

## THE PARISH OF LETCHWORTH *Living God's Love in the Garden City*

### ST MICHAEL'S & ST MARY'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 22-28/3/2020

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that **PUBLIC WORSHIP IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

Churches should be open where possible but with no public worship services taking place.

While we still can, **we will continue to keep St Mary's open 9 - 10 am on Wednesdays and Sundays.** The church will be open for private prayer only and no public worship will be taking place.

Fr Robert will continue to keep the usual pattern of prayer, and the Eucharist will be celebrated, albeit without a congregation present, on Wednesdays and Sundays.

As the Archbishops have stated in their letter, 'This will not be public worship that everyone can attend, but an offering of prayer and praise for the nation and for the world.'

We will look into finding ways to live stream these services to enable all who wish to participate in worship at home.

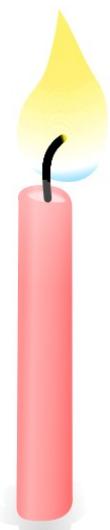
Please make sure to follow us on Instagram and Facebook **@letchworthparish** where you will be able to access sermons, and also videos of some of the services.

Regular updates will be published on our website:  
**[www.letchworthparish.org](http://www.letchworthparish.org).**

As we continue to pray for our Parish, our town, nation, and the world during this anxious and unprecedented time, let us also continue to serve our neighbour and be even more mindful of each other's needs.

**At 7 pm this Sunday, following the Archbishops' encouragement, let us light a candle in the windows of our homes "as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished".**

On this **Mothering Sunday**, let us particularly remember all families separated or already torn apart by the coronavirus pandemic here in the UK, and throughout the world.



'The People who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned'.  
(Matthew 4.16)

## BIBLE READINGS FOR EACH DAY

This cycle of readings comes from the Community of Taizé. You can use the readings to guide and feed your reflections during daily prayer. For a full passage see the Bible reference.

### **Sun, 22 March      LENT 4 MOTHERING SUNDAY**

Jesus said to the blind man whom he had healed: "Do you believe in the Son of man?" "Sir," the man replied, "tell me who he is, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said: "You have seen him; he is speaking to you."

*John 9:1-41*

### **Mon, 23 March      Feria**

The disciples saw Jesus coming towards their boat, walking on the lake, and he said, "It is I. Do not be afraid."

*John 6:16-21*

### **Tue, 24 March      Feria**

Jesus said: Give, and it will be given to you. A full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap.

*Luke 6:27-38*

### **Wed, 25 March      ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

The angel said to Mary: Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

*Luke 1:26-38*

### **Thu, 26 March      Feria**

St. Paul writes: When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we offer comfort in return.

*I Corinthians 4:1-13*

### **Fri, 27 March      Feria**

You will seek the Lord your God, and you will find him if you search after him with all your heart and soul.

*Deuteronomy 4:29-31*

### **Sat, 28 March      Feria**

Moses told the people: What I command you today is not too difficult for you nor beyond your reach. The Word is very near you, it is on your lips and in your heart for you to put it into practice.

*Deuteronomy 30:11-14*

### **Sun, 29 March      LENT 5 PASSION SUNDAY**

Jesus said: I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.

*John 11:1-45*

If you would like to **pray with the Taizé Community**, follow their live broadcast every day of the week **at 7.30 pm on Facebook @Taize**.

## WAYS TO WORSHIP

This week, **the Mass** will be celebrated at St Mary's on **Sunday & Wednesday at 10.15am**. You are encouraged to join in spirit. Please let Fr Robert know if you have any prayer intentions you'd like him to bring before God during Mass.

### THIS SUNDAY via TV, Radio and Internet

- **Mothering Sunday Service from the Chapel of Lambeth Palace** with ++Justin Welby - 8.10 am on local BBC Radio stations and BBC Radio 4
- **Holy Eucharist for Mothering Sunday form St Albans Cathedral** led by The Dean - 10 am on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/user/stalbanscathedral>
- **Songs of Praise** - 1.15 pm on BBC 1

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

*Of your charity, please pray for:*

- ¶ The Church; Justin, our Archbishop, Alan, Michael, and Richard, our bishops.
- ¶ The Queen, The Royal Family, HM Government, and all leaders of the nations.
- ¶ Our mothers, and all who have been like mothers to us, especially those from whom we are now separated.
- ¶ All who have been affected by the Coronavirus throughout the world.
- ¶ Countries, cities, and villages in a lockdown.
- ¶ All in self-isolation, the anxious, the lonely, and the bereaved.
- ¶ The NHS, all health workers, doctors, nurses, carers, and their families.
- ¶ Small and family run businesses in our town and country struggling to survive.
- ¶ **In our local community:** Martin Way, Meadow Way, The Meads, Nevells Road, Norton Way South, Openshaw Way, Paddock Close, Pasture Road, Pixmore Way.
- ¶ **Birthdays:** (24) Gill Thompson, and (25) Michael Laing.
- ¶ **The Sick:** Nick Goddard, Keith Goddard, Joan Pain, Hayley Cutmore, Katie Khan, Jessica Horner, Judith Beese, John Howard, Elizabeth Stevens, Katherine, and all who are suffering because of Covid-19.
- ¶ **Recently Departed:** Edna Brooks, and those who have died as the result of the coronavirus pandemic.
- ¶ **Years Mind:** (23) Marry Banning, Hendal Wogan, (24) Peter Sherington James, (25) Baby Isaac-Alexander Garvie, (26) Aileen Tudor, Annie Glass, (27) Mary Crickmer, Frederick Banning
- ¶ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace; and rise in glory.

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.*

*Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

## NOTICES

Please remember to follow **social distancing** measures as laid out by the Government. **STAY AT HOME** as much as you are able to. Not only it can **save lives** but it will also ease the heavy load this disease has already put on the NHS. You are strongly advised to **limit your face-to-face interaction with friends and family** if possible, particularly if you are over 70, have an underlying health condition, are pregnant. But **don't be alone! Get in touch** with your loved ones and your church family via the internet, phone, or even by writing a letter.

If you are self-isolating and need **help with shopping or prescription runs** please get in touch with **Vicki Gage** who will be coordinating this for us: ☎ 07748303627 ✉ vgage@hotmail.co.uk. **If you would be willing and able to help**, contact Vicki and Fr Robert.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, **all public worship and non-essential gatherings have been cancelled**. In our Parish, the busy worship and social calendar have been put on hold until further notice. It is with a great sadness that we now need to announce the postponement of the following events:

- Lent Lunches (Fridays in Lent),
- Coffee Morning (1st Friday of each month),
- Meeting with Bishop Michael (24th March),
- APCM (29th March),
- Frugal Lunches (1st April),
- Messy Church (4th April),
- Quiz Night (25th April).

**We have also decided to suspend all use of the Parish Hall until further notice.** No one knows how long this situation will continue, but we will endeavour to reopen the hall as soon as we can.

These necessary and extraordinary measures will have severe implications on our **Parish finances**. All businesses and charities will suffer financial hardship during this time and our Parish is no exception. Therefore it is vital for our mission and ministry to maintain a stream of regular giving (we still have bills to pay!). To find out how you can continue to support St Michael's and St Mary's while public worship is currently not taking place, please contact our Parish Treasurer, Caroline Hardy ✉ carolinehardy@ntlworld.com, the Church Wardens, or Fr Robert.

**Parish Office will be closed until further notice.** However our Parish Administrator, Pam Evans, will be working from home and will be answering emails.

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	Barbara Thompson	① 07504271656
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