

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (Year A)

Sunday 05th April 2020

ONLINE MASSES and SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK AND THE EASTER TRIDUUM

The following Masses and services can be found online at www.forestrc.co.uk:

- Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Sunday 5th April, 9am
- Reconciliation Service, Wednesday 8th April, 7pm
- Holy (Maundy) Thursday, Thursday 9th April, 6pm
- Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday), Friday 10th April, 3pm
- Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil, Saturday 11th April, 7pm.
- Sunday of the Resurrection, Sunday 12th April, 8am

If you would like to watch the Mass and have any difficulties in viewing it, please do not hesitate to contact Kristyann on 01594 562593 for technical support.

OFFERTORY DONATIONS

At this difficult time parish income and cash flow is obviously going to suffer. Many parishioners are asking how they can continue to support the parish financially in the absence of the weekly offering. There are several ways in which offerings may be made;

1. Set-up a Standing Order to the parish (both Gift Aid and non-Gift Aid forms are available from Graeme.Bell@Cliftondiocese.com) or by post/e-mail from the Parish Office.
2. For those who use internet banking, non-Gift Aid Standing Orders can be setup online without the need for a paper form. In order to do this you will need the parish's bank account details which you can get by calling Kristyann on 01594 562593 during the Parish Office opening hours, or by emailing forestrcchurches@cliftondiocese.com
3. If preferred, you can send a cheque to the parish or make an electronic payment directly to the parish bank account. Contact Kristyann on 01594 562593 for the bank details.

For parishioners who normally donate using a Gift Aid envelope, if you can quote your name and GA Envelope No. we should still be able to reclaim the tax paid on the donation. To find your unique Gift Aid number you can contact Dot Lord by emailing bandlord@gmail.com.

STAYING IN TOUCH – SVP ASSISTANCE

As you will have seen from last week's newsletter, the Diocese have, understandably, issued a directive that volunteers are currently only able to stay in touch/offer support to vulnerable parishioners remotely at this time. It is important to the SVP that anyone who needs support should get it. If you would like a phone call from one of the SVP please contact Kristyann on 01594 562593 who will pass your details to Pip Deave, Chair of the Pastoral Council.

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER BARNABAS

Greetings in Exile! How would we be managing without this technology? How are those managing who don't have it! Thank you to those who are in a position to be helping others. Bless you. At present we are relying on people in the name of the church and in accordance with government guidelines to be looking out for each other.

Phoning people, shopping for elderly neighbours and simply helping one another to feel in touch are so important. If you know of someone who might need help or if you would be willing to phone others, please contact Gail or Maria in Newent and Kristyann or me in the Forest.

It is strange that I have spoken more to my neighbours now than ever before. I have also had more contact with my family. Perhaps when this is over we will value community more. Living with others under the same roof in these circumstances is not going to be easy. There are both advantages and disadvantages to living alone! Living with others can involve giving space where possible. Personal space makes community life easier.

The Israelites spent 40 years in the desert. Because they constantly complained to God, Exodus is sometimes called the Book of grumbles! However, they did reach the Promised Land. Thanks be to God!

Bless You all.
Barnabas.

LOCAL SUPPORT IN THE FOREST OF DEAN

West Dean Parish Council, in conjunction with COVID-19 Mutual Aid UK, are providing support for the vulnerable and those who are self-isolating or unable to leave their homes. They can help by arranging deliveries, picking up shopping & medication, providing a friendly phone call, posting mail, obtaining urgent supplies and topping up electric or gas key/cards.

Each area in the West Dean Parish Council area has a local coordinator. Details of the coordinators can be found on their website www.westdeanpc.org.uk or by calling 01594 510187/01594 564484. If you would like to support the local community and join in as a volunteer, please contact the local coordinator, details of which can be found on their website.

Responsorial Psalm: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

Communion Antiphon: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.