

Living with God in Passiontide and at Easter



The signs of Spring and hope continue to appear around us and this seems to reflect the general sense of hope that has followed the announcement of the Government's Road Map and the rollout of the vaccination programme (I am having mine this week).

The Standing Committee and Ministry Team reflected on our next steps as a Parish, and I am delighted to be able to update you that after a testing of our system last Sunday at St Mary's



from March 14th we will be resuming worship that you can attend at St Mary's at 8 and 10am; St Faith's at 9am and St Wilfrid's at 4pm.

Alongside this you are welcome to join us at **St Mary's for the Noon Mass each weekday.**

Until March 29th we are not permitted to gather or mingle with more than one other person



– so at the end of the service we ask that you remain in your seat while we guide people out a row at a time to enable all to feel safe and so avoid gatherings around the doorways.

We continue to ask that all who attend wear a face covering and once in the Church remain in their seat and space.

If you would like to join us for a service it will help if you could let us know in advance (contact details below).



We also continue to invite you to join us in a simple pattern for Lent.

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Pause and Pray

Each day we are encouraging everyone to find some time and space to pause and pray with us.

At **9am each day** we are focusing on the '**Lord's Prayer**' – as we pray this together at 9am we can be aware of each other united in that prayer.



We would like to share recordings of as many people as possible saying the prayer in a favourite space, or in their own language.

If you can make a recording please send it to me (Fr Bob) – we need about 15 more!

At **6pm each day** we will focus on **the Stations of the Cross**.



Each day we will reflect on one aspect of the journey Jesus makes to the Cross.

If you have an image or a thought on any of the stations and how you see them in our daily lives, then again please share them with us.

Living with God in our homes



Also, **each weekday at Noon** we will **celebrate the Eucharist** at St Mary's and share that with you in your homes via Facebook or You Tube.

A chance for us all to pause and reflect on how we live with God amongst us as we recognise and rejoice in his presence.

Reflections

We will continue to share each day our reflections and on Saturday Canon Bruce will share his thoughts as part of **Saturday Stillness**.

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If you would be interested in joining parishioners for **Zoom Coffee and Chat** on Saturdays do let me know (contact details below).

Holy Week and Easter

We have also been reflecting on how to mark Holy Week this year and we are delighted that **Very Revd Nicholas Frayling (retired Dean of Chichester)** has **offered to provide us with reflections each day** and during our celebrations of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Many of us have valued and enjoyed Nicholas' contribution to the daily reflections. He will be with us at the **Noon Mass at St Mary's (which will also be streamed) on Monday – Weds (29th – 31st March) and will give a reflection at the end of the service.**

Details of the Services for Maundy Thursday following will be shared with you in a couple of weeks.

We hope you will be able to join with us in them in some way.

Easter Flowers



Normally we would be inviting you to complete a form to have a Lily in Church in memory of someone or thanksgiving for something.

Due to the restrictions, we face whilst we will have some lilies we will not have as many as usual.

However, we hope to provide flowers for Easter Day and the days that follow.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of someone or thanksgiving for something to help with the cost of these flowers, then please send to me at the Vicarage (for all 3 Churches) or hand in at the Churches by Palm Sunday - contact details are below.

If you wish to have the name recorded in the Church, then please also let me know.

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Sharing hope and new life ...

Thank you to all who have already been donating Easter Eggs, Packets of Seeds, Pots and small garden tools or financial donations. to share with families on the margins.

If you can share some hope and new life, please contact us.



Thank you also to all who have continued to support the **Great St Mary's Bake Book**.

This has been a popular volume and has already raised over £600 – thank you to Marie for her gathering of the recipes!

– if you would like a copy then please contact Revd Sam (assocvicar@portseaparish.co.uk) or collect from Churches – we are inviting a **donation of £5** to support our work with 'Hope into Action'.



Another sign of life and hope

We are delighted that Revd Sam and Lionel will be getting married in Petersfield on Tuesday April 6th. We send then all our love and prayers – and look forward to the time we can share with them and mark the moment with a cake!

Dates and events

Monday 15th March **Monday men** will meet in the evening – *contact Revd Marcus* (marcuscollie@portseaparish.co.uk) *if you are interested in this group*

Weds 17th March **6pm** Fr Bob is chairing a **webinar with the City Council on the response to issues of homelessness**. This will include a presentation from Hope into Action and the Portsmouth Community Housing Trust. If you would like to join the meeting contact him for details

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Sun 20th March **4pm** **A Passiontide Reflection** in Music and Readings at St Mary's (*this will also be streamed*)

Thurs 25th March **6pm** **A Mass with Music** for the feast of the **Annunciation** at St Mary's (*this will also be streamed*)

As I have done with every newsletter, I also need to thank all who have generously continued to make donations or sustain their regular giving to our 3 churches.

Your generosity and support have been overwhelming – and has enabled us to sustain much of our life together.

If you would like to make a donation or review your regular giving then please either drop into St Mary's Church (which will continue to be open every day from 9am – Noon for private prayer) or send to the Vicarage, Fratton Road, PO1 5PA.

Alternatively contact me for how to make donation via BACS or regular Standing orders.



With best wishes

Father Bob

Revd Canon Bob White

Vicar of St Mary's , Portsea and Area Dean of Portsmouth

St Mary's Vicarage, Fratton Road, Portsmouth, PO1 5PA

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Lent in Lockdown 3

Streamed Services

- **Sunday Eucharist 10am from St Mary's**
- **Said Eucharist Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Noon**
- **Saturday at noon is Saturday Stillness with music, a reading and prayers by the clergy and a reflection by Fr Bruce.**

You can pick up live streams on our portseaparish.co.uk/live-services, our [Youtube Channel](#), or if you have a facebook account on the St Mary's Facebook page at facebook.com/PortseaParish. There is a Daily Reflection available at portseaparish.co.uk/daily-reflections each day.

The service sheet for **mid-week Eucharists during Lent** is [available here](#).

The service sheet for **Sunday Eucharists during Lent** is [available here](#).

The service sheet for **Mothering Sunday Eucharists on 14th March** is [available here](#).

Worship in Church

From 7th March 2021:

- **Sunday 8am Book of Common Prayer Communion St Mary's Church**
- **Sunday 10am Eucharist at St Mary's Church**
- **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Noon said Eucharist at St Mary's Church**

St Mary's will be open every day from 9am – Noon for private prayer.

From 14th March 2021 (Mothering Sunday):

- **Sunday 8am Book of Common Prayer Communion St Mary's Church**
- **Sunday 9am Eucharist at St Faith's Church**
- **Sunday 10am Eucharist at St Mary's Church**
- **Sunday 4pm Eucharist at St Wilfrid's Church**
- **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Noon said Eucharist at St Mary's Church**

St Mary's is open every day from 9am – Noon for private prayer.

As we are still in Lockdown, no mingling is permitted until the rule of 6 is allowed possibly on March 29th. We will be asking everyone to simply enter the Church and sit down without pausing for conversations. At the end of the service the Priest will indicate how to leave in a staggered way so

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we can keep the exit routes clear and enable all present to simply and quietly walk out and make their way home. If you are able to join us please do help us and everyone to maintain and respect each other's space and follow any guidance given.

As before **if you wish to be at a service it will help us to know in advance** please contact myself (vicar@portseaparish.co.uk), or Revd Sam (assocvicar@portseaparish.co.uk) or Revd Sue (sue.whitelock@portseaparish.co.uk).

For special services see the [Events List](#).

Venues

St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Portsmouth PO1 5PA. Tel: 023 9281 4444

Free parking in church grounds. Rail: Fratton station (0.6 miles). Bus 14, 18, 21 (3, 7, 23 stop nearby). Wheelchair access to church.

St Faith's Church, Crasswell Street, Portsmouth, PO1 1HT. Tel: 023 9282 7322

Parking: 1 hr free parking 9am-6pm in Crasswell Street and surrounding controlled streets, unlimited thereafter. Pay and display in Arundel Street 8am to 6pm, free thereafter. Rail: Portsmouth & Southsea (0.2 miles). Buses: 13, 14, 21 alight Canberra Ho on Arundel Street. City centre buses nearby. Wheelchair access to the church.

St Wilfrid's Church, George St, Portsmouth PO1 5RT. Tel: 023 9282 2687.

Parking: unrestricted parking in surrounding streets. Rail: Fratton (1 mile). Bus: 14 alight Langley Rd stop on New Road. Wheelchair access to the church.
