

THE PARISH OF ST DUNSTAN AND ST JUDE

Easter Sunday

Sunday 12th April 2020

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Happy Easter! Although we are distanced due to the current pandemic - Christ is still Risen!

For all of us it has been an Easter unlike any other. Although we haven't been together for the sacred liturgies of Holy Week and Easter, I know many of you with iPhones and computers have managed to catch the liturgies that have been 'broadcast' from St Dunstan's.

There is also a beautiful meditation on the Stations of the Cross using the stations at St Jude's. If you haven't used it yet - have a look.

It has been also good to hear, through emails and phone calls, that others have been able to follow this sacred week through satellite tv channels like EWTN. Yet others have been saying the rosary or doing prayers and devotions as a family, Thank you for your commitment to this.

It's been good to see that some of the children have been decorating posters for their windows at home to commemorate the events of this week. Well done! Easter Day strangely lasts for eight days! For great days like Easter (or Christmas) can't possibly be contained in a day - and so the glory of Easter spills out over 8 days - the octave!

Each day of the Easter Octave you will find Mass on the website at 11am.

Next Sunday - the Octave Day of Easter and Feast of Divine Mercy - there will, in addition to the 11am Mass, be the Divine Mercy devotion at 3pm, followed by Benediction.

**Fr Philip, Fr Simon, Deacon David
and Sr Catherine wish you and all your
families a very Happy and Holy Easter**

Queen Elizabeth Hospital: Please could the families of all patients in the QE Hospital make sure that the ward is notified that the patient is a Catholic. This means the Chaplain will be notified. In these high-pressured times, he won't have the time or freedom to go around searching. People will be missed if the hospital staff aren't informed.

Care Homes in the Parish: If you have family members who are resident in one of the Care Homes in the Parish, and they need a visit from the priests in an emergency, this needs to be requested through the staff at the care home.

It is with great sadness that funerals cannot be held in churches. The Archbishop has stated that funeral services must be held at the graveside or in the crematorium chapel. On the day of a funeral the Priest will offer a Mass of Requiem privately for the deceased. As soon as we can gather once more, family and friends will be invited to Church for a Requiem Mass.

If you need to speak to either one of the priests or the Parish Administrator, it is encouraged to do so via a phone call or email. Similarly, if you should require a priest in an emergency, please do not hesitate to call the Presbytery.

Easter Duties 2020 from the Bishops Conference:

"Many of you will be aware of performing your "Easter Duties"; that is, to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season and by custom, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation beforehand. Since it is not possible for the faithful to receive Holy Communion at this time, and into the future, the Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for the year 2020.

The Bishops have asked that all should make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time. Perfect contrition (or a Contrition of Charity) is true and real sorrow for our sins which is created when we realise the immense love of God for each one of us. We express this contrition when we realise how we offend God by our sinful words, deeds and omissions in contrast to the immeasurable love and mercy that He continually shows us.

This requires us to be contrite of heart for what we have done, know and be overwhelmed by the love and mercy of God for His children, and to approach this grace with humility and resolution not to sin again."

An Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

Cardinal Nichols has recorded a special radio programme for the BBC on Easter Sunday. This will be broadcast at 8.00am on all 39 BBC local radio stations. It will not be broadcast on BBC Radio 4, which will be broadcasting its usual Sunday Worship Service at that time.

During this week, Holy Mass will be offered for: Patrick Culhane (RIP); Maureen Sheehan; Catherine Kisby (RIP); Eileen Shortt; Anita Brennan (RIP); Bridget O'Connor (Ann.); Akan Edgington (get well); Anne and John Gillen (Golden Wedding Anniversary); All Souls, especially those in most need of mercy; Julie Bonus (RIP); Mary Plunkett; Margaret Crott; Rose Thomas (Ints.); Isabel Margaret Kay (RIP); Rev E Motherwell (RIP); Renee Kingston (Ints); Elizabeth Hegarty; Michelle and James Cook; Bernard Nee.

Masses will be offered privately each day by the priests, and all intentions which have been previously booked will be honoured and fulfilled.

Please remember in your prayers the recently departed: Olga Faye, Gerry Ryan, Christopher Clarke, Vivienne Timmins, Tim Crowley, Ciriaco Maciel, Fr. Timothy Burke, Mary Black, Elizabeth Creasy, and for those who mourn their loss.

Weekly offerings can be posted through the St Dunstan's Presbytery letterbox. Please ensure that offerings handed in using a sealed envelope, either the usual Gift Aid ones or a plain envelope and clearly marked whether for St Dunstan's or St Jude's. Please do not push loose change through the letterbox. **There are also other ways of giving available on our Parish website.**

Usually on Good Friday there is the collection for Holy Places and, at Easter, the Easter Offering to the Priests. Thanks to those who have already sent these in. For many of you there is not the opportunity or freedom of getting out, but do not worry, the Archbishop has asked that when we return to public Mass, there will be an opportunity for those who haven't had chance to contribute to these collections.

Let us pray for one another at this time, and especially for the sick and those in our hospitals, care homes and local surgeries who care for the sick: that through the prayers we offer both privately and individually, we may soon be united once more together around the altar of God. Our Lady, Help of Christians: pray for us.

A parishioner has passed on to us a prayer to St Roch, a saint invoked in times of plague and pestilence:

O most merciful God, who through an angel, promised St Roch that all who invoked his name will be preserved from pestilence and contagious diseases. Grant that through his intercession we may be preserved from all dangers both of soul and body. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Magnificat Magazine is an excellent resource for us currently. Each edition contains the prayers and readings for Mass each day, a meditation on the theme of the readings each day, a shortened form of Morning and Evening Prayer for every day, and a number of articles concerning our faith, the Saints, and Christian art. It is a monthly publication and can be delivered directly to your home. To subscribe, you can either phone 020 74483607 or visit the Magnificat website at www.magnificat.co.uk

An Act of Spiritual Communion: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Prayer to our Guardian Angel, for when we cannot attend Holy Mass: O holy Angel at my side, go to Church for me, kneel in my place, at Holy Mass, where I desire to be. At Offertory, in my stead, take all I am and own, and place it as a sacrifice upon the Altar Throne. At Holy Consecration's bell, adore with Seraph's love, my Jesus hidden in the Host, come down from Heaven above. Then pray for those I dearly love, and those who cause me grief, that Jesus' Blood may cleanse all hearts, and suffering souls relieve. And when the priest Communion takes, oh, bring my Lord to me, that His sweet Heart may rest on mine, and I His temple be. Pray that this Sacrifice Divine, may mankind's sins efface; then bring me Jesus' blessing home, the pledge of every grace. Amen.

Pope Francis' prayer to Our Lady during Coronavirus Pandemic: O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm. You, the salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

During the Easter Season we don't recite The Angelus, but instead we use the Easter Marian Anthem, the *Regina Caeli*.

6. **R** Egína cœ-li * lætâre, alle-lû-ia : Qui-a quem me-ru- isti portâre, alle-lû-ia : Resurréxit, sic-ut di-xit, alle-lû-ia : Ora pro nó-bis Dé-um, alle-lû- ia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

FIRST READING

Acts 10: 34, 37 – 43

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses – we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead – and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

SECOND READING

Colossians 3: 1 – 4

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

SEQUENCE

Victimae Paschali Laudes

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise. The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled. Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign. Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way. The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose! The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting. Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee. That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know. Victorious king, thy mercy show!

GOSPEL READING

John 20: 1 – 9

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.' So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

READINGS FOR EASTER OCTAVE

EASTER MONDAY

Acts 2: 14, 22 – 33

Psalm 15

Matthew 28: 8 - 15

EASTER TUESDAY

Acts 2: 36 – 41

Psalm 32

John 20: 11 – 18

EASTER WEDNESDAY

Acts 3: 1 – 10

Psalm 104

Luke 24: 35 – 48

EASTER THURSDAY

Acts 3: 11 – 26

Psalm 8

Luke 24: 35 – 28

EASTER FRIDAY

Acts 4: 1 – 12

Psalm 117

John 21: 1 – 14

EASTER SATURDAY

Acts 4: 13 – 21

Psalm 117

Mark 16: 9 – 15

The celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection continues in the Church for eight days, called the Octave of Easter. At Masses during the Octave of Easter, as on Sundays, the *Gloria*, is recited or sung. And at the end of each Mass of the Octave, the double Alleluia is sung at the dismissal.

The Gospel readings used at Masses during the Octave of Easter include passages from the Gospels that relate various appearances of the Risen Jesus. Reflecting on these Gospel texts is a wonderful way to prolong the celebration of Easter. Each day during the Octave, we proclaim in the Gospel Acclamation: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.*

Extract taken from and available at <https://todayscatholic.org/the-octave-of-easter-and-the-sunday-of-divine-mercy/>

