

**The Parish of Arbory and Castletown**

**A note from the Vicar**

I hope you are all keeping well and staying safe in these challenging times. We are still unable to meet in our parish churches and this is likely to continue for quite some time to come. This last week clergy have been allowed back in to church for daily prayers and to livestream and record services to broadcast online. It is a small but positive step. The next step will be to allow baptisms, weddings and funerals to take place with small groups of immediate family present, the date for this has not yet been decided but I would imagine is likely to be in the next month. As for resuming our regular worship, we will need to demonstrate that we can put in place the same measures as will apply to other public buildings, and we may well need to restrict the numbers of people in church at any one time. Details are yet to be circulated and we have no idea when this might be a possibility. In the meantime I continue to offer services online on a Sunday via Face Book and our parish website [www.parishofarboryandcastletown.org](http://www.parishofarboryandcastletown.org) I also offer Night Prayer Monday to Friday at around 9pm on Face Book.

I realise that for a number of you, you do not have access to the internet and cannot take part in these services. There is now a new telephone resource set up by the Church of England that you can phone into free of charge (this has been negotiated with Manx telecom) see the details below. This is a free service you may want to try alongside radio and TV broadcast services.



**Ascension Day – Thursday 21st May at 10.30am livestream morning prayer on Arbory Church Face Book Page** (if you can’t make it at 10.30am it will be available all day on both Face Book pages)

**Prayer Requests**

I have set up a prayer cross at St Mary’s on the Harbour where I am able to post prayer requests. If you have anything you would like us to pray for at our night prayer then please do let me know. We also have a small group who are willing to pray for specific requests for prayer.

**Coffee Morning via Zoom**

This takes place on a Friday morning at 10.30am. Please let me know if you want to join in irene.cowell@sodorandman.im or phone 823509

**Men’s Group via Zoom**

John Christian is hosting a meeting for men via Zoom. It is an opportunity for men to connect in these times of isolation. He is having an initial meeting on Tuesday 19th May from 4.30pm – 5pm. Some of you may have already been contacted but if you haven’t and you want to be involved then please let me know and I will pass your details on to John.

**Bible Reflection on Zoom**

It has been suggested that it might be good to get together via Zoom for 30 mins each week to reflect on the readings for the forthcoming Sunday. If you are interested can you email me at the address above letting me know if you would prefer a morning, afternoon or evening.

If you need help getting on to Zoom then please be in touch and either I or John will help you get connected.

**Sunday Service**

This goes out on Arbory Church and St Mary’s on the Harbour Face Book pages every Sunday at 10.30am and can also be found on the parish website [www.parishofarboryandcastletown.org](http://www.parishofarboryandcastletown.org) on the home page, just click on the link for the service or alternatively go to the ‘Video Links’ page. I can if you wish also send you a link via messenger or WhatsApp or direct to your email address. Please let me know if you would like me to do this. The Sunday service lasts approx. 30 – 35mins.

**Night Prayer**

Night Prayer is broadcast every evening Monday – Friday at 9pm

This is a quiet reflective prayer service for the end of the day and last approx. 15-20mins. **There will be no Night Prayer on Friday 22nd May.**

**Bishop Peter on line Sunday Reflections**

The Bishop leads a short Bible reflection on the Sunday lectionary readings on the Diocesan website each Sunday. These are available from 10am.

**Orders of Service**

Orders of service for the Sunday worship and Night Prayer are available on the parish website and can be found under ‘Resources for Services’ Click on the appropriate link. Alternatively I can deliver an order of service to you.

**Christian Aid**

This week is Christian Aid Week, as we are unable to do our usual collection in church you may still wish to give a donation. Please either send to me at the Vicarage or pass to Tricia Bull or Richard Darnill and we get them sent off.

**Weekly Offering**

For those who are able please can I ask you continue to place your offering in your envelope each week until such time as we meet together again at church. Alternatively during this time if you would like send a monthly cheque please make it payable to ***Arbory Parish Church*** or ***Castletown Parish Church*** depending on which church you attend. Continued giving is really important as there are still overheads that have to be met during this time and we are dependent on regular giving to cover these. If you would prefer to go on a regular standing order then please contact either the Vicar or Tricia Bull or Richard Darnill and we will get a form to you. Thank you to those who have already responded

If anyone is need of support or help do please be in touch with me.

Please be assured of my prayers for you all. Continue to pray for our parish, this Island, those in government with difficult decisions to make, doctors and nurses and all on the front line. Pray also for all who are connecting to our online services, especially those who are not known to us, but known only to God. Pray for parents and children, for family and friends, the lonely and isolated. Remember also those who have been bereaved and those who are sick, praying for healing and strength.

**PRAYER**

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Stay safe and keep well and may God bless you all.

Irene