about it. It may not occupy us much during the day, but human nature being as it is, it will be on many of our minds/ thoughts in the 'early hours'! We need to know that we are, in a sense, united in this concern, anxiety and worry.

We are also united in our humanity. It is great to see how many people are reaching out to others: neighbours, the lonely, the isolated and the sick; these groups arise out of our faith communities and out of those with no overt faith, but simply want to make a difference. Our medical staff are stretched and putting themselves on the front line for our sakes! I know spouses who are living apart because one of them is a medic in the Hospital or elsewhere; so to avoid cross-contamination they are willing to put their family/personal life on hold! Dedication! Commitment! Bravery! Please don't 'socially distance' yourself, but certainly 'physically distance' yourself, even from the family members you don't live with (not easy by any means: see the tweet from the Pope elsewhere in newsletter). Stay in contact in whatever way you can: there are so many ways we can now do this. Stay in contact, close contact, with family, friends, parishioners, colleagues.....

We are also united in faith. Faith in an 'Almighty'; and for us reading this, faith in a God revealed in the person of Jesus. Jesus is not only an historical figure, he is 'The Christ' who spans space and time; who is the 'Alpha and Omega', the Beginning and End. He is The Christ who is with us every moment of every day: in our sleeping, in our waking, in our rising and in our living and in our dying ('pinching' words attributed to St Patrick!). We need always to stay connected with Christ in real time! This we can do in so, so many ways. At a time like this it is essential that we do so.

May I encourage us to pray more during this period when the Sacraments, especially the Mass, are not available to most of us. It is good to stream services, especially the Mass, but I think it is even more important to take this 'sacred time' (phrase from Lent Masses) to our hearts and develop a prayer habit/routine which normally we may not have done. We live in 'unusual' times and need to develop 'unusual' positive and creative habits of prayer. Keep faith, hold onto hope, and stay safe".

Vincent Harvey

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS MARY'S DOWRY:

Today (Sunday 29 March) every single Catholic in England will be invited to rededicate themselves personally to the Blessed Virgin Mary so that England can shine once again as the Dowry of Mary.

The Rededication will be streamed live from the Cathedral website at www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk (Diocesan Website link) during Bishop Philip's Mass today at 12 noon. The prayers that will be said are on the Diocese and Parish websites (The Angelus and Act of England to Virgin Mary).



FROM POPE FRANCIS ON TWITTER A WEEK

AGO: "Tonight before falling asleep think about when we will return to the street. When we hug again, when all the shopping together will seem like a party. Let's think about when the coffees will return to the bar, the small talk, the photos close to each other. We think about when it will be all a memory but normalcy will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift. We will love everything that has so far seemed futile to us. Every second will be precious. Swims at the sea, the sun until late, sunsets, toasts, laughter. We will go back to laughing together. Strength and courage. See you soon!" #Papafrancesco

RECENTLY DIED:



Mychaljo Karpinskyj, late of Wilton Manor Care Home, Southampton. Funeral 4pm Wednesday 8 April at Southampton Crematorium. May he rest in peace. Please keep his family in your prayers.

VOCATIONS... 5th Sunday of Lent - 29 March, 2020 "**Did I not assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?**" Do you believe Christ may be calling you to see the glory of the Blessed Trinity through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Contact Fr John Cooke email vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or Tel. No. 01329 318 869.

LENT 2020


THE LENTEN ROSARY PRAYER CHAIN: started on Ash Wednesday; we have 100 decades being said! Please pray for them all.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: 6 February – 6 April. The prayer vigil happens at the entrance to the Royal South Hants Hospital. BPAS is based in the hospital and it is here where the majority of abortions happen in Southampton. To sign up for vigil hours visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/southampton>

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION: With the forced closure of churches, our Lord is coming to visit us. He gives us the privilege to be in a private and direct relationship with Him but open to the world. So we can enjoy staying with Him, meditate, pray, talk to Him and ask Him for help, confess at home by promising to confess after the reopening of churches, to commune directly. *What a time of grace despite the great fear and pain so intense. Jesus is at the heart of our homes and hospitals. He takes care of each of us, He takes care of the sick and welcomes those who go towards Him. We can now, without waiting for Easter, declare that Jesus has risen in our hearts. Alleluia!*

CORONAVIRUS ... NEXT STEPS

- **Both churches** are now closed on the order of the Government
- **Newsletter** will still be produced:
 - Emailed out to anyone who wishes: let the Parish Office know
 - Placed on the Parish Webpage
 - Put on the Church doors
- **Parish Office** is closed BUT contact can be made via the Parish Office phone number or email
- **Mass intentions** will be said as scheduled for each day by one of the priests at a Mass 'behind closed doors' (congregation not allowed)! So be assured that 'your' intention will be offered. If you still want Masses offered for intentions contact the Parish Office
- **Spiritual aspects at home:**
 - Create a 'sacred space' (crucifix, statue, bible etc.) to focus prayer
 - Read all or some of the **Sunday scripture readings** ('Magnificat' <https://us.magnificat.net/free> OR access 'Universalis' on line)
 - Use the '**Morning Prayer**' which you will find on the **website**. It only takes 15 minutes; can be recited by the family; is 'The Prayer of the Church'
 - **Recite the Rosary**
 - **Access the Parish or Diocesan Website** for ideas (also to see the Parish newsletter)
 - A resource: www.stpaulcenter.com or <https://pray-as-you-go.org/player/prayer/2020-03-24>
 - Watch Mass on line on any site..... here are some
 - ◆ The Cathedral: www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk/live-mass.php or other churches: www.churchservices.tv/ or St Bede Church (Father Vincent's previous parish): www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk/live/
 - ◆ Glenstal Benedictine Abbey Ireland <https://www.churchservices.tv/glenstal> (daily Mass & Offices)
 - ◆ Bournemouth Oratory <https://www.churchservices.tv/bournemouth> Daily Mass 12.15
 - ◆ Our Lady & St Edmund, Abingdon <https://www.churchservices.tv/abingdon> (see schedule)
 - ◆ Walsingham <http://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream> (live & recorded)
 - ◆ St Mary of the Angels, Worthing <https://www.stmaryoftheangels.org.uk/> (Sunday 10.30 & 5.30pm)
 - ◆ Hove, Sussex <https://www.churchservices.tv/hoveparish>
 - **Pray with your children daily** if you can..... resource for children: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturg>
- **Continue to Practise good/excellent hygiene:** wash hands whenever you arrive home (soap and hot water the best); rub with gel if you have touched a hard surface when out, or been shopping, or had contact with another person. As school child wrote recently 'Careless Contact Costs Lives'!

- **Stay at home if possible** but if going out (considerate of the Government restrictions) do so keeping your distance from others
- **Support the Parish financially** if you can (a wall box inside the 'broken' glass door in St Edmund).....Gift Aid Envelopes can be put through the Office or Presbytery letter box..... **see also the Website for the Parish Account details**
- **Father Vincent** is still 'self-isolating' due to his age, and now all three priests are 'self-isolating', hopefully only until Friday! Working from the presbytery but with no contact with others.
- **We are creating a network of contacts** among the Teams that exist. Each Team leader has been contacted. Please get actively involved. **Facebook pages** are alive for the Parish:
 - St Joseph & St Edmund City Centre Catholic Parish Southampton <https://www.facebook.com/stedmundsrcia/> 
 - St Joseph's 10am crowd <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1790526351083510/> 
 - Solent Catholics <https://www.facebook.com/groups/416266855237801/> 

GENERAL ITEMS

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR MARCH. Evangelisation: Catholics in China: That the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

SCHOOL OF JOY: monies still coming in. The total stands at £,1845.15. Father Vincent has 3 prizes to collect (not now!!!!) for two winners: 'Gorretti' x 2 and 'Tessie SE' x 1.



PLEASE PRAY FOR all parishioners on our prayer lists and those we are not aware of who are ill or undergoing treatment or who have been affected by the Coronavirus in any way and Maria Carey (fall & op. recovery), Brig. Daya W, Daphne Cope, Tina Currie, Anushka P, Pastor Michael Cummins, Laneisha Vaz, Catherine Lyne (99), Joseph Connolly, John Jack, Margaret Hicks, Maire Quirk, Ewa Evans, Ewa Slinn, Teresa Hodges, Sue Hanrahan, Marisa Tellegen, Myra & Bosco Andrade, Madeleine Clarke, Bunty Weerakoon, Christopher Browne, David Spencer, Pat & Don Devers, Azad & Viyille Perera, George Chesworth, Jean White, Sheila Morris, John Hennessy, Pat O'Neill, Marcus Boulton-Smith, Jean Mooney, Eloise Chessman, Bobby Murphy, Jackie Galbraith, Joan Forbes, Doris Leggett, John O'Reilly, Bill Eastman, Shane Wing, Kathryn Morley, NW, Carol Butt, Maureen Lee, Roy Reeves, Joachim Rodrigues, Donna Madden, Joyce Mguni, Noreen Kealy, Kay Kelly, Colm O'Riordan, Simon Parry, Sue Tutton, Jeanette Brookes, Joy Grant, Ludwig Basisty, Irene Green, Malcolm Cross, Paul Sassu, Peter Scott, Maria Annunziata, Perry Cunio, Mike Mantle, Pauldia Grant.

200 CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE: New members needed, contact the parish office if you're keen.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2020

*(Church key to City Centre Catholic Masses below are SJ = St Joseph Church, Bugle Street, SO14 2AH and SE = St Edmund Church, The Avenue, SO17 1XJ)

SAT	28 MAR	VIGIL MASS	JENNY DONNARUMMA RIP—BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY (MC)
SUN	29 MAR	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	TEDDY RICHMOND RIP (GP & DP) REEMA KHALIL—1ST BIRTHDAY—GOD'S BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING (OA) FRANCIS PONNIAH 85TH BIRTHDAY—GOD'S BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING AND BLESSINGS TO THE FAMILY (ANUSHKA) DOMINIK, MATEUSZ, JOANNA—GOD'S BLESSINGS (BM) PAST & PRESENT DOYLE FAMILY MEMBERS (GD)
TUES	31 MAR	OF THE 5TH WEEK OF LENT	PAST & PRESENT DOYLE FAMILY MEMBERS (GD)
WED	1 APR	OF THE 5TH WEEK OF LENT	CHRISSE PARSONS RIP (GC) FOR ALL PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS SISTERS SERVING COVID-19 PATIENTS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES—GOD'S BLESSINGS, STRENGTH, HELP & THANKSGIVING (TK & MK)
THURS	2 APR	OF THE 5TH WEEK OF LENT	SUSANNA 'CHING' BAYLIS RIP (PO)
FRI	3 APR	OF THE 5TH WEEK OF LENT	MATTHEW MORAN RIP (F)
SAT	4 APR	OF THE 5TH WEEK OF LENT	ZOFIA MORS RIP (BM) BOB & SONIA WARREN RIP (SD)
SUN	5 APR	PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	LEO STOY—BIRTHDAY—GOD'S BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING (RB) MRS HADDON'S INTENTIONS EASTER BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVING TO GOD, JESUS, MOTHER MARY AND ALL THE ANGELS AND SAINTS AND THE UNIVERSE (ANUSHKA & FRANCIS) PIPPA WHITE RIP (EB & DB)

CONTACT DETAILS:

Parish Priest: Monsignor Canon Vincent Harvey
Email address: vharvey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Father Vincent Tel. No. 023 8033 4891
Presbytery Address: 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton SO152EQ

Assistant Priest: Father Ansel D'Mello
Email address: anseldmello@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Father Ansel Tel. No. 023 8017 2104

Assistant Priest: Father Jaya Praveen Yenubari
Email address: jpraveen@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Father Jaya Mob. No. 07774 552 341

Deacon: Deacon Andy Philpott
Email address: aphilpott@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mrs Anne Wheeler
Parish Office Tel. No. 023 8033 3589
Parish Office Address: St. Edmund Lodge, The Avenue, SO17 1XJ
Parish Email Address: southamptoncitycentre@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Website: www.southampton-city-catholics.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant: Mrs Tina Quinn / Mobile 07827 810 457
email: tquinn@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Catholic Home Care: Mrs Anne Monaghan 023 8017 0498
Email address: catholichomecare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Hospital Chaplaincy: 023 8120 8517—Father Joe McNerney

Polish Chaplaincy: Father Mariusz Urbanowski
Tel. No. 023 8178 6316 email: southampton@tchr.org
Address: 15 Landguard Road Southampton SO155DL

Safeguarding Reps: Claire Thompson (via Parish Office)

Solent Uni. Chaplain: Sister Emiliana Silva—Mob. 07426 000 213
email: emiliana.silva@solent.ac.uk

S'oton Uni. Chaplains: Fr Jaya Praveen Yenubari 07774 552 341
Sister Valentina Stilo—Mob 07983883377

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:

Springhill Primary 023 8033 3954
St Anne School 023 8032 8200
St George College 023 8032 2603

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH WEEK 1

**29 MARCH 2020
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Psalm Response:

With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will never die.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

READINGS 5 APRIL 2020

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4—7
2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 6—11
Gospel: Matthew 26: 14—27, 66

**2ND COLLECTION TODAY
CHURCH MAINTENANCE FUND
2ND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK
EASTER FLOWERS**

COLLECTIONS 22.3.2020	1ST	2ND—CLERGY ASSISTANCE
Totals	£1,825.89	£159.38
Cash	65.00	—
S / O	1,408.71	127.50
Gift Aid Rebate	352.18	31.88