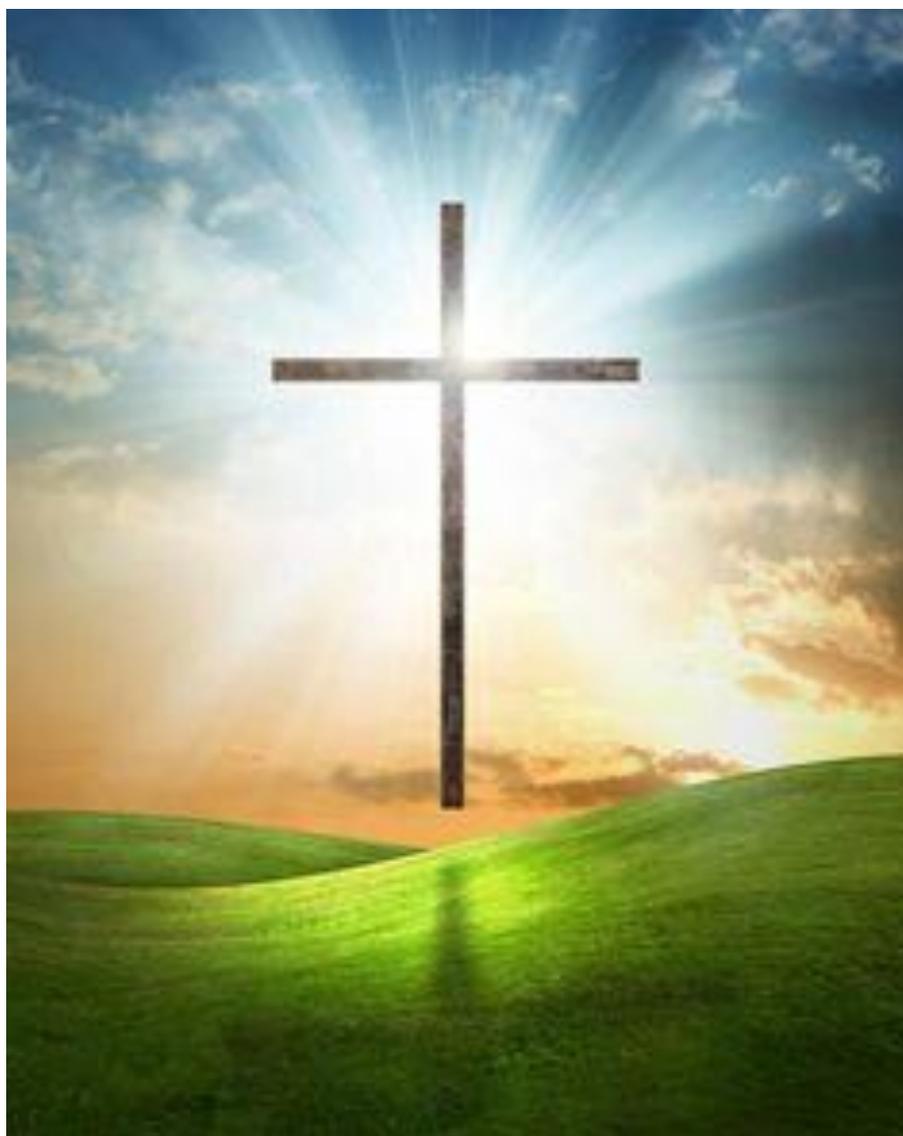


**CORPUS CHRISTI  
PARISH MAGAZINE  
APRIL 2020**



## PARISH VISION STATEMENT

- The Gospel calls Corpus Christi to be a living sign of Christ.
- An open and vibrant community growing in Spirituality.
- An active community where all are encouraged to participate.
- To work with other Churches, to spread the Good News to all and seek a greater understanding of other faiths.



Dear Parishioner,

I commend to you this initiative to have a monthly magazine. Angela Clarke is to be credited with suggesting the creation of this. I agreed that communication should be improved in the parish.

This is your magazine and it should reflect what is going on in the parish. It's also a place where causes can be promoted. Please note the article on CAFOD.

This leaflet can be given to someone who is enquiring about the Christian Faith, so it will have many purposes. May it also entertain you and cause you to smile or laugh.

I wish you a very prayerful Holy Week and joyous celebration of Easter.

Best Wishes and Prayers,

Canon Tom Gunning

P.S. In the wake of the coronavirus crisis, the public Masses have been suspended. In this unprecedented situation, we reach out to all who are isolated at home.

God is with us.

## POUR OUT YOUR GRACE

Lord

Mary Magdalene, in tears  
At the empty tomb, had lost you  
And was lost without you.  
So in life we can be downhearted  
Desperate for your help, lost,  
Not knowing how to find you.  
And there you were Lord,  
Not far away from the tomb,  
And when Mary saw it was you,  
Her tears turned to joy.  
Lord, pour out your grace  
Upon me, so I may seek you,  
And seeking find you,  
And finding you  
May the sorrows of my life  
And all my regrets and failings  
Turn to joy,  
The joy of knowing you  
Amen.

From the booklet Amazing Grace – by The Prayer Trust.

## FUNDRAISING

We have heard yet again that our church funds are in the red. Every year this is happening without improvement.

We cannot let this go on, this is our church, our community, we have to own this debt and deal with it.

Let us put our thinking caps on and try to find different ways to raise money. Contact the fundraising team with your ideas and offers of help and volunteer to do all you can.

Have you ever stopped to consider the enormous sum that many small amounts can come to?

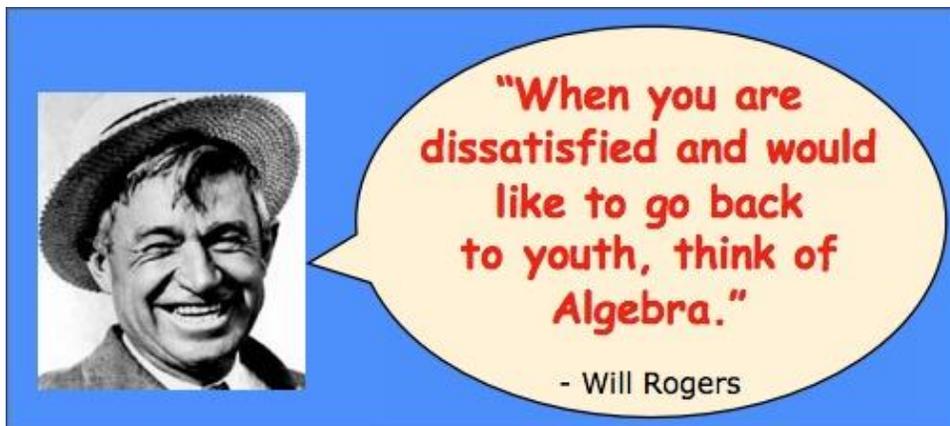
St. Josemaria Escriva



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

This is my Maisey keeping watch.

Let me have photos of your pet being silly, being clever or just being your friend.



## CAFOD – the First 60 years

CAFOD is the official overseas aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. It has been approved by the government and has received government funding. CAFOD works in 165 overseas countries (only the Red Cross is active in more) so no-one is out of reach. In many countries it works through Caritas International, an international Catholic organisation or through other Catholic or local sympathetic groups.

CAFOD was started 60 years ago by a group of Catholic mothers who organised the first Family Fast Day to raise money to help a mother and baby health centre in the Caribbean. Since then CAFOD has raised millions of pounds to help people worldwide.

CAFOD takes care to work through local organisations to find out what the REAL needs are and then it supplies what's really needed right where it's needed. In this way you can be sure the money you donate is well used. CAFOD also uses mainly volunteer staff in this country so that very little money is spent on overheads.

All that holds it back is money! At the moment, CAFOD can only respond to one in three of the requests it receives. There are many people who still lack food to eat or clean water and health care is either non-existent or rudimentary at best. Can we imagine what it would be like if we couldn't get something as simple as paracetamol? Please help CAFOD reach those people.

There is one very important thing absolutely every one of us can do. PRAY! All those working in arduous or even dangerous places tell CAFOD how our prayers sustain them. Who knows how many of those two thirds that can't be helped today might be helped by your prayers?

## NATURE WATCH

At first sight our towns and cities seem extremely inhospitable to wildlife, but there are over a million acres of gardens in Britain, most of them in towns and cities.

So many plant-eating or tree-dwelling animals and insects, whether they are moths and butterflies or goldfinches nesting in apple trees or bats switching their natural roosts from caves to house lofts, can feel as much at home in towns as in the country.

Let us know what wildlife you're seeing – in the garden, around town or perhaps seen from the train by the railway. Would love to see photos.

### UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

- Don't let worry kill you – let the church help
- For those who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs
- Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir, they need all the help they can get
- Ladies don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

## GARDEN WATCH

### Jobs for April

- Plant summer flowering bulbs and dead-head spring ones
- Buy bedding plants from the garden centres but beware of planting too soon, we could still get frosts
- Control weeds as soon as they appear
- Take cuttings of border plants
- Plant snowdrops in the green – whilst still in leaf
- Check for rose diseases and treat as necessary
- Prune spring flowering shrubs after they have finished flowering

The garden is starting to look good, trees getting their new leaves, spring flowers are at their peak.

A little warm sunny weather brings out the real enthusiasm for gardening and there is plenty this month to keep us busy.

Buy your spring plants once the weather has warmed up, as a sudden move from a sheltered garden centre or nursery to a cold garden plot can kill plants stone dead.

If you would like to read a good gardening blog, try 'Down to Earth' by Alan Down. He owns Cleeve Garden Centre.



## THE CRITTERS ARE AWAKE NOW

### The Snail

The snail was walking up the path.  
He said "What lovely rain  
I suppose those humans will be out  
Putting snail bait down again".

The woman living at number six,  
She throws us over the wall,  
It gives us such a headache  
When on the ground we fall.

The man who lives at number eight says  
"I will teach them how to fly"  
And throws us in the field.  
I don't know the reason why.

I will teach them all a lesson  
When they have gone to bed.  
I'll bite through all their plants and stems  
And then they'll all be dead.

Dot Stone



## ST. GEORGE – PATRON SAINT OF ENGLAND 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL

Very little is known about St. George's life, but it is thought he was a high-ranking officer in the Roman army who was killed in or around AD 303. It seems that the Emperor Diocletian had St. George tortured to make him deny his faith in Christ. However, despite the torture, St. George showed incredible courage and faith. He did not give in and was finally beheaded near Lydda in Palestine.

Stories of his strength and courage soon spread throughout Europe. The best-known story about St. George, is his fight with the dragon but it is unlikely that he ever fought a dragon and even more unlikely that he ever visited England. However his name was known here as early as the Eighth Century. In the Middle Ages, the dragon was thought to represent the devil.

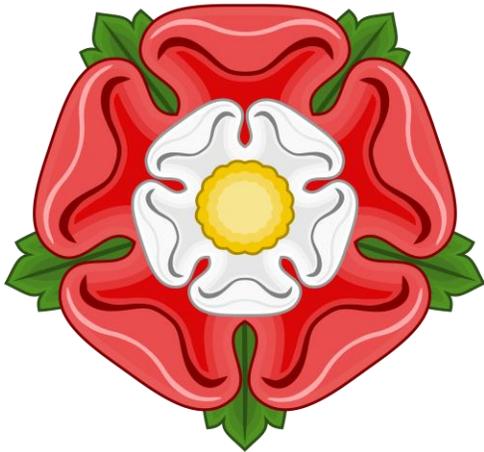
It was probably the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Crusaders who first invoked his name in battle. King Edward III made him the patron saint of England when he formed the Order of the Garter in St. George's name in 1350 and the cult of the saint was further advanced by King Henry V at the battle of Agincourt. Shakespeare made sure that nobody would forget St. George and had Henry V finish his pre-battle speech with the famous phrase 'Cry God for Harry, England and St. George'.

The tomb of St. George is in Lod, Israel.

England's national flower is the Tudor Rose. In 1486 Henry V married Elizabeth of York. Henry became the first Tudor monarch of a united England and he declared the rose as the national flower.

England's national bird is the robin. This was declared the unofficial bird of England in the 1960's, then in 2015 the bird was made official after a poll of the country got overwhelming support for the robin to be our national bird.

How lovely that the English have a patron saint, a man who has never been here, was supposed to have fought a dragon and was a warrior in a foreign army. Eccentric, contradictory – that's us!



## WELCOMING

I became a welcomer at Saturday evening Mass the first Sunday in Advent 2014. My dear husband had died in the July and he had been a welcomer for some seven years.

In the three months following his death so many people mentioned to me how much they missed him sitting in the lobby in his mobility scooter and having someone to say hello as they came in, that I decided to come forward and take it on.

As I was still grieving, I was a little anxious about this but Nuala Pluck, who had been a previous welcomer before Bob, said she would help me. Nuala offered to do alternate Saturday evenings, easing me in and guiding me. Sadly, Nuala died the following September, so I am now there every Saturday evening, welcoming, in her memory as well as Bob's.

Now five years later, I love it, I meet everyone, and I have made new friends as well as being with people I already know.

It is very nice in the summer to meet the visitors and find out where they are from and how they are enjoying their holiday.

I am now more relaxed about meeting people, I'll talk to anyone – waiting for the bus, in the supermarket queue or just in the street. If I see a grumpy face I smile, if I see a smile I will speak. After all strangers are just friends we haven't met yet.

I choose people to do the offertory on Saturday evening. If you feel this is something you would like to do, please come and see me.

Angela

## Easter Cards

Gloria Payne writes Easter Cards to give to our housebound parishioners who are unable to come to Mass.

This Easter, Gloria will write approximately 40 cards with the words 'love and prayers from your friends in Corpus Christi parish' inside. These cards are then taken by the Eucharistic Ministers to the parishioners when they take Communion.

Funds are provided by a small group of people, as needed.

This makes sure that none of our parishioners are forgotten at this special time.



## EASTER EGGS

Easter Sunday is the most important day in the Christian calendar. Many Christians will spend time at church in thought, prayer and celebration of Jesus Christ's Resurrection and many get together with family and friends for a special meal. There are also some more traditions to mark Easter which are very common – such as Easter Eggs, the Easter bunny and chocolate. Where do these come from?

A lot of us may eat chocolate eggs at Easter, but originally eating eggs was not allowed by the church leaders during Lent, so any eggs laid during Holy Week were saved and then decorated and given to children as gifts.

Victorians adapted the tradition with satin covered cardboard eggs filled with Easter gifts. This has now developed into the tradition that many people enjoy today.

The first chocolate eggs appeared in France and Germany in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, as chocolate making techniques improved. Hollow eggs like the ones we have today were developed. They very quickly became popular and remain a favourite tradition with chocolate lovers today.



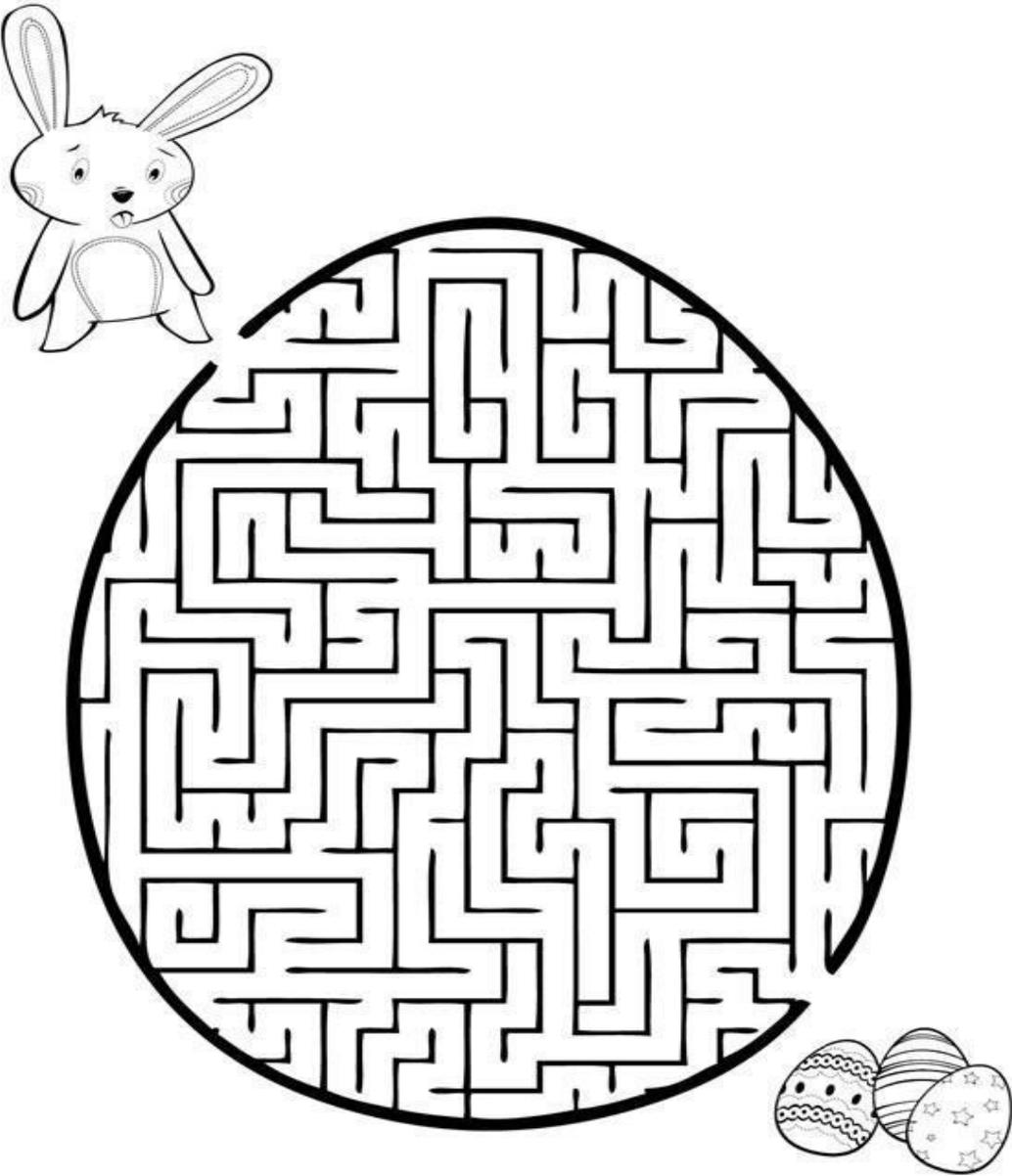
(c) Getty Images | Published in AvaxNews.com

## EASTER BUNNY

The story of the Easter Bunny is thought to have become common in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Rabbits usually gave birth to a large litter of babies (called kittens) so they became a symbol of new life. Legend has it that the Easter Bunny lays, decorates and hides his eggs as they are also a symbol of new life. This is why some children enjoy Easter egg hunts as part of the festival.



Poor little Easter Bunny – can you help him find its way through the maze to his eggs?



This is your community magazine, now we are all at home, self-isolating, let me know how you're managing. If you're at home with the children how are you managing with home-schooling, managing their energy levels etc.? Maybe you are, like me, living alone and not able to go out. I do have hobbies, I enjoy gardening and I am a crafter- I sew, do cross stitch and like making things. I usually see most of my friends each week. Now I am phoning them every day. I go for a walk every morning, through an empty town.

I used to go to an AGE UK exercise class, but have now signed up for two websites, Move It Or Lose It. These exercises are being posted on Facebook at 2.30pm, or you can watch on YouTube, and Get Ready 4 Any Age - Diana Moran's website - easy exercises. How are you keeping yourself busy, do you have hobbies? If you make things, let me see photos of anything you made. If you enjoy gardening, photos of your garden would be good. If an older couple, how are you coping with shopping, seeing your families and generally looking after each other?

These are strange, unnerving times and the not knowing is the worst of it. I am heartened by the community spirit that I am hearing about on the news. People stepping forward and helping their neighbours, if this is happening to you let me know, whether being helped or helping. The latest news I have just heard is about the number of people offering to volunteer for the NHS, now that is a good news story.

Are you involved with or know of a local charity? Would you let me know about it or write a piece yourself and send it in.

Do you have a poem that is important to you, or do you write poetry and have a poem you would like put in the magazine, please send it in.

You have seen the calibre of the jokes in this issue. If you have some gentle, kind jokes please send them in.

Compiler and Editor – Angela Clarke

To contact me:

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Phone: 01934 647807

Or leave articles in the 'C' pigeonhole in the church porch

If you feel you could help by becoming a reporter or finding events and would like to take photos at events, please let me know.

Items for inclusion in May's edition need to be with Angela no later than Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April please, otherwise I cannot guarantee they will be included.
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