

THE MESSENGER

Serving the Churches of Holy Ghost and St. Bede

A PUBLICATION OF PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE TRUST REGISTERED CHARITY No. 246871



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Coordinating Pastor and Dean

Assistant Priest:

Rev. Leo Odomeja
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Permanent Deacon:

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Facilities Manager:

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Holy Ghost Church Address

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Pastoral Area Clergy

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Fr Chris Whelan
Fr Gaston Forbah
Deacon Patrisk O'Connell

Sacred Heart, Hook 01256 577007

Fr Paul Leonard

St Michael, Tadley 0118 9814572

Fr Patrick Tansey

St John the Baptist, Andover

Fr Austin Gurr 01264 352829

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2020

Welcome to our parishioners and all who are joining us via the webcam. To watch Mass and other services at St. Bede's Church live-streamed via our webcam go to <https://www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk/live>.

Year A, Psalter Week III

Morning Prayer before all Masses at 9.15 am

All Masses and Services from St. Bede's Church via our Webcam

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

Sun 26th	9.00 am	Mass: Anna, Jack Bowman RIP	
	11.00 am	Mass: People of the Parish	
	6.00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Vespers	
Mon 27th	9.30 am	Mass: Int. Undertakers in our town	
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.30	
	12 noon	Mass: Carmel Harding RIP	
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
Tues 28th	9.30 am	Mass: Int. Viegas-Furtado Family	
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.30	
Wed 29th	9.30 am	Mass: Liam Murphy	
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.30	
	12 noon	Mass: All new babies in our Parish	
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
Thur 30th	9.30 am	Mass: Int. Schools & Colleges in our Diocese	
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.30	
Fri 1st	9.30 am	Mass: Sean Hynes RIP	
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.30	
	12 noon	Mass: Marion & George Bedford	
	3.00 pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet	
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer	
Sat 2nd	9.30 am	Mass: Int. Allsa Fernandes	
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.30	
	12 noon	Mass: Int. Priests & Deacons in our Diocese	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

Sun 3rd	9.00 am	Mass: People of the Parish
	11.00 am	Mass: Gladys Deards RIP
	6.00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Vespers

Fr Chris and Fr Leo are keeping well at the moment but please pray for them, and for all clergy, as they minister to those who are dying in hospital at this time. We continue to pray for the sick and the staff who care for them, all those who have died and the bereaved. May the Virgin Mary protect us.

Although we cannot come to Mass, let us use this time to grow closer to the Lord. Why not spend some time reading the Bible, and because we are in Eastertide, start with the Acts of the Apostles.

"Your word is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path." (Psalm 118:105)

HOSPITALS

In our Diocese of Portsmouth, we have a number of major hospitals, including the Queen Alexandra (QA) Portsmouth, University Hospital Southampton, Christchurch Hospital, the North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke, the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester, and the Royal Berkshire in Reading.

It is always an issue but **it is crucially important** that when a Catholic is admitted to hospital, the family ensure that the Catholic Chaplaincy is contacted so that appropriate support can be given. As access to the hospital may be restricted, especially at this time during the coronavirus emergency, one suggestion is that the patient carries a note to give to hospital staff on admission notifying staff that they are Catholic and that they would really appreciate the Catholic chaplaincy service. This could be followed up by a telephone call from the family to the ward making the request. Hospital staff are under immense pressure at the moment, and it can happen that a person's religious details may be overlooked upon admission, especially if it is an emergency.

Our hospitals at this time are doing a fantastic job in enabling our chaplains to operate and to offer support to patients, often in innovative ways, and where possible to administer the Last Rites. Let us pray for all the medical staff who are caring for the sick – and also for our magnificent chaplains in their irreplaceable work.

Let us pray too that no Catholic dies without the sacramental care of Mother Church.



JENNIFER GEACH REFLECTS ON OUR DEBT TO ST THOMAS

Christ is Risen.

From my earliest years, in fact probably from babyhood, I was taught to say at the elevation of the host 'My Lord and My God' (I was also taught us to say an Ethiopian prayer at the elevation of the chalice 'We believe we adore thy precious blood O Christ our God') I am therefore grateful to 'doubting Thomas': for this practice has been a bulwark in times of accidie, or when faith is more directly assaulted. Christ's teaching on the Eucharist is something that needs to be proclaimed fervently, and believed wholeheartedly. For unless we eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink of his blood, we shall not have life in us. So when we look upon the Host, let us with Thomas acknowledge the presence of the living God and Lord, Jesus Christ.

The centrality of the Eucharist was recognised from the beginning of the Church. After the day of Pentecost, the three thousand, and growing numbers of converts, 'remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.' Our faithfulness to these four marks of the Christian life will incorporate us into the Body of Christ, which is the Church.

The nick-name 'doubting Thomas' is proverbial: and it is perhaps fair enough. For he is elsewhere shown to be robustly cynical. When our Lord proposes to go to Bethany, after Lazarus' death, Thomas says 'let us go too so that we may die with him'. For Bethany was in Judaea, the centre of hostility to Jesus; so that going there was dangerous for him and his disciples. This danger was increased by the raising of Lazarus: for this demonstration of power enraged and alarmed the authorities so much that Caiaphas can plot openly to compass the death of an innocent man. It is then that by virtue of his office he is enabled to utter the prophetic words 'It is better for one man to die for the sake of the people'. And at the Last Supper, when Jesus tells the Apostles that they know the way to the place where he is going, Thomas says that they do not know where he is going; so how can they know the way? This evokes from Jesus one of the great 'I am' statements which John records. For Jesus replies 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me'. This statement of Our Lord's is inimical to modern sensibilities, where people speak of 'my truth' and 'your truth'. However, 'doubting Thomas' staked his life on the Truth; by tradition he took the Gospel to India, where a community still flourishes with his name. So let us ask St Thomas to intercede for us, and to ask Our Lord to increase the blessing we already have: for we are among those who 'have not seen, and yet believe'

Please continue your financial support



These weeks of lockdown are difficult for all of us, and we are particularly mindful of those whose jobs and lives are put on hold because of the pandemic. We want to be here for you during these difficult times. Even so, the Church in our Diocese of Portsmouth, its clergy, parishes and schools, is entirely dependent upon your generous charity. So that we can continue to provide the Liturgy of the Lord and our works, both centrally and from our parishes to the local community, I kindly ask all of the faithful who are able to do so, to continue their generous regular-giving to the Diocese and to their parish churches, which would otherwise lose vital income.

You can donate to our parish by visiting our webpage and use the donate button. Thank you for your generosity.