

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Corpus Christi • Our Lady of Lourdes • St Joseph's

THIS WEEK
Holy Week

SUNDAY 5th APRIL 2020

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection.

Entrance Gospel Matthew 21: "1-11

1st Reading Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

2nd Reading Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Verse Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Gospel Matthew 26:14-27:66

Special Collection: THE HOLY PLACES

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic Churches to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land, who have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land.

To give to this appeal, please go to corpuschristiweston.org/giving - or save your cash donation until the Parish Office re-opens.



SIMON OF CYRENE
Canon Tom Gunning

Some forms of meditation encourage us to put ourselves into a Gospel scene. Perhaps we can identify with some of the characters in the Passion accounts that we hear on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. This can seem a bit negative as we observe the disciples fleeing after Jesus' arrest or Peter's denial. However, I think all of us can identify with Simon of Cyrene. He is forced to carry Jesus' cross. What cross are we being asked to bear at this time? What crosses are many being asked to bear at this time of crisis? In Corpus Christi church, the fifth Station of the Cross (see above) has two small figures under the cross that Simon is helping to carry. They are his sons, Alexander and Rufus, who are mentioned in St. Mark's Passion. This reveals a profound truth that family members also carry the cross of their loved ones. They suffer when they see them suffering. Our attention now turns to Jesus, the suffering servant at the centre of the Gospel. On Good Friday, we will hear in St. John's Passion, how after Jesus had died, his side was pierced with a lance and blood and water flowed out. This teaches us that the Church was born through the water of Baptism and it is sustained through the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ, Corpus Christi. The wood of the Cross has become the tree of life for us. Jesus gave His life that we might live. On Easter Sunday we will celebrate his Resurrection, his victory over sin and death. In doing so, we celebrate that we are called to rise with Christ, after we have faithfully carried his cross with him.

PARISH PRIEST: **CANON TOM GUNNING**

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NOTICE BOARD

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGIES This week is the most sacred time in the whole Christian calendar, where we experience liturgically the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord. We're just going to have to do so a little bit differently this year!

The Vatican has given us some guidelines on how to celebrate the Easter Liturgies - very sadly - 'without the presence of the faithful'. It may be possible to hold a 'Chrism Mass' later in the year (to be announced by the bishop), but the date of Easter is non-transferable. Therefore the Holy Week liturgies will go on behind closed doors, with some adjustments. On Maundy Thursday for instance, Canon Tom will not be required to wash his own feet (not during the liturgy, anyway), but will still renew his priestly promises. The Good Friday prayers will include a special petition for the sick and those who have died during the pandemic. There won't be a fire at the Easter Vigil, but the Paschal Candle will still be lit and the Exsultet sung.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE AT HOME? Well, even if we're not able to get a live-stream up and running from Weston, the Liturgies will be live-streamed on EWTN.co.uk, from Clifton Cathedral, Walsingham, or wherever else you've discovered to watch! (Share your favourites & we'll put them on our website).

Bishop Declan also included a list of suggestions for other ways of marking the Triduum, especially in families with children - please see the back page of this newsletter for a few ideas to get you started!

Finally, don't forget the Divine Office - the prayer of the Church - which can be prayed using the Universalis app, or website.

LITURGY TIMES These are the times for liturgies which we will observe (privately) at Corpus Christi, so that you can join yourself spiritually to the liturgy at these times, from wherever you are. (The time of the live-streamed liturgy with the Bishop at the Cathedral is given in brackets).

Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7.30pm (8pm)
Good Friday Service - 3pm (3pm)
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil - 8.30pm (8pm)
Easter Sunday Morning Mass - 9am (9.30am)

LIVE STREAMING Sadly, the company who has responsibility for the WiFi at Corpus Christi is now in lockdown, so it's back to the drawing board for us...

CONFESSIONS can still be heard (securely, but from a safe distance) at the Presbytery, just call or email to make a time.

CORPUS CHRISTI MAGAZINE Angela Clarke has put together a monthly magazine starting in April which is

now available to view on the website. Just go to corpuschristiweston.org/magazine

MASS INTENTIONS Canon Tom will still be celebrating Mass behind closed doors and the following intentions will be prayed for:

Sunday 5th - The People of the Parishes
Monday 6th - Kathleen Franklin R.I.P
Tuesday 7th - Ken Morrison R.I.P
Wednesday 8th - Gwen Ogden R.I.P
PASCHAL TRIDUUM BEGINS.

THE DIVINE MERCY CANDLE is still burning at Our Lady of Lourdes, this week for the intentions of the Byrne Family.

A NOTE ON FINANCES Our churches, like so many other people at the moment, are in a situation of having lost a lot of income, whilst having just as many bills to pay. That's why we're asking, *only if you're able to*, that you consider continuing your material support.

The best way, if you can offer a monthly or weekly contribution, is to set up a standing order, using the following bank account numbers:

CC: 66287383
OLOL: 66287391
ST J's: 6287405
Sort code (for all three): 52-10-03

If needed, the account names are 'Clifton Diocese re: parish of...'. Please reference any regular contribution as 'offertory' and if you are an existing Gift Aid Envelope user please include your envelope number. If you have an existing standing order, this will continue to be paid as normal.

Alternatively, we now have a 'Donate by PayPal' button on each of our websites - and all three can be accessed from corpuschristiweston.org/giving. You can use any card and you don't need a PayPal account.

If a more low-tech approach is preferred, you could keep a cash piggy bank ready for whenever we're back again! Cheques, though, can't be cashed until the Parish Offices are open again.

Finally, Gift Aid increases the value of donations by 25%. If you can use Gift Aid, please include your name



CLIFTON
DIOCESE

www.cliftondiocese.com
for all diocesan news and events

Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St Joseph's parishes are all part of Clifton Diocese. We pray for Bishop Declan Lang, and all the priests, deacons, parishes, and people of our diocese.

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REFLECTION FROM **CLIFTON DIOCESE**

Spiritual writer, Henri Nouwen, tells the story of an old man who, noticing a scorpion caught in the tangled roots of a tree, stretches out and tries to free the scorpion. The scorpion reacts by stinging his hand. He recoils in pain but tries once more. He continues to do this while his hand grows more and more bloody and swollen. A passer-by sees what is happening and laughs, shouting across to him, 'Silly old man, don't you know it is the nature of the scorpion to sting? That ugly creature will kill you if you keep on' The old man stares back at him and replies, 'Just because it is the nature of the scorpion to kill, why should I give up my nature to save?'. The all-consuming compassion and love of Jesus is reflected in this story. The death of Jesus was the ultimate act of sacrifice to save us. Through the very bloody and inhumane suffering of one man, we have been given life. Today is a day to glorify the Lord and to be with him in his pain, so that we may also share his victory.

and/or envelope number in the reference. If you could Gift Aid, but don't currently have a number, let us know and we will get a Gift Aid form to you.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS There is a PayPal button on the website (see previous notice) to donate to the Good Friday collection for upkeep and security of the Holy Places and the needs of Christians in the Holy Land (see page 1).

Last Sunday, there would have been a second collection to *Lepra* - a charity supporting those suffering from Leprosy. Corpus Christi has sent a cheque for £150 in lieu of that collection.

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT from a friend of our parishes, an Anglican minister in Weston, Rev Julie Birkett: 'I'm learning a lot about all kinds of online communications - all new to me, but it is wonderful how so many thousands are tuning into online worship services who would not normally go to church. Society is changing and I wonder what new world we shall emerge into when this is over. One thing we can be sure of is that God is Sovereign. The birds are singing, the sun is shining and Spring is here!'

HELPING THE **VULNERABLE**

CAFOD 'This virus is truly a global pandemic. We are extremely concerned about how it will affect countries with weak health infrastructure, limited water access and communities in refugee camps. We are doing everything we can, now, to support existing

communities to reduce the impact of the virus and we will be developing an urgent response programme. There are regular updates on our website. Please pray for our partners, and for Church networks throughout the world, as they prepare to respond. Thank you for keeping in your thoughts and prayers those least equipped to deal with the spread of this virus: those with poor health, poor healthcare, who cannot isolate or do not have access to soap, water and sanitation.'

For those collecting CAFOD money boxes, you can always make your donation online (cafod.org.uk) or by bank transfer (CAFOD, 11769410, 16-00-30). Alternatively, keep adding change to the boxes and bring them back to church once this is over.... and if you need help carrying the boxes by then, we'll gladly help!

The leftover Easter Eggs have been donated to the Foodbank.

HOMELESS NEWS Sadly, the homeless shelter we have been supporting has now had to suspend its operations completely, and are no longer able to receive donations. They told me that the YMCA is still operating and in contact with the clients, but I haven't yet been able to get in touch with them, so for the time being food donations are being given to the foodbank.

FOOD BANK 'EMERGENCY' APPEAL Our teams are stretched to the limit due to space, the need to keep a safe distance and the amount of people needing our help. We are struggling to keep up with making emergency parcels - therefore we are asking if you would like to make emergency boxes. Each box would be identical, enabling you to order items and pack as many as you can. We can supply the boxes and a list of things to go in them: please email (rather than call) at info@wsmfoodbank.org.uk

OUR OWN COMMUNITY If you know of anybody who is vulnerable or self-isolating, who may be in need of help during this time, please let us know at the Parish Office and we can arrange to help them.

More generally, the voluntary effort in Weston and across North Somerset is being co-ordinated by VANS (vansweb.org.uk) - so you can go online if you feel you can volunteer your time in any way.

STREET INVEST is a charity often supported by our parishioners, and like many charities has seen its income fall away, while the need for its services has skyrocketed. Go to: streetinvest.org for details.

Suggestions for celebrating the Triduum in families with children

These suggestions are offered as a starting point for us to think about how we might celebrate at home, according to our own circumstances. It is also an encouragement to be imaginative and meaningful for the circumstances in which we find ourselves. If you are alone, and many will be, know that you are united with others doing the same. We are united in the love God has for us all as we find a new way of being Church at this time.

Holy Thursday 9 April 2020

At sunset or early evening have a meal together, including bread and wine, if possible. Beforehand, maybe earlier in the day, read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-15. During the course of the meal talk about what Jesus was doing when he was celebrating the Passover. Talk together on what the washing of the feet in John's gospel means for us today, in how we show love for one another. It might be possible to choose a specific act you could engage in over the Easter period, eg contribute to a food bank or charity, write or phone someone, make it a unique gesture that suits your family, or your circumstances. Finish with a prayer thanking God for all we have been given.

Good Friday 10 April 2020

At 3pm, gather together with a cross in the middle of the gathering. Read together, John 18:1-19:42. (If children are present tell the story in an age appropriate way rather than reading the text.) Spend some time quietly and pray for the pain and suffering of our world. Depending on how many are there, it might be good to encourage everyone to share and pray for where they see suffering at present. Finish with an Our Father.

Easter Sunday 12 April 2020

As early in the morning as is possible for you make and have a very special breakfast. Decorate the table, including in the decorations a symbol of new life, possibly a plant, and home baked bread. Read, Matthew 28:1-10 either before breakfast or during it. Finish with a prayer asking God to enable us to live "Do not be afraid..."

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THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN
WESTON-SUPER-MARE
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