

**Newsletter of the
Parish Church of St Peter,
Jersey**



TRINITY SUNDAY

Newsletter, Issue 11: 07 June 2020

Dear Friends,

Before reading my Homily, please read this prayer and the short piece of scripture:

Collect:

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 40.12-15, 28-end

40.12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure,
and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?

13 Who has directed the spirit of the Lord,
or as his counsellor has instructed him?

14 Whom did he consult for his enlightenment,
and who taught him the path of justice?

Who taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of understanding?

15 Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
and are accounted as dust on the scales;
see, he takes up the isles like fine dust.

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 28.16-end

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. 17 When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the

name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon for Trinity Sunday

'Love, is a many splendored thing'^^, is the opening line of an old song. It will help us in our understanding of God the Holy Trinity.

Trinity Sunday takes us to the very center of our knowledge and belief about God.

The doctrine of Holy Trinity is one of the absolute basics of the Christian faith: a doctrine and belief which is both simple and yet amazingly difficult to understand!

It's importance, within our system of Christian belief cannot be overemphasised, as witnessed by the fact that half of the Church's Year is called 'The Trinity season'.

In the truth that God is Holy Trinity more than anything else, we see and understand the greatness of God, his power, his purity, goodness, mercy, compassion, care, humility and so much more, but above all else we see his self-giving, sacrificial love. We also feel and experience the wonder, otherness and unfathomable splendour and majesty of God.

We know and understand all this from the person of Jesus Christ. It was Jesus who showed that though God is one, yet He is also three: Father, Son and Holy Spirit . For the last six months since Advent Sunday we have remembered, in our yearly cycle, the life of Jesus, from his birth to his ministry, to his death, resurrection, ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit, but from today for the next six months we remember and examine God as one, as whole, as complete, as a unity and yet always, *at the same time*, we remember the diversity of God as well. In other words, whenever one Person of the Holy Trinity acts, it is the God of the whole Trinity that acts.

All this speaks of the fact that what binds the persons of the Trinity together is pure, absolute, unadulterated, total and eternal love. God in other words is to the very core of his being 'love'. Love which is shown in our diversity of ways, for, "love is a *many splendid thing*"

We also need to know, and act on the fact that love cannot exist on its own. It cannot exist in vacuum. Love by its very nature needs someone to love, and so we have the fact that God is a 'community of love'.

As Christians, we need to reflect on Gods inner nature, in our lives, which is that of self giving love, supremely to the world by and through the person of our lord in the giving of himself sacrificially upon the cross for us all.

Love cannot exist in a vacuum: love *is* indeed a many splendid thing. Let us show that love and follow it in both the oneness and diversity of God. **Amen**

^^ "Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing" is a popular song with music by Sammy Fain and lyrics by Paul Francis Webster, publicized first in the film of 1955, set in Hong Kong, of the same name, adapted by John Patrick from the 1952 autobiographical novel 'A Many-Splendoured Thing' by Han Suyin.

Please take some time to reflect on the Homily and to just 'be' with God the Holy Spirit, then when you are ready, conclude this period of Listening, Reflection and Prayer, by offering to God, the following collect:

Post Communion Collect:

Almighty and eternal God, you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love: hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory, who are three Persons yet one God, now and for ever. **Amen**



Information about the Icon on the front cover of this week's Newsletter

Trinity Sunday, is the seventh of the seven great festivals of the Christian Calendar. I hope you will enjoy celebrating this together 'online'.

The Orthodox Icon on the front cover of this Newsletter, is a beautiful depiction of The Holy Trinity: it depicts the three angels who visited Abraham at the Oak of Mamre (Genesis 18:1–8), but the painting is full of symbolism and is interpreted as an icon of The Holy Trinity. At the time of Rublev, the Holy Trinity was the embodiment of spiritual unity, peace, harmony, mutual love and humility.

The Holy Trinity icon was created by Russian painter Andrei Rublev in the 15th century. It is his most famous work and of all Russian icons, and is regarded by most as one of the highest achievements of Russian religious art.

75th Anniversary Liberation Badge



As I go around the Parish, I have been and will continue to give out, these specially produced 75th Anniversary Liberation badges, for your delight and interest! These have been produced by the Parish, which were to have been given out on Liberation weekend, but because of the virus, I'm doing it bit by bit, so please be patient and eventually you will receive your badge, I hope you will wear it with pride, during this particular year.

Has your Newsletter appeared correctly on your screen?

Thank you for reading the newsletter each week. I hope that you enjoy reading it and also viewing the services on the Church Website Facebook.

I have had some very useful feedback as to the Newsletter's transmission. A small number of you, have found that some of the pages have been 'over printed' on top of the page that you are reading, which makes it very difficult to read.

I have taken advice from several people and they have suggested sending the Newsletter as a PDF, rather than as a Word Document. As I am not very good with computers, I have no idea what this all means, but I have done a test run from me to a parishioner: it now seems to be working fine as a PDF.

Thank you to those who have let me know about this! If you had not let me know, then this improvement could have not been made. Please do let me know of any such problems in the future.

Your Priest can now go into church!

Bishop Trevor has now permitted for each priest on the Island to go into his/her *own* church again. He very clearly stated however, that public services cannot take place inside. This is because of the need for social distancing for the protection of each of us.

As a result of this change, this week's Mass, which you will be able to see on the Church Website Facebook page, will come from the church itself, and not from the

Rectory garden! It is a joy to be able to celebrate the Eucharist at the High Altar at the Church again, so that you can view it in your own home.

Rotas

The present Rota which, because of the present emergency we have hardly had to use, runs out on 7 June. I will shortly be putting a *new* rota together, so that one is ready, should the restrictions on Public Worship be lifted. This way, there would not be huge rush to organise things at the last minute.

If you are going away (once this is allowed) and if you are on a rota of any sort, during the next three months (June, July, August), please could you let me know, so that I don't put you down to read or whatever, on a Sunday for which you would be away.

Probably it will be some months before public Worship can happen again, but I am just trying to think ahead.

This Sunday's Service

Could I re-emphasize that to access this and previous services on the Church Website you do not have to have Facebook yourself. Once on Church Website (www.stpeterschurch.org.ie) click on the Facebook to see them. I say this because some people have thought that if they didn't have Facebook themselves that they wouldn't be able to see the services. Happy viewing! Father Michael



LEPROSY MISSION STAMP COLLECTION BOX

Please keep putting aside any used stamps from your mail and due course bring them to church, once we reopen and put them in the special LEPROSY MISSION STAMP COLLECTION BOX at the back of the church. The Mission can redeem these stamps for its funds. This is a wonderful Anglican charity. The stamps may still be attached to the envelope paper: please cut around the stamps. Jersey stamps have more value than those from the UK as *comparatively* they are rarer: a much smaller number are produced.

Thank you to all who have given already: please keep it going! Father Michael

WAYS TO WORSHIP IN YOUR OWN HOME:

SERVICES FROM THE PARISH CHURCH or ST PETER'S RECTORY or GARDEN:

Go on www.stpeterschurch.org.je and click on the Church Facebook page. The service for each Sunday will be placed on there at **1030 on the Sunday** and can be viewed at any time of day after that: it will remain on the Face book page.

You do not need to have Facebook yourself to view these services, provided you view them via the Church website: a number of people have asked me about this.

SUNDAYS Radio & TV:

0800 Each Sunday during the emergency there will be a Service on **Radio Jersey** linked in with the national UK radio.

1315 Songs of Praise (BBC 2, TV)

1500 As always, *every week of the year* on **Radio 3** listen to the glories of **Choral Evensong** from a different Cathedral or Abbey each week which is a repeat from the previous Wednesday 1530 broadcast. Available for 30 days on BBC Sound.

SUNDAYS: 1900 - LIGHT A CANDLE AND PLACE IT IN A WINDOW VISIBLE FROM YOUR STREET

This simple initiative is from the Archbishop of Canterbury: it will help you and others to know that God, through Jesus, is the light of the world and is always with us. Beware of curtains!! Electric candles are best, if you have them. Please leave them lit for at least an hour, but preferably all evening. Look at the candle: think about what some are already going through and pray for them.

WEDNESDAYS on Radio 3

1530 As always, *every week of the year* on **Radio 3**, listen to the glories of **Choral Evensong** from a different Cathedral or Abbey each week, repeated on the following Sunday at 1500. Available for 30 days on BBC Sound.

CROSS, PALM CROSS especially at this time, CRUCIFIX, ICON

Use these as a focus for your prayers in your own home. Thank you for the many calls of appreciation about the Palm Crosses being sent to you at home.

A PRAYER FOR USE AT THE END OF THE DAY: SALVE REGINA

The Marian Devotion 'Salve Regina', is traditionally used at the end of the day. I have put it here, so that you can use this at home if you wish in your daily devotions, before going to bed. It was written in the 11th-century and is usually sung in Latin as a prayer. Many different composers (monks - especially those of Cluny; Handel, Vivaldi, Schubert) put it to music. Interestingly, it became part of the blessing said for ships, about to head out to sea at the end of their time on land, as a prayer of protection, making it a favourite of sailors. In addition, the Salve Regina is included

in the Funeral Rite for priests at the end of their time on earth, sung at the end of the service by all the other priests who are in attendance.

Both the words and music are truly beautiful, to listen too and to use: at the end of each day and of life itself.

*Regina, mater misericordiae:
Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus, exsules, filii Hevae.
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.
Eia ergo, Advocata nostra,
illos tuos misericordes oculos
ad nos converte.
Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis, post hoc exilium ostende.
O clemens: O pia: O dulcis
Virgo Maria.*

Queen, mother of mercy:
our life, sweetness, and hope, hail.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To you we sigh, mourning and weeping
in this valley of tears.
Turn then, our advocate,
those merciful eyes
toward us.
And Jesus, the blessed fruit of thy womb,
after our exile, show us,
O clement, O loving, O sweet
Virgin Mary.

PRAYERS ABOUT THE CURRENT VIRUS EPIDEMIC

I hope that you will find these prayers useful in your own prayer life at home. Prayer is at the heart of any Christian's life, just as much as it is at the heart of our communal life as the Body of Christ, which is The Church. These prayers have been specially produced by the Church of England, for use at the present time.

FOR ALL WHO WORRY

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. Amenor.....
Lord Jesus Christ your taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need, as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety give us strength to comfort the fearful,
to tend the sick and assure the isolated of our love and your love,
we ask this for your name's sake. Amen

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Merciful God, we entrust to your care those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR HOSPITAL STAFF, CARERS & MEDICAL RESEARCHERS

Heavenly Father we ask you to give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strength them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to
health, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAY FOR THE SICK: Suzette Bradshaw; Dave; Elis; Donald English; Audrey Gem;
Peggy Harrison; Jonathan Harvey; Peter Heath; Lester Huelin; Jack Johns; Robin
Mallet; Molly; Stephan Mauger; John Le Riche; Riley.
Also, please pray for all those who are ill with the coronavirus.

PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED:

Also, please pray for all those who have died from the coronavirus.



HATS for the MISSION to SEAFARERS!

Many thanks to those who have kindly offered to knit some hats
for the Mission to Seafarers, to be given to those who work upon
the seas: There are a selection of designs. If you know of anyone
else who might like to do this work and you want me to send copies of the patterns
on to them, please just let me know their address. I look forward to seeing the hats
in due course!

*Alternatively, if you have such hats as above, but you no longer need them, then as
long as it is washed and clean, these would be most acceptable too!* Father Michael

Annual General Meeting and Election of officers

Each church in the Church of England in the Deanery of Jersey has received an email from The Dean of Jersey about these matters. Basically there will be no AGM this year or Election of Officers within this Calendar Year and all the current officers are asked to remain in post, until the next AGM actually does take place, which would not be until next year. Having said all that, each church is to send its Annual Accounts for 2019 to The Deanery of Jersey Finance Committee, once they have been inspected by an 'Independent Examiner'. They will also be sent out to everyone on the Church Electoral Roll, for your interest.

£ A Word About Money £

Many thanks to all those who have already sent cheques, in lieu of money, that would normally be put on the collection plate at services inside the church. It is much appreciated.

For those who have not donated, The Treasurer and I, plus the Church Officers, earnestly hope that you are putting money aside each week in a 'jam jar' (real or metaphorical!) so that when the churches are allowed to reopen, you will be able to bring that money to church or of course to put the cheque 'on the plate'. I hate to even write about money, but having talked with The Treasurer it was felt that a word to you all might be useful.

We have had a letter from the Chairman of the Deanery Finance Committee, stating that they estimate that by October, at the present rate, they will have exhausted all the reserves that they had.

As a priority, St Peters Parish Church is continuing to pay its Share allocation of £1,500 per month towards its Share Allocation of £36,000 per annum as requested, being mindful of The Treasurer's letter in a previous Newsletter, that that is half the amount of £72,000 per annum, the starting point in the Share Allocation process, for each Church in the Deanery of Jersey.

Because of the lack of services, we are not receiving anything like that amount in because there are no 'collections', so there is a danger of things become critical in the not too distant future. As indicated above there is no huge pot of money held by The Deanery from which we could be helped and of course there are other churches on the island, in the same position as us. If we all give methodically and regularly then things will go well, but if we don't then...! 'Cash flow' is so important not only because of our contribution to the Deanery of Jersey but because of the many bills which still have to be paid each month, as is the case in any organisation. I hope you will take this matter to heart. Father Michael



Reaching a century!

Our warmest congratulations to Don English, husband to Jo, on celebrating his 100 birthday a few days ago. We hope that you shared a wonderful day together.

Best wishes and God bless,
from Father Michael and all at St Peters.

RE-OPENING OF CHURCHES

Many of you will have heard the Government's announcement, a few days ago, saying that churches can re-open from 12 June. There has been confusion about what this means, as evidenced by the number of times I have been asked in phone calls and emails, "Will we be opening from the Sunday after the 12th". A natural thing to ask, given the announcement!

The statement made however was permissive, *not* prescriptive.

There are many things yet to consider and decide on, especially re the minimum standards that churches will be required to meet, in order to open. Eg questions surrounding baptisms, wedding and funerals, clear guidelines regarding cleaning regimes, numbers allowed to attend whilst also keeping 2m apart, PPE, the singing of hymns or not, screens versus printed media, length of services, Risk Assessment Documents and policy, etc., in order for churches to open, as may best suit individual churches *within* the yet to be produced Guidelines. Some churches will want to be open for private prayer, others will want to open for Sunday Services, whilst others will continue to only stream their services.

The Deanery (and other denominations) is waiting to hear from the Government as to what the Instructions and Guidelines will be, within which Churches will need to operate. As soon as I know more, I will of course let you know: we must always all remember that the point of all this is our individual and collective safety.

Fr Michael

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Church Facebook: go on the website and click on the Facebook to see Mass from The Parish Church of St Peter. All previous services are also available on the website.