

# Martin's Message



## The days of our lives

Some days are marked as being special. Christmas Day immediately springs to mind, but then there are the personal days such as birthdays. Some anniversaries are full of happy memories which we continue to celebrate, others mark sad occasions. Mothering Sunday, which we 'celebrate' on 15<sup>th</sup> March can be full of mixed emotions – gratitude for our mums, yet perhaps with sadness at their loss, or having to face the disappointment of not having had a family of our own.

Most days, whether marked as 'special' or not, are full of tasks to be performed, duties to be carried out, and challenges to be faced. No wonder Jesus taught us not to 'worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own', but rather to trust God to provide for our needs each day (see Matthew 6 v 25-34).

One man who thought about this was a French priest called Jean-Pierre de Caussade (1675-1751). He saw every day as a new opportunity to receive God's love through carrying out our daily tasks in accordance with God's will, that is to say, with love, grace, patience....the list could go on.

He taught that the only moment that we experience God's love is in the present moment, so he advised not to let concerns about the future or regret about the past flood our present living and make us miserable.

I have to say I find this very challenging. But this way of life was exemplified by Jesus Christ. In the life of the Church, we are in the season of Lent which reminds us that Jesus walked this path before us, even to the point of giving up his life for us. Yet through it he knew an intimacy and closeness to his Heavenly Father and accessed the very heart of divine love.

As you follow, one day at a time, in the footsteps of Christ this Lent, may you know God's love as you delight to do His will.

Martin Castle – Priest-in-charge

# SAINTS *alive*



## Volunteers

*Do you see others helping out at church and want to join in?*

*Or maybe you have gifts and talents that can be used for God's glory?*

*All organisations need people to "do" things and our churches are no exception. Without people "doing" much would not get "done"!*

*There are so many roles in our churches where we would love your help. Usually the only commitment required is for a short time and the more people who help, the less we all have to do!*

*At the moment we're looking for folk to help serve tea/coffee after the morning services at SS&SJ. Can you help?*

*If that is not your "cup of tea", so to speak, there are other things you could do and experience how good it feels to volunteer.*

*Speak to Jean and Robert Styles who organise the refreshments rota at SS&SJ for the above or one of the wardens for other opportunities.*

thank  
you!

*If you wish to get in touch please contact the church office:*

Parish Church Office at St Simon & St Jude Church Hall, High Street. Earl Shilton, Leicestershire. LE9 7DH 01455 843961  
[parishchurch@gmx.co.uk](mailto:parishchurch@gmx.co.uk)

*If you would like to contact our church minister his contact details are as follows:*

Revd Martin Castle  
(Priest-in-charge)  
07759 002660 [revdmartincastle@gmx.com](mailto:revdmartincastle@gmx.com)



## MARCH SERVICES

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March

9.15am – All-age Worship at St Mary's  
10.45am – All-age Worship at SS&SJ  
6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's  
10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ  
6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday

9.15am – Morning Worship at St Mary's  
10.45am – Morning Worship at SS&SJ  
6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's  
10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ  
10.30am – Sunday Club in the SS&SJ Parish Hall  
6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday

9.15am – Holy Communion at St Mary's  
10.45am – Holy Communion at SS&SJ  
6.30pm – Prayers to end the day on Facebook



### Prayers to start the day at 9am as follows:

Monday – St Simon and St Jude's  
Tuesday & Thursday – St Mary's  
Wednesday – Facebook

See weekly notice sheet for any changes

## St. Mary's Subscription Club

# LUCKY NUMBERS

Lucky membership numbers and prize monies drawn at the January event:

1<sup>st</sup> **59**(£40), 2<sup>nd</sup> **150**(£25),  
3<sup>rd</sup> **95**(£15), 4<sup>th</sup> **112**(£10) and  
5<sup>th</sup> **77**(£10).

After going off piste a few months back Elmesthorpe Friends, Food and Flowers Initiative are on a slippery slope once again at their next coffee morning at the village hall on

**February 28<sup>th</sup>**

**10am until 11.30am**

as part of the Winter Olympics theme.

Those attending are being asked to wear a seasonal hat or scarf.

However, there will be other things to keep them warm with hot drinks as well as home-made cakes; filled cobs and other delicious delights plus a game, quiz or both, door prizes and the St Mary's Subscription Club draw to win cash.

Donations always welcome  
for local Food Banks



While sorting out some old papers Rosemary Coe came across signs churches had used to attract new worshippers and which she had saved when they appeared in the Daily Mail in January 2009.

Here are some of them:

- 'Now open Sundays'
- 'Let us help you study for your final exams'
- 'Almost 2000 years old and still under the maker's guarantee'
- 'As you pass this little church, be sure to plan a visit so when at last you're carried in God won't ask who is it?'
- 'We are the soul agents in this area'
- 'If your problem is long standing, try kneeling' and
- Can't sleep? Don't count sheep, talk to the Shepherd'.

Perhaps you have one of your own?

If so, let Mitch Irving know it if you see him in St Simon & St Jude or on 07546 351905.

# SIGNS