



The Catholic Parish of Bognor Regis and Slindon

5th April 2020 ~ Palm Sunday

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'Christ is the one who meets us here'

Alongside eleven million people I watched Pope Francis' deeply moving Urbi et Orbi meditation. I identified with the fear of the Apostles in the boat (Mk 4) as they faced the storm through which Jesus slept. They were shaken, just as the world has been shaken by the threat and reality of the coronavirus. As Pope Francis faced the empty piazza and then slowly and painfully mounted the steps of St Peter's Basilica, I thought of the journey to Calvary and saw Jesus bowed down under the weight of the world's sin and pain. Holy week starts as a joyous occasion with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and ends in darkness, sorrow and fear.... like life before and during coronavirus. Repeatedly Pope Francis echoed Jesus' words: '*Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?*' but he also challenged us because '*we did not listen to the cry of the poor and of our ailing planet.*'

Our world needs all who believe in the hope of the Resurrection to embrace this challenging cross; to pray for justice especially for the abandoned; to live simply, sustainably with creation and in solidarity with humankind.

Listen to John Bell's hymn 'A Touching Place' on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTIwZ3XNyEY>

Gabrielle Thorpe – Cafod Team

Join in with the Holy Week Services

All the Holy Week services will be live streamed from Our Lady of Sorrows – we look forward to welcoming you in prayer, united by the Holy Spirit – and the internet! We're going to try a **Hymn for Palm Sunday** and see how it goes – the words are on the parish website. There's also a copy of the **Passion according to St Matthew** – please join in with the crowd parts, or if there are several of you in the house, why not share all the parts out?

Keep up-to-date with what's going on in the Church throughout the week, follow
Bognor Slindon Catholic Parish on Facebook & Instagram



Instagram.com/bognorslindoncatholicparish



facebook.com/bognorslindoncatholicparish

Mass Intentions

During this time when public liturgies are suspended, Fr Chris and Fr Graham will be celebrating Mass each day, so please be assured that Mass will be offered for all the intentions received, though may not be on the day originally requested. If you have any queries or wish a Mass to be celebrated for a specific intention please don't hesitate to ask.

❖ Saturday 4th April

Betty Burnett RIP

Brendan Tully RIP

❖ Sunday 5th April – Palm Sunday

People of the Parish

Hannah Allen RIP

❖ Monday 6th April

Intentions of the Tully family

Jean Clark RIP

❖ Tuesday 7th April

Wellbeing of Ann Ginty

Deceased of the Morgan family

❖ Wednesday 8th April

Maureen Hood RIP

Betty Burnett RIP

Easter Triduum

❖ Thursday 9th April 8pm - Maundy Thursday

'Mass of the Lord's Supper'

Brendan Tully RIP

Paddy Smythe RIP

❖ Friday 10th April 3pm – Good Friday

'Celebration of the Lord's Passion'

❖ Saturday 11th April 8pm – Holy Saturday

'The Easter Vigil'

Mary and Eric Steer RIP

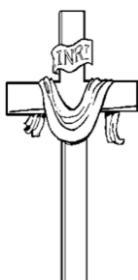
Wellbeing of Eric Johnston

❖ Sunday 12th April –Easter Sunday

People of the Parish

Thomas McWey RIP

Daily Mass at 10am and the Easter Triduum will be live-streamed from Our Lady of Sorrows



Requiem in Aeternum

Your prayers are asked for all those who have died recently –

Dom Gregory Chilman OSB

We also remember all whose anniversaries occur about this time –

Anne Hawksey, Lucy Stock, Sheila O'Rourke, Mike Frears, Joyce Burns,

Ellie Maxwell, David Timlin, David Andrews, Ray Pinkney

Sunday collections

Many thanks to the various parishioners who have enquired about the best way to continue making a financial contribution whilst there are no public celebrations of Mass. There are various ways: a) you can put envelopes through the letterbox of the Parish Centre (when you're out for your daily walk); b) you could set up a Standing Order (print off and complete the form on the Parish website and send back to the Parish Office); or c) you could send a cheque to the Parish Centre.

The Diocese has also launched an online '**parish offertory support campaign**' so that parishioners can still make their offertory donation if they wish. The web link for this donation page is:
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/parishoffertory> and you can specify which parish you wish to contribute to.

Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated.

Parish Census – Keeping in Touch

If you haven't already received Fr Chris' weekly email and wish to in future, please confirm your email address to the Parish office email: bognorcatholicparish@live.co.uk or if you have not yet completed the census form, this can be downloaded from our website.

This week's email

Dear parishioners,

Many thanks for all the wonderful responses to our 'Keeping in Touch' email last week. It's so heartening to hear how people are managing, praying, and helping each other in these challenging times. It reminds me that we all need to hear good news, to see 'sparks of hope' around us that can lift us up. So we'd like to offer two more ways to be connected:

'Sparks of hope': We'd like to share some of the fruit of the creative side of our parishioners and so invite you to draw, colour or paint a picture, or write a poem or a haiku, or something else that we can share with everybody. Each week we'll set a theme for our reflection and then share some of your contributions in these messages. (It won't be us picking the best, just prayerfully picking some to share. When it's possible for us to get together again, we'll have all of the contributions on display in the Parish Centre.) So get writing, drawing, painting etc and send us an electronic copy of your work (please don't send anything in through the post!). Our first theme is 'Connected.'

A second idea is to offer up a prayer every day at 11am for everybody in our parish. Just a simple 'Our Father'. If you can't, or forget sometimes, don't worry. It will be lovely to know that everyday, there are some people in our parish family who are thinking of each of us.

Keep safe, keep praying and keep hopeful,

God bless you all,
Fr Chris and the Parish Leadership Team



Prayers of Hope

At the invitation of Churches Together in England, thousands of Christians lit candles and prayed last Sunday at 7pm and want to keep the prayer going. While the online witness was extraordinary, not that many people were outside to see the candles – and the lighter evenings will make them less visible in the weeks to come. So Churches Together in England is offering a poster to encourage #PrayersOfHope. There's one in colour, one in black and white, or one for you to colour. Please print out a poster, these can be downloaded from our website and put it in your window to let the world know we're praying, and praying in hope.

<https://www.bognorcatholicparish.co.uk/covid.html>

Journey

Reflect – Pray – Live

A new resource to help young people connect with the mysteries of Holy Week during this time. Beginning with Palm Sunday, each day there will be a reflection on scripture, a journaling prompt for praying and reflecting with, and an activity to help to live this out daily.

To begin the Journey, search:
easterjourney2020.wordpress.com

The Mothers Prayers Group

Just to let you know we are connected and united in our prayers through SKYPE every Monday morning from about 10.30am to 11.30am. As we travel down this road we haven't been down before we remain connected in our prayers - in spiritual unity with the other international Mothers Prayers groups - in the presence of the Holy Spirit, and we surrender all to Jesus. We are growing together by listening to each other and asking for wisdom to guide us in this troubled time.

God bless you all and a very Happy Easter to you and all your families.

Mothers Prayers group

WE ARE A LIVE SIMPLY PARISH

This morning there was a knock on our door and there standing a distance away was a man from down the road. We knew him by sight but had never spoken. He had left a bag containing several freshly baked baguettes on the doorstep and asked if we could get them to someone who might need them. We agreed that they would be given to the Homeless and later delivered them to the Salvation Army. During our brief conversation we touched on the importance of building community 'when this is over.' The previous evening, we had been deeply moved by the large number of people in our road who turned out to clap for all those working for the common good and had then waved goodnight to one another. There is a growing awareness of what it means to be compassionate, to reach out to others even though we are in lockdown, to be grateful to all those who are selflessly keeping society going and caring for the sick, the elderly and those with special needs and to share acts of kindness and gratitude.

Building community and working for the common good sit at the heart of our faith and of our Parish life. Over the past four years we, as a Parish, have been working towards receiving the Live Simply Award. This award is not easily granted, and much work has gone into collating all the information needed.

To gain an award, communities must be able to demonstrate that they have undertaken a major initiative in each of the three areas of living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with poor people plus two or more minor actions in each area. These actions should also have balanced this by covering the spiritual, practical and outreach areas.

Last week a small group of parishioners representing each of our churches met, using Zoom, with Fr Chris and two assessors for the Live Simply Award. We are delighted to report that our Parish passed the assessment with flying colours. As one of the assessors wrote

"Many congratulations on receiving the Live Simply Award. It's brilliant what's been done & an example for other parishes."

Below is a very brief summary from the report.

List any initiatives/activities that merit particular commendation:

There are so many things happening in the parish that merit commendation includes the following:

"Homeless project, support for Refugees, Fairtrade, support for CAFOD by collections and campaigns, Nick Webber Trust supporting Children in Malawi, Creation Masses, Discussion groups, Recycling schemes, Prayer Walks, Prayer Groups, SVP and other groups reaching out to others, Youth Work."

These are just some of the many wonderful ways that we as parishioners reach out to one another, to our local community, to the wider world and to our planet through prayer, sharing what we have, living in solidarity and living sustainably. This Award is hugely deserved by all our parishioners. Very well done.

The future will bring us many challenges. Together because of our faith and love for Jesus we will continue to grow and respond to these challenges as a Live Simply Parish.

Congratulations to everyone. We look forward to the day when this award will be formally presented.