

Greetings from all at St Mary's - especially from the Ministry Team!



I wonder how you are finding time slipping past?

Sometimes it feels like we are caught in an endless loop of days – and then at other points you recognise how swiftly things have passed.

This week we keep **Ascension Day** (on Thursday 21st). It does not seem possible that Easter and our marking of the end of Holy Week was already 6 weeks ago.

But as we look forward I am also aware that it currently looks at least a further 8 weeks or so before some of us are able to gather in our churches for worship.

If you have any ideas or suggestions as to how we can help and support you and others in keeping you in touch with the us and each other we would love to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

As we move forward we will continue to keep in touch by sending a regular mailing to you.

If you are on any form of social media (Facebook etc) you can follow us on those social media outlets. Our [website has links to Twitter, Facebook and Instagram](#) presence.



One way you can join with all of us over the coming days is to share in the **'Thy Kingdom Come'** initiative.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayer-resources>

Over the last few years the Archbishops have encouraged and invited us all to keep **11 days of prayer between Ascension Day (21st May) and Pentecost (31st May).**

We are asked each day to pray for the coming of God's kingdom and that we may be a sign of that kingdom in our lives to draw others to it.

It could mean simply saying the Lord's Prayer each day – aware that you are praying at that time with Christians throughout the world.

Or you might like to use a booklet of prayers and reflections which you can [freely view or download from our website](#).

As always if you would like other material and resources or would like to chat about your life of prayer at this time, then please do contact us (details below).



We will be celebrating the **Feast of Pentecost** – the coming of the Holy Spirit – on **Sunday May 31st**

– and to mark the day we are encouraging everyone to **wear something red,**

and perhaps create an image of flames (or the gifts of the Spirit) to place in a window.

There are some images on this link you could

use <http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/tags/pentecost>

If you do and can share a picture with us it would be great to see!

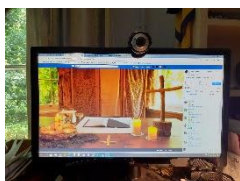
Also, to remind you of the ways that we continue to be united in being a people of prayer:



Each day we are inviting you to **pause and pray with us at 9am and 5pm.**

There is a simple service available [on our website here](#). If you want more details of suggested readings etc then please contact us.

Alternatively, at those times simply be still and either light a candle, or read a short passage of scripture and be aware of Christ's presence with you as light in the darkness, and be aware of the love and support of all those praying with you at that time.



Also each day at **Noon we are sharing a celebration of the Eucharist : 'Christ in our Homes'** streamed to our webpage (www.portseaparish.co.uk) from the Vicarage.

If you have access to the **YouTube Channel on your TV** then you can also share in the celebrations by searching for the 'Portsea Parish' videos and watch at any time..

Likewise, on **Sundays we are celebrating at 10am**

If you want details or help to access please contact us.

In addition to this there is also the access to the daily reflections from the Ministry Team via **a phone line which has the recordings of the Daily Reflections** we are providing alongside the Eucharist.

You simply dial in, select the option and then you can listen to the reflection.

They last between 5 & 10mins and the call costs 1p per minute (from a landline).

The number to call is 02393 190 916. The reflections will be updated every Wednesday and Sunday.



The National Church is also offering a free call line 'Daily Hope' with music, prayers and reflections. To access please call **0800 804 8044**

Thank you to all from the Church who are helping us with our care and contacting of the vulnerable. If we can't assist, then we are able to access the HIVE help desk covering the city and we will work with them to help those who need it.

Please don't hesitate to ask if you are in need. There is sufficient supplies of everything in the city and we will happily help you to have what you need.

Also, if you are worried, or uncertain about anything, then just pick up the phone and call us or leave a message – the phone number is at the end of this letter.



In previous mailings I have mentioned our need to replace a large amount of lost income (Fundraising events; loose collections; church hire)

-thank you to those who have already generously responded by making donations.

If you would like to support us in continuing to do all we are doing and would like to make a donation, either send a cheque payable to 'St Mary's PCC' to the Vicarage or please contact me for details on how best to do this.

As always I end by thanking all who are helping us as the community of faith (including you for your prayers and support) – and to reassure you of our thoughts and prayers at this time

With best wishes
Father Bob

Revd Canon Bob White

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