

NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER, JERSEY

Issue 2, Passion Sunday, 29 Mar 2020

Dear Friends,

"A week is a long time in politics"

A famous quote from former Prime Minister Harold Wilson. Yes indeed, things can sometimes change *very* quickly in life too and not just in politics! At the moment, for wholly justified reasons, the same is *even* true of the Deanery of Jersey a part of the Church of England! With great sadness therefore and until further notice, I have to tell you that the Parish Church of St Peter, will no longer be open to the public each day, as a result of a changed policy of the Deanery of Jersey, due to the worsening virus epidemic. This will not only help protect the public, but also clergy and other staff and officers.

Nevertheless, it is a sad day to need to close the churches, but that is the nature of this terrible virus that is spreading so rapidly around the globe. Anything which delays it's march will be for the good of all, for it will 'buy time,' enabling the medical and caring professions to better care for those who are already ill, plus allowing research scientists to beaver away in developing, with God's help, a vaccine against it.

As Christians we need always to centre ourselves on Christ and particularly so during Lent, Holy Week and Easter keeping a healthy spiritual life as well: hence all the items I mentioned (and repeat again this week) that can be listened to on radio and/or be watched on TV.

There is an old phrase that we often use to do with Passiontide which is '**Watch and Pray**'. I invite you to do just that this Sunday, by seeing on our Church Website Facebook page, a recording of the Service of The Stations of the Cross recorded in the Parish Church of St Peter.

I invite you to go further than just seeing it out of interest, but to go much further than that: 'Watch it and pray it' along with your priest.

In the silences at each station look at the Icon on the screen: meditate and reflect upon it and think about what Jesus was going through at that moment on His final journey to the cross and then what he went through on the cross itself. Remember that Jesus did all that out of love for you and me and for the whole of creation.

If you do this, I'm sure that you will be humbled and realise anew, the sheer extent of God's love shown in and through Jesus the Christ. Again, when you really take that deep spiritual understanding into your inner being, respond in love, by giving yourself to Jesus anew. Allow yourself to be drawn ever deeper to Jesus our saviour, for he understands our individual sufferings, having been through the suffering of the cross. That will strengthen your heart and mind to get through this time of collective and individual trial, especially when also knowing that all from St Peter's are watching and praying this service together.

The Mothering Sunday Mass shown last Sunday had an incredible number of 'hits', i.e. 694 people, the largest congregation I've had, since I've been here! Of course it doesn't mean that they watched the whole thing, but from all the comments I've had, a significant number certainly did!

Let us all be encouraged this Passion Sunday by this knowledge, realising that with our fellow Christians together, we are the Body of Christ, even if we are worshipping from our own home.

I also commend to you the Day of Prayer item from The Dean (see below) and invite all to collectively pray again on Sunday evening at 1800.

God bless you all. 'Stay safe. Stay well'.

Father Michael

Father Michael Phillips,

Rector of St Peter, Jersey

Telephone: 01534-481805 rector@stpeterschurch.org.je

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 the Facebook

WAYS TO WORSHIP IN YOUR OWN HOME:

SUNDAYS on CHURCH WEBSITE:

**1030 Mass (On Passion Sunday it is Stations of the Cross instead)
from St Peter's on the theme of the day.**

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, CRUCIFIX, ICON

Use these as a focus for your prayers in your own home

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.

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.

PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED: Edna Sumner.

MOTHERING SUNDAY FLOWERS:

My thanks to the lady who donated the 50 bunches of Flowers, Churchwarden Christine Coen.

TO THE CONGREGATION OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER.

18th March 2020

At this time of great uncertainty, it is only right that the Church in Jersey follows the advice of the Church of England and also the authorities here on the island with respect to health and wellbeing of all those who attend services in our churches.

This is so in St Peter, however one of the most significant issues which we need to consider during the present situation is that the way the congregation gives to support the church in St Peter will need to change, if only for a temporary period.

As everybody is aware the Jersey Deanery is self-supporting, it receives no financial support from the Diocese in Canterbury and apart from a small contribution toward admin and safeguarding costs, the Deanery does not pay anything to the Diocese, all funds raised in Jersey are used to pay the costs of running the Jersey Deanery.

It must also be remembered that our trust fund which currently contributes over 10% of our share may well be affected by the turmoil in the stock market, added to this many of our annual fund raising events may well be cancelled due to the restrictions caused by the virus.

It is therefore critical that the Anglican Churches in Jersey pay their 'Share'. The current share for a parish church in Jersey with a full-time priest is £72,000. St Peter currently receives support from other Churches due to historical events. Therefore for 2020 St Peter is being asked to pay £36,000, (half the share of others). This is money the congregation are asked to give/raise: it is not for the Parish to give this money, as they so generously do with the maintenance of the building.

For the foreseeable future the congregation will not be able to contribute on a weekly basis via the collection and so I feel I must ask you all how we are going to fulfil our giving. Currently there are three ways:

- 1** On a weekly / monthly basis send a cheque payable to St Peters Church, for your giving, addressed to The Treasurer c/o The Rectory, La Rue due Presbytere, St Peter, JE3 7ZH...or...
- 2** Write a letter to your bank asking them to pay a monthly sum direct into the St Peters Church, Nat West Bank, Sort Code 60-12-03 account number 66609739...or...
- 3** For those who have online access, use the account above to set up a standing order, pay a regular monthly amount, or make periodic lump sum payments.

With the unprecedented position the world finds itself in, I in no way wish to add to the anxiety of any member of the congregation, however **I am sure you will appreciate it is far better we plan now, continuing to give robustly, so the Parish Church of St Peter, will come out this, financially secure and more importantly spiritually closer than before.**

Howard Buesnel.

Treasurer.

CHANNEL ISLAND DAY OF PRAYER: Sunday 29th March at 6pm

Dear friends and colleagues, brothers and sisters in Christ

Following the 'Day of Prayer' instigated by the Archbishop of Canterbury last week on Mothering Sunday for the Anglican Church, I am calling for an Ecumenical Day of Prayer on Sunday 29th March, for the **whole of the Channel Islands**, as, together, we face this pandemic of Covid-19.

Mindful that churches may be streaming services in the morning, I am asking all church leaders in their various denominations to contact their church members to encourage them to pray on Sunday and collectively at **6pm**, specifically for:

- those who lead our Island communities and the difficult decisions that they have had to make.
- those who have Covid-19, both in the wider world and within our own communities.
- those in the healthcare profession who are caring for them and working long hours at great risk to themselves.
- those who are anxious and afraid and who are far from home.
- Those who are bereaved.
- those who have lost their jobs and income and are at financial risk.
- that we, as Christians, may be servants in our communities, united in our faith and committed together in prayer.

Please join with me in using this prayer and/or others at or around 6pm as we bring to God our concerns.

**Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated of our love and your love,
for your name's sake. Amen.**

Please spread this message as widely as possible, using social media so that all Christian communities are united purposefully in prayer this coming Sunday.

Yours, in Jesus Christ

Mike,

Dean of Jersey

Cast all your cares on Him for He cares for you' (1 Peter 5:7)

Parish of St Peter: Message from the Constable - Coronavirus Update

I thought it important to write to all Parishioners to reassure them that both myself and the Parish Hall staff are here to support you all during the Coronavirus outbreak and to assist with the challenges that may arise.

The Parish Hall will continue to operate but I would ask Parishioners to contact us by telephone or eMail rather than visiting in person in order to limit the potential to spread the virus, the doors will remain closed from Monday 23rd March 2020

We have a group of volunteers who will assist with shopping, collection of prescriptions, a visit or call to an elderly friend or relative, and other tasks. If you are unable to leave your home and do not have family or friends who can assist please contact us.

It is important to remember:

- Always follow the latest Coronavirus advice from the Government of Jersey which will be released via the media, alternatively you can obtain the latest advice on-line at **gov.je/coronavirus**
- If you are told you should self-isolate please do so both for your protection and that of others.
- The Parish are available to provide general advice and more importantly for those of you who need assistance, they will take your details and arrange for one of our volunteers to assist. Please Contact the Parish Hall during on **01534 481236** between 09.00 and 16.00 or by eMail at StPeter@posp.gov.je.
- After Hours there is an Emergency Mobile number **07797 787355** which will be held by one of our volunteers every day until 8.00pm including weekends.
- Medical queries should not be directed to the Parish Hall or Emergency Mobile number please call the Central Government Coronavirus Helpline on **01534 445566**.
- If you are living alone and would like someone to contact you from time to time our volunteers will be happy to do this. Simply contact the Parish Hall and provide your details.

Parish Events, Clubs and Administration - Update

It is with some regret that we have had to cancel all our Liberation 75 Celebrations. I know many of you were looking forward to these events and I thank the team that had already undertaken considerable work towards the celebrations.

We will have to make next year even more special and if the later in the year the Coronavirus outbreak is no longer a threat perhaps we should consider a parish celebration as we are allowed to return to normality.

- All meetings of the Senior Citizens clubs are postponed until further notice
- St. Peters Youth Club will be closed until further notice. Please follow the @jerseyyouthservice Facebook and Instagram page for current updates, information and guidance.
- The Parish Pre-School has closed although the Tea Room will remain open for as long as we are permitted to do so.
- Refuse Collections will continue on the normal day, but collections are likely to take place earlier. Please put out your bins as early as possible. **Richard Vibert**