



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

Parish Team
Fr Stephen Dingley and Deacon Ian Wells

Our Lady of Sorrows
Lower Road, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5JP
Telephone: 01372 458263
Email: eandfparish@btinternet.com
www.effinghamandfetcham.org.uk

A Warm Welcome to all Parishioners and Visitors

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Sundays: Cycle A Weekdays: Year II 05 April 2020



Holy Week has begun, the Paschal Triduum is almost upon us. What should we be doing—especially in this most peculiar of years? Answer—nothing! We live in a society obsessed with *doing* things. One of the biggest challenges of the current situation is that we can't be going out and doing all the things we want to—and we feel useless and disconcerted.

But maybe one of the lessons to learn from Holy Week is how to do nothing—by following the example of our Lord Jesus. Think about it. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus does nothing; He just kneels and prays, knowing what's going to happen, *not* running away but letting everything just unfold. On trial before the High Priest and Pontius Pilate He makes no defence; He answers a few questions, but for the most part He remains silent—causing everyone else to wonder. On the Cross He was taunted to come down and save Himself—and He could so easily have done so—but He didn't; He just suffered. Buried in the tomb He did absolutely nothing. Even at His Resurrection there were no trumpets, no showing off, no vengeance; just appearing unobtrusively to a few friends, and saying "Peace be with you", and showing them His hands and side.

So what should we do this Holy Week? Nothing—but watch Jesus, and listen, and stay awake, and wait, and pray, and let His Passion transform us.

May God bless you all
Fr Stephen

THIS WEEK

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jane Neville RIP, who died recently, and for her husband Brian and all their family.

Please pray for Marian Cross who is more seriously sick at present.

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

The Pope has granted a **plenary indulgence** to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, to those quarantined, to health workers and carers of the sick, and to all who undertake to pray particular prayers for the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself. For the details see <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/03/20/200320c.html>



Coronavirus Update

Sadly, all churches, halls and associated facilities must be closed until further notice.

Mass without a congregation will be offered daily, generally at 9.15 am, **but see the times of Holy Week services at the back of this newsletter.** I will be praying for all of you, and I know we will be spiritually united with our Lord and with one another.

In this emergency circumstance the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and the obligation of Easter Duties have been removed (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2181).

You can continue to request **Mass intentions** via the parish office.

The Lord continues to be among us in the **Blessed Sacrament** in the tabernacles of our churches, consecrating our parish and our villages by His living presence amongst us.

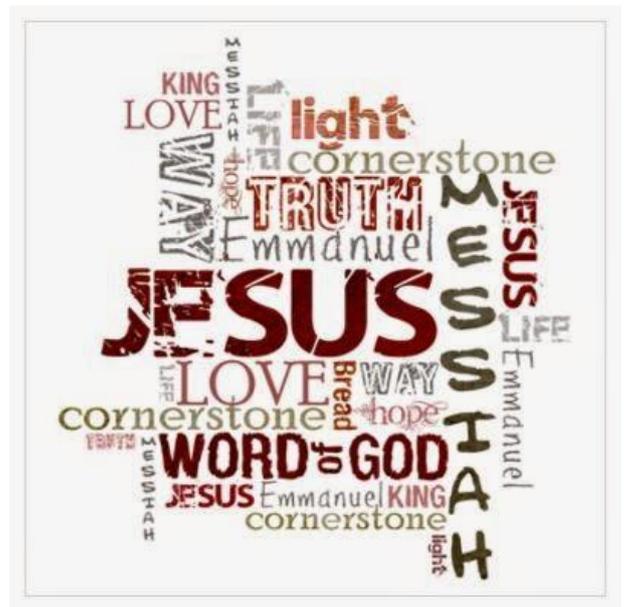
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is possible on request in cases of need.
- **Other Sacraments** will not be celebrated except in emergency. Do please contact Fr Stephen in the normal way in emergency situations.
- **Funerals** can now be celebrated only with close family members at the graveside or at the crematorium. However, we will be able to celebrate memorial Requiem Masses for those who have died once the present crisis passes.
- **Participating in Mass.** Although Mass can only be celebrated without a congregation at present, we are all encouraged to join in spiritually. You can make use of live-streaming of Mass from many places. One possible website offering many options, including some

from our diocese, is www.churchservices.tv. Another option is daily Mass celebrated by Bishop Robert Barron at www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/ You can also simply pray the prayers and readings of Mass at home, and make a *spiritual communion* e.g. "I wish, my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility, and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervour of the saints."

Further resources are available from our diocesan website www.dabnet.org and from the website of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales www.cbcew.org.uk. You could also try www.ctsbooks.org and www.cafod.org.uk.

GENERAL

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.



BIDDING PRAYERS

Since we can't have bidding prayers together in church at Mass at the moment, let's all pray for:

1. All those suffering from the Coronavirus – the sick, the anxious, the bereaved, those experiencing financial and practical difficulties, and medical staff and researchers. We also pray for those who are particularly in danger from the virus in refugee camps and in the world's poorest countries.
2. Pope Francis, Bishop Richard and all church leaders, and also for our national and local governments, that they will make wise decisions in the present situation.
3. John Psota-Jenkins and Neal Stone, who have been preparing to receive the sacraments at Easter, but will now have to wait for a while.
4. For all those who have died recently, especially Jane Neville RIP, for all who have died from the coronavirus, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about now, especially Daniel Magnus Clarke.

This week's Masses

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|----------------------|--------|---------------|--|--|
| Saturday | 04 Apr | 9.15am | | Bob & Anne Bowley - RIP |
| Palm Sunday | 05 Apr | 9.15am | | People of the Parish |
| Monday | 06 Apr | 9.15am | | Georgina Aboud - Wellbeing |
| Tuesday | 07 Apr | 9.15am | | Holy Souls - RIP |
| Wednesday | 08 Apr | 9.15am | | Holy Souls - RIP |
| Holy Thursday | 09 Apr | 8.00pm | Mass of the Lord's Supper | Vocations to the Priesthood |
| Good Friday | 10 Apr | 3.00pm | Celebration of the Lord's Passion | |
| Holy Saturday | 11 Apr | 8.30pm | Easter Vigil | People of the Parish |
| Easter Sunday | 12 Apr | 9.15am | | A swift end to the Coronavirus pandemic, healing for those who are sick, and eternal rest for those who have died. |

Owing to the coronavirus, all Masses have to be celebrated without a congregation. I will say Mass at 9.15 every day, and will continue to offer them for your intentions. A few that have been provisionally scheduled will need to be moved to another day: please accept my apologies for this – but I promise that no intention will be forgotten.

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

Next Sunday: Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34.37-43 Psalm 117:1-2.16-17.22-23 R.24 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-9

Please pray for those in our Parish who are sick:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Marie Bliss | Joanna Mills |
| Michael Boulvard | Janet Morgan |
| Pauline Boulvard | Jim Morgan |
| Christopher Brown | Ann Peck |
| 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 |
| Filomena Lionetti | Alf Wiggins |



Newsletter items to the Parish office by 10.00am Wednesday