

Parish of Effingham and Fetcham
Our Lady of Sorrows and Church of the Holy Spirit

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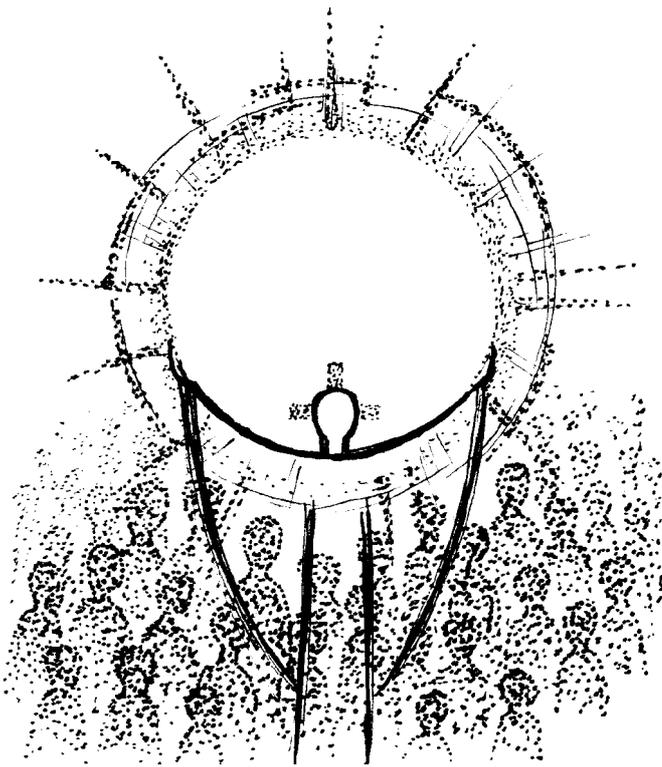
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A Very Warm Welcome to all Parishioners and Visitors

6th Sunday of Easter

Sundays: Cycle A Weekdays: Year II 17 May 2020



In today's Gospel passage we have part of the farewell discourse of Jesus during the Last Supper. In these last hours with his Apostles he spoke about essentials. Many of the things he said were naturally directed to the future, and how he wanted them to live when he was gone. One of the things he said to them was *'If you love me, keep my commandments.'* We are not talking about keeping a specific set of commandments, but rather about following his way of life. Basically, the rules of engagement. What is involved here is Christian discipleship. We can't truly call ourselves disciples of Jesus if we don't listen to his words and make an effort to live by them. One wouldn't be much of a Christian if one didn't try to live as Jesus taught.

But we must be clear about one thing. We don't keep his commandments so that he will love us; we keep his commandments because he loves us.

During that same supper Jesus said, *'Love one another as I have loved you.'* The greatest need each one of us has is for real, unconditional love. Yet we find it hard to believe that this is how God loves us. We tend to believe that God loves us only if we are good. God loves us, not because we are good, but because he is good. Our very existence is a sign of God's love. God's unconditional love for us is the Good News. Our response is to try to return that love.

May God bless you all,

Deacon Ian

Ascension Day

This Thursday is the feast of the Ascension of the Lord into heaven, 40 days after His Resurrection. If we were able to come to Mass, it would be a holy day of obligation. But even though we can't come to church, do make the best effort you can to attend a live-streamed Mass. I will offer two Masses, at our usual times for holy days: **9.15 am** and **8.00 pm**.

Prayers Please

Please pray for **Maureen Murphy** and **Ros Kennedy**, who are sick at this time.

Please also pray for those who have died recently, especially **Maureen Gamber**.

Prayer Requests: If you would like to request prayers for anyone to be included in the bidding prayers at our live-streamed Masses and in the parish newsletter, please let us know via phone or the parish email address. Praying for one another and for the whole world is such a precious and important thing for us all to be doing just now.

Special Masses at this Time

1. A **Mass in Time of Pandemic**. Bishop Richard is celebrating this every Friday while the pandemic lasts (except when major feasts intervene), and at his suggestion we are doing the same in our parish.

2. The bishops of England and Wales will be celebrating Masses for the **Sick and their Families, NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care** every Thursday evening on a rotation basis. You can find more details at <https://www.dabnet.org/News/View/327>.

Thank you from SPUC

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children has written to thank us for our "White Flower" appeal earlier this year, which raised £611.41.

National Marriage Week

Today is the last day of National Marriage Week. We celebrate God's wonderful gift of marriage, which reflects His own everlasting love for His people. We pray for all married couples, thanking God for their love, and asking Him to support any experiencing difficulties at this time. For more information and ideas, see: <https://dabnet.org/news/view/330>.

Devotion to Mary in May

The month of May, along with October, is traditionally a focus of devotion to Mary. Why not think about how you could mark this month at home and in your families? Perhaps you could pray the Rosary, or pray a Hail Mary as part of your grace before meals. You might like to place some flowers before a picture or statue of Mary.

Mary stood beneath the Cross of her Son and shared deeply and compassionately in His sufferings. From the Cross Jesus gave her to all of us as our spiritual Mother. Let's trustingly ask for her prayers at this time of suffering in our world.

During the Coronavirus Situation

Do please **encourage** anyone you may be talking with, to join our live-streamed Masses on Sundays (and weekdays). It's a simple and important way we can support each other, and also reach out to those who may be thinking of coming back to their faith at this time.

Who is missing out on our communications?

Do you know of any people, especially those who do not use the internet, who might be being forgotten? Maybe you could phone them, and see how they are, and keep them connected to this community.

Need Support? Do you need help or support at this time? If you need any sort of practical help, or would just like a chat with someone, please do call 01372 458263 or email eandfparish@btinternet.com.

Parish Circulation Email: In this very trying time for everybody the internet is becoming more vital as a means of communication. If you would like to receive emails from the Parish keeping you in touch, including receiving the weekly parish newsletter that is handed out at Mass, then please contact Michael Bray michaelpbray@btinternet.com or the Parish office. The list is only used for Parish and Diocese information and is sent bcc so individual email addresses are not visible.

While the pandemic lasts, **what should we be doing as a parish?** What would you find helpful personally, and how can we reach out to others? A few possibilities have been suggested, e.g.

- Resources to support children's/ family prayer and activities.
- Opportunities to face and discuss the challenging issues for our faith raised by the current crisis. E.g. some video clips to watch from Bishop Robert Barron, followed by Zoom discussions.
- Some form of Bible Study (again, maybe using Zoom).

Maybe the Spirit has given you some other good ideas. Do let us know what you think, and we can see what we can do. I am convinced that in every situation God's Spirit will give us opportunities for building up the Kingdom.

Bogus website and scams. Sad to say, in this present situation there are a number of scams and bogus websites imitating the real thing. Please do take extra care, especially if you are thinking of donating money to them. It's safer to find a website by searching for it directly rather than following a link in an email.

Masses and Other Services

Live-streaming of Mass from our parish is available at our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFLGeHumF6yae4QGCSVg0UA>. Alternatively, search for "YouTube Effingham Fetcham" and you should find it easily. Regular Mass times are: Sun 10.30 am, Mon to Thur 9.15 am, Fri 6.00 pm, and Sat 10.00 am. You can continue to request **Mass Intentions** via the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is possible on request.

Other Sacraments can only be celebrated in emergency. Do please contact Fr Stephen in the normal way in emergency situations.

Please pray for all those in our Parish who are sick:

Marie Bliss	Janet Morgan
Michael Boulvard	Jim Morgan
Pauline Boulvard	Ann Peck
Christopher Brown	Alessia Pizzitola
Jeff Care	Maureen Rennison
Amy Chapman	Patrick Rennison
Maggi Cooke	Piers Ripley-Duggan
Marian Cross	Jean Rowlandson
Maureen Donoghue	Yolande Sharpe
John Donovan	Karen Silver
Mary Doran	Mary Skilton
Mary Hefford	Jenny Smith
Ros Kennedy	Pat Turton
Derek Knott	Simon Turton
Tessa Knott	Andrea Vaughan
Noreen Landers	Rose Wedlake
Joanna Mills	Alf Wiggins

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week

Saturday	16 May	10.00 am	Deceased Members of the Raes Family
Sunday	17 May	10.30 am	People of the Parish
Monday	18 May	9.15 am	Fr Gerald Flood RIP
Tuesday	19 May	9.15 am	Mercy O'Connor RIP
Wednesday	20 May	9.15 am	David Bird RIP
Thursday	21 May	9.15 am	People of the Parish
Ascension Day		8.00 pm	Fr Tony Pearson RIP
Friday	22 May	6.00 pm	Bernard Simmonds RIP
Saturday	23 May	10.00 am	Pauline Farino RIP
Sunday	24 May	10.30 am	People of the Parish

Owing to the coronavirus, all Masses have to be celebrated without a congregation.

Confessions are available on request. Please contact Fr Stephen if you would like this.

Next Sunday: 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12-14 — Psalm 26:1,4,7-8, R.v13 — 1 Peter 4:13-16 — John 17:1-11



Please get Newsletter items to the Parish office by 10.00am Wednesday