

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



WHITSUN (PENTECOST)

Newsletter, Issue 10: 31 May 2020

Dear Friends,

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

Collect:

O God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, 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 John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

John 20.19-23

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

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

Sermon, Whitsun

31st May 2020

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ (John 20.21)

When you were a little child, like most children, when thinking about God, you may have asked your Mum or Dad or Grandma or Grandpa, 'Where is God?' One answer received might have been 'He's up in Heaven' which leads to a question in a child's mind, 'Where is Heaven?'

Another answer that might be given is 'God is all around you'. And 'He is always watching you and therefore knows if you have been good or naughty'.

These two answers can then lead to a child or indeed an adult, (because we are physical beings) to still think, 'Yes but where *is* God and Heaven?' and a very small child will actually look around them.

Because we are physical beings, the tendency is for children, but also sometimes adults to need a "physical answer". It's difficult without further explanation for a child to understand more deeply. If this is given however, then as they grow up physically, their understanding will 'grow up' as well.

One of the most important things in terms of religious faith for a child to learn about, is the difference between 'religious language' and 'scientific language'.

This can only be done of course, after about the age of eleven or twelve, but there is the need, as they grow physically and mentally, to also grow spiritually. This is sometimes even necessary for adults too, in terms of spiritual matters!

People grow up physically and mentally but not everyone seems to grow up spiritually, because of the lack of help, at the right moment. So, to say to a child or even to an adult, 'God is in Heaven' or 'He is all around you' is not enough to produce understanding.

How do we know that God is 'in Heaven' or 'here around us now'?

We cannot see him, hear him, touch him, taste him, or even smell Him: in other words we cannot be aware of God, just through our senses.

What we *can* do though, is to become aware of his existence all the time, by seeing the *effects* of his presence in the here and now. For example, we know that there is air around us because we can see the *effects* of the air, by seeing it move the leaves and branches on trees. We don't see the air itself, but we can see the *effects* of the air.

It is the same with God the Holy Spirit: we cannot see God, yet we *do* see the effects of his presence in the world and in people, from the beauty of nature, to the goodness, care and love in peoples lives and for each other.

As with the air, without God we could not live in Body, Mind or Spirit and indeed we could not exist at all.

So, at Whitsun (otherwise known as Pentecost) as we rejoice in the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on this day, we experience God through observing the *effects* of his presence, even though we cannot see him, himself.

May God's Holy Spirit dwell in your hearts now and always. May you offer your lives to Him daily, through the service of others, as did the Apostles. **Amen.**

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

Post Communion Collect:

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

75th Anniversary Liberation Badge



As I go around the Parish, I have been and will continue to give out, these specially produced 75th Anniversary Liberation badges, for your delight and interest! These have been produced by the Parish, which were to have been given out on Liberation weekend, but because of the virus, I'm doing it bit by bit, so please be patient and eventually you will receive your badge, I hope you will wear it with pride, during this particular year.

Has your Newsletter appeared correctly on your screen?

Thank you for reading the newsletter each week. I hope that you enjoy reading it and also viewing the services on the Church Website Facebook.

I have had some very useful feedback as to the Newsletter's transmission. A small number of you, have found that some of the pages have been 'over printed' on top of the page that you are reading, which makes it very difficult to read.

I have taken advice from several people and they have suggested sending the Newsletter as a PDF, rather than as a Word Document. As I am not very good with computers, I have no idea what this all means, but I have done a test run from me to a parishioner: it now seems to be working fine as a PDF.

Thank you to those who have let me know about this! If you had not let me know, then this improvement could have not been made. Please do let me know of any such problems in the future.

Your Priest can now go into church!

Bishop Trevor has now permitted for each priest on the Island to go into his/her *own* church again. He very clearly stated however, that public services cannot take place inside. This is because of the need for social distancing for the protection of each of us.

As a result of this welcome change, this week's Mass, which you will be able to see on the Church Website Facebook page, will come from the church itself, and not from the Rectory garden! It is a joy to be able to celebrate the Eucharist at the High Altar at the Church again, so that you can view it in your own home.

Information about the Icon on the front cover of this week's Newsletter

Whitsun, otherwise known as Pentecost, is the sixth of the seven great festivals of the Christian Calendar. I hope you will enjoy celebrating this together 'online'.

The Orthodox Icon on the front cover is a beautiful depiction of Pentecost, showing the gathered Apostles in the Upper Room. The chair in the middle is empty, symbolizing that Jesus is no longer with them in human form: he is present however on the table/altar in the centre of the group as Christ the King, meaning he is present through the Holy Spirit (shown at the top, as rays from heaven) in the Sacrament. It is known that this Icon was written in 1497, but the writer's name is lost to history.

Rotas

The present Rota which, because of the present emergency we have hardly had to use, runs out on 7 June. I will shortly be putting a *new* rota together, so that one is ready, should the restrictions on Public Worship be lifted. This way, there would not be huge rush to organise things at the last minute.

If you are going away (once this is allowed) and if you are on a rota of any sort, during the next three months (June, July, August), please could you let me know, so that I don't put you down to read or whatever, on a Sunday for which you would be away.

Probably it will be some months before public Worship can happen again, but I am just trying to think ahead.

This Sunday's Service

Could I re-emphasize that to access this and previous services on the Church Website you do not have to have Facebook yourself. Once on Church Website (www.stpeterschurch.org.ie) click on the Facebook to see them.

I say this because some people have thought that if they didn't have Facebook themselves that they wouldn't be able to see the services. Happy viewing!
Father Michael

One Year Ago



The poem overleaf, from a friend, the talented Tony Bellows, is a thoughtful reflection on last year. He writes, "Not that we were *all* wholly buying into the consumer society, and some of us were certainly adopting green policies, but all of us were probably complicit in one way or another, and more detached about the suffering and poverty elsewhere in the world, even if we did care about it, because we didn't experience that privation first hand. The largely materialist society, struggling to look at climate change, buying into the sacred mantra of growth, did

tend to assume that no problem could not be surmounted, with our science and technology, even if some sounded warning notes”.

One Year Ago

One year ago, the future seemed fine
And the world mostly was benign
Although refugee camps were there
It did not stop people drinking beer
Worlds apart, jetting, holidays abroad
No Thursdays all coming out to applaud
Locked in, coming out to say thanks
War zones distant , cruise missiles, tanks
We lived like gods, eating fine food
Cinema, night clubs, whatever the mood
And no expense spared, consumer land
But it was all a mansion built on sand
And over the year, crumbled to dust
And those treasures came to rust
Lessons learnt: for some perhaps, maybe
Just to see, touch, hug, a new baby
May be enough, simple joys are best
And time enough for our world to rest
Reflect, pause, look deeply at our life
As the virus cuts, uncaring, like a knife
Though all the barriers, reaching all
Teaching us that we may still fall
And we are not gods, not so great
Can yet be struck low by fickle fate
Time to remember, who we are
Time to shine brightly, like a star
Change the world, for better now
Renew again, and make a vow
Look hard and deep, and taking stock
To build afresh, on solid rock
That something come of evil blight
And let our light shine out so bright
Across the sky, across the sea
And there lies hope for you and me.

£ A Word About Money £

Many thanks to all those who have already sent cheques, in lieu of money, that would normally be put on the collection plate at services inside the church. It is much appreciated.

For those who have not donated, The Treasurer and I, plus the Church Officers, earnestly hope that you are putting money aside each week in a 'jam jar' (real or metaphorical!) so that when the churches are allowed to reopen, you will be able to bring that money to church or of course to put the cheque 'on the plate'. I hate to even write about money, but having talked with The Treasurer it was felt that a word to you all might be useful.

We have had a letter from the Chairman of the Deanery Finance Committee, stating that they estimate that by October, at the present rate, they will have exhausted all the reserves that they had.

As a priority, St Peters Parish Church is continuing to pay its Share allocation of £1,500 per month towards its Share Allocation of £36,000 per annum as requested, being mindful of The Treasurer's letter in a previous Newsletter, that that is half the amount of £72,000 per annum, the starting point in the Share Allocation process, for each Church in the Deanery of Jersey.

Because of the lack of services, we are not receiving anything like that amount in because there are no 'collections', so there is a danger of things become critical in the not too distant future. As indicated above there is no huge pot of money held by The Deanery from which we could be helped and of course there are other churches on the island, in the same position as us. If we all give methodically and regularly then things will go well, but if we don't then...! 'Cash flow' is so important not only because of our contribution to the Deanery of Jersey but because of the many bills which still have to be paid each month, as is the case in any organisation. I hope you will take this matter to heart.

Father Michael

Annual General Meeting and Election of officers

Each church in the Church of England in the Deanery of Jersey has received an email from The Dean of Jersey about these matters.

Basically there will be no AGM this year or Election of Officers within this Calendar Year and all the current officers are asked to remain in post, until the next AGM actually does take place, which would not be until next year.

Having said all that, each church is to send its Annual Accounts for 2019 to The Deanery of Jersey Finance Committee, once they have been inspected by an 'Independent Examiner'. They will also be sent out to everyone on the Church Electoral Roll, for your interest.

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 the Church Facebook page. The service for each Sunday 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 Face book page.

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.

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.

CROSS, PALM CROSS especially at this time, CRUCIFIX, ICON

Use these as a focus for your prayers in your own home. Thank you for the many calls of appreciation about the Palm Crosses being sent to you at home.

A Prayer for use each day in Whitsuntide at the end of the day: Salve Regina

The Marian Devotion 'Salve Regina', is traditionally used at the end of the day, but especially during the Season of Pentecost. I have put it here, so that you can use this at home if you wish in your daily devotions, before going to bed. It was written in the 11th-century and is usually sung in Latin as a prayer. Many different composers (monks - especially those of Cluny; Handel, Vivaldi, Schubert) put it to music.

Interestingly, it became part of the blessing said for ships, about to head out to sea at the end of their time on land, as a prayer of protection, making it a favorite of sailors. In addition, the Salve Regina is included in the Funeral Rite for priests at the end of their time on earth, sung at the end of the service by all the other priests who are in attendance.

Both the words and music are truly beautiful, to listen too and to use: at the end of each day and of life itself.

*Regina, mater misericordiae:
Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus, exsules, filii Hevae.
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.
Eia ergo, Advocata nostra,
illos tuos misericordes oculos
ad nos converte.
Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis, post hoc exilium ostende.
O clemens: O pia: O dulcis
Virgo Maria.*

Queen, mother of mercy:
our life, sweetness, and hope, hail.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To you we sigh, mourning and weeping
in this valley of tears.
Turn then, our advocate,
those merciful eyes
toward us.
And Jesus, the blessed fruit of thy womb,
after our exile, show us,
O clement, O loving, O sweet
Virgin Mary.



Prayers about the current virus Epidemic



I hope that you will find these prayers useful in your own prayer life at home. Prayer is at the heart of any Christian's life, just as much as it is at the heart of our communal life as the Body of Christ, which is The Church. These prayers have been specially produced by the Church of England, for use at the present time.

FOR ALL WHO WORRY

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

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 assure the isolated of our love and your love,
we ask this for your name's sake. Amen

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Merciful God, we entrust to your care those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR HOSPITAL STAFF, CARERS & MEDICAL RESEARCHERS

Heavenly Father we ask you to give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strength them with your Spirit,
That through their work many will be restored to health, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. 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; Molly; Stephan Mauger; John Le Riche; Riley.

Also, please pray for all those who are ill with the coronavirus.

PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED: Rozelle Surcouf

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



HATS for the MISSION to SEAFARERS!

Many thanks to those who have kindly offered to knit some hats for the Mission to Seafarers, to be given to those who work upon the seas: There are a selection of designs. If you know of anyone else who might like to do this work and you want me to send copies of the patterns on to them, please just let me know their address. I look forward to seeing the hats in due course! Father Michael

How to contact me:

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Church Facebook: go on the website and click on the Facebook to see Mass from The Parish Church of St Peter. All previous services are also available on the website.