

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

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Holy Ghost Church Address

Sherborne Road,
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REST IN PEACE

Please pray for:

Carmel Harding
Jim Mackins
Beatrice Ferguson
Matteo Zita
Derek Brennan
Frederick Mackenzie



May their Souls and the Souls of all the
faithful departed rest in peace.

Sunday 3rd May 2020

Year A, Psalter Week IV

Morning Prayer before all Masses at 9.15 am

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

(Good Shepherd Sunday)

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
Mon 4th	9.30 am	Mass: William Rusk RIP
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.30
	12 noon	Mass: Int. Rita Anderson Dixon
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Tues 5th	9.30 am	Mass: Jane Mooney RIP
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.30
Wed 6th	9.30 am	Mass: Int. Leigh Family
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.30
	12 noon	Mass: Int. Ann Marie Hamilton
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Thur 7th	9.30 am	Mass: Wedding Anniversary Mr & Mrs Lloyd
Fri 8th	9.30 am	Mass: Carmel Harding RIP
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.30
	12 noon	Mass: All families in the Parish
	3.00 pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Sat 9th	9.30 am	Mass: Fred Sampson RIP
		Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11.30
	12 noon	Mass: Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

Sun 10th	9.00 am	Mass: People of the Parish
	11.00 am	Mass: Members of St. Vincent de Paul
	6.00 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Vespers

MASS INTENTIONS: If you would like to have Mass celebrated for your Intention, please email or write to the parish. Donations for the Masses can be sent by cheque or use the donate button on our webpage or through the post box at St Bede.

DURING MAY, Pope Francis encourages us to pray the Rosary and to recite two additional prayers to Our Lady. For the full Letter on the Month of May and prayers visit: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/letter-on-the-month-of-may-full-text.html>



Let us pray for vocations and for the clergy and seminarians across our Diocese. We continue to pray for an end to the pandemic, for the sick and their carers, for those who have died and the bereaved. Lord have mercy.

"Faith is the way of holding onto what we hope for, certain of what we cannot see." (Hebrews 11:1)

Bishop Philip writes in this week's e-News ...

Welcome to the week's e-News. As we enter the fifth week of the lockdown, let's ask the Lord to bless the negotiations of our two Bishops' Conferences with the government that our churches may be in the first wave of re-openings. A lot of people write to me asking for the re-opening of our churches and the restoration of the sacraments and the liturgy, all of which we dearly long for. We are dependent here upon government guidelines. Even when the restrictions are initially eased, we will probably need some sophisticated regulations on social distancing, cleansing etc. Indeed, with the leadership team here, we are already planning what might be the ways forward. Here at Bishop's House, the lockdown is having an impact with a new rota for cooking and cleaning! But our main prayers at this time are to the Lord for all the sick and for all the medical staff, chaplains and carers who look after them. Let us pray this week once again for a speedy end to this scourge and for the financial security and well-being of all. May Mary and Joseph protect you this week with their powerful intercession, bringing you closer to Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Collection for Vocations: Support our Seminarians and Clergy

On Good Shepherd Sunday, this Sunday 3rd May 2020, a special collection is usually made to support vocations and especially priestly vocations. During this time, when parishes are closed for public liturgies, the lay faithful are unable to give generously in person to the second collection. A special online giving page has been set up to receive any generous donations that people may wish to give. We thank you in advance for any donation you may make.

Our clergy are at the heart of our Church and communities. At this time of crisis, they are continuing to provide spiritual and pastoral support to those most affected by COVID-19 - those working in Parish projects caring for the elderly and vulnerable, people in frontline roles, the sick and bereaved. They are doing an amazing job. We are blessed to have eleven men currently in formation for the priesthood, who have generously given their lives in response to God's call. We have accepted six more men to start formation in September. It costs £85 per day, (£30,000 a year) to train one seminarian, and priestly formation can take up to seven years.

If you would like to ensure the future of the Church in our Diocese, please consider donating to support the training of our future priests and the ongoing care of our clergy throughout their ministry. The online giving page can be found by visiting: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/supportourseminarians>. Thank you for your generosity.

Jennifer Geach reflects on how they knew him in the breaking of the bread

When Our Lord rose from the dead to new life, he rose physically: he assures his disciples that 'it is I myself: touch me and see. A spirit has not flesh and bones as you see I have'. And Peter affirms in his address to Cornelius and his household that the witnesses 'did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead'. However, his risen body is evidently not quite like ours; he is able to pass through closed doors, so as to appear suddenly to the disciples huddled away for fear of the Judaeans. Moreover, he has agility: for very soon after, or very soon before his encounter with Cleopas on the road to Emmaus, he had appeared to Simon: for when Cleopas and his companion come breathless back to Jerusalem, they are met with the news that the Lord is truly risen, and has appeared to Simon. Now the distance from Emmaus to Jerusalem is about 7 miles; but somehow Our Lord is able to instruct the disciples on the road to Emmaus and appear to Peter on the same day. This suggests at least agility, if not bi-location! He is moreover able to conceal or disclose himself at will: it is not until he calls Mary by name that she recognises him; and Cleopas and his companion are wholly deceived for at least an hour (if Jesus joined them half-way on their journey). These signs tell us that Jesus is truly alive; but that this life, which we hope to share after the General Resurrection, is materially different from the life that we have now.

Moreover, this encounter on the road to Emmaus shows how small and paltry our plans are compared to God's. 'But we hoped that it was he that should have redeemed Israel' say the two disciples, who had looked for only a political liberation for Israel alone. However, God's plan is infinitely greater than the petty consideration of who should govern one particular state, even who should govern his chosen people: God's plan is the salvation and restoration of all mankind by the life, death and resurrection of his Son.

Rembrandt's painting of the moment of recognition repays study: for the artist most marvellously shows the light which shone from Christ. The two disciples must often have seen Jesus 'breaking the bread': for when a rabbi says grace, he takes bread and says the prayer that we now make at the offertory. 'Blessed are you, Lord God of the Universe: for of your goodness we have this bread; fruit of the earth, and work of human hands'. So it was in this familiar gesture that they recognised Jesus, who vanished at once, demonstrating again the different life he has. They hurried to Jerusalem, big with news; as they told it, and heard that the Lord had appeared to Simon, Jesus came among them, not a ghost, as he reassures them, but himself.

To read the full edition of this week's e-News go to: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews>