

The Parishes of St Saviour and The Ascension, Portsea

February 2020

Dear Friends,

As you read this at the end of January the end of the Epiphany season will be upon us and Christmas will seem a distant memory. The Christmas season officially ends with the feast of Candlemas on the 2nd of February, which this year falls on a Sunday allowing the Candlemas Ceremonies to take place at the Parish Mass. At The Ascension, our Junior Choir will be singing for the first time and a Parish Lunch follows Mass.

The following three Sundays in February are known as Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima (Latin for 70, 60, and 50 days before Easter). These three Sundays remind us that Easter approaches and that the Lenten season of penitence, in which we have time to review our lives and prepare for the joy of Easter, are close upon us. The Gesima Sundays, in fact, mark a kind-of pre-Lenten season, a period of Ordinary Time between the joys and thankfulness of Christmas and Epiphany, and the introspection of Lent, to be followed by the greatest joy of all at Easter.

The Prayer Book Collects for this season are sombre, with references to punishment for our sins and petitions for merciful deliverance from adversity. These perhaps reflect in part the times in which they were written, times of barbarian invasions, of famine, war, and pestilence. Sadly, as it out turns out, these dangers still seem to be present in the world today, breathing down our necks and weighing upon us and our society. A dual theme however, runs through these Collects, on the one hand there is danger and adversity, which requires of us the desire for forgiveness and a new start, but there is also consolation and salvation through God's grace and loving kindness.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, falling this year on Wednesday 26th February. There will be two Sung Masses, 11.30am at St Saviour and 6.30pm at The Ascension. Do make sure you note the major festivals and days of obligation in your diaries and make Mass a particular priority on those occasions. Hopefully you will all have taken a copy of the cream 'social diary' and blue 'Society of Mary' leaflets available at the back of each church.

Of particular note this month is the Silent Film evening on Thursday 13th February at The Ascension; come and see the 1929 British silent film 'Piccadilly' with live organ accompaniment. Italian Supper at 7 p.m. followed by the film at 7.45 p.m. Posters and flyers are available – this is another excellent opportunity to invite your families and friends.

With my love and prayers,



Fr Benjamin.

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Calendar for February 2020

Sunday 2 nd	THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD		
	9.30am	Parish Mass with Candlemas Ceremonies	St Saviour
	11.00am	Family Mass with Candlemas Ceremonies	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Solemn Evensong & Benediction	Holy Spirit, Southsea
Monday 3 rd	10.00am	Low Mass followed by Coffee Morning	St Saviour
Wednesday 5 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Lunch Club	St Saviour
Thursday 6 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass (BCP) for Accession Day	The Ascension
Friday 7 th	12.00pm	Funeral Office (The Late Henry Best)	St Saviour
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Saturday 8 th	11.00am	Patronal Festival Mass	St Agatha, Landport
Sunday 9 th	SEPTUAGESIMA		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
Monday 10 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 12 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Lunch Club	St Saviour
Thursday 13 th	5.30pm	Junior Choir	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Low Mass and Walsingham Devotions	The Ascension
	7.00pm	Silent Film 'Piccadilly' with Italian Supper	The Ascension
Friday 14 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Saturday 15 th	6.30pm	Choral Evensong	Holy Spirit, Southsea
Sunday 16 th	SEXAGESIMA		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong	St Mark's, North End
Monday 17 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 19 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Lunch Club	St Saviour
Thursday 20 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 21 st	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 23 rd	QUINQUAGESIMA		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
	3.30pm	'Wacky' Race Afternoon with Pancake Tea	St Saviour
	6.00pm	Solemn Evensong & Benediction	St Saviour
Monday 24 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Mass at Meadow House	
Wednesday 26 th	ASH WEDNESDAY (Day of Obligation)		
	11.30am	Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes	St Saviour
	1.00pm	Parochial Church Council Meeting	St Saviour
	6.30pm	High Mass with Imposition of Ashes	The Ascension
Thursday 27 th	5.30pm	Junior Choir	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 28 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Requiem Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 1 st Mar.	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT		
	9.30am	Litany & Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Family & Parade Mass	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Solemn Evensong & Benediction	Holy Spirit, Southsea