

Walk in the Light of Easter

April 2023



As we have journeyed to the Cross and tomb through Holy Week so we continue to journey together as we celebrate the light and joy of Easter. Over the coming days and weeks we hope that you will find time and space to gather with us as we reflect on the risen life of Jesus and how we are called to be signs of that life to others.

This year we will be combining that expression of hope for the future and new life with our **preparing for the Coronation of King Charles III**. The Church of England is inviting us to use the 4 weeks that lead to the Coronation to pause and reflect each day and pray for our King and Queen and the Royal Family; for our country and the Commonwealth; and for all of us that in our lives we may follow the example of our Servant King, Jesus, who calls us to walk with him.

On Easter Day we will be sharing a special booklet which has been produced to guide you through those days with reflections and prayers. There is also material online and we will be sharing that on our social media pages. **We invite you to find time and space each day – but particularly to consider pausing with us at 9 & 6 and offer a prayer at that time for our King as he prepares for his Coronation.**

On **Easter Day we will also be celebrating Baptisms** at both St Mary's and St Faith's – please hold in your prayers Eliza, Esme, Jospeh, Lucas, Lylie, Linsey, Pearl, Penny, Tayo – and they will also be walking with us and our King as faithful servants of our Servant King. Many of them are also exploring faith with us as they prepare for **Confirmation later in the year (on June 8th)** – we hope you will support them on that day (a Thursday in the evening) and encourage them in their faith.

As we celebrate Easter we also look forward to that other celebration of life and joy in Fratton – **the May Fayre**. This year on **Monday May 1st** – please spread the word; ensure you have volunteered; sold raffle tickets; brought in items to sell; and started baking cakes! We need each

and everyone of us to be involved and share in the event – welcoming 10,000+ visitors to the church and churchyard.

The PCC met recently and considered the current situation with COVID – which while seeming to decrease is still in the community. It agreed that we will move towards the sharing of the Chalice, but not yet. The situation will be regularly reviewed and we will discuss how best to ensure all are comfortable with what is possible. However, the PCC has invited those who previously helped with administering the Chalice before COVID to begin to assist on Sundays in holding the chalice for the Minister who will intinct the host. If you have any thoughts or views you wish to share then please let one of the Ministry team know.

Lastly, **thank you** to all who have supported our study, discussion and worship over the last few weeks. Also thank you to those who will have enhanced our worship over the Triduum (Maundy Thursday to Easter Day) with their serving, reading, music and preparing the items we use at the services. Finally, thank you to those who have cleaned, polished and decorated our Churches for our Easter Celebrations

Dates for your diary ...

Easter Day

April 9th

4pm Choral Evensong and Benediction

at St Mary's

Mon April 10th

Easter Week

Noon Mass at St Mary's (live streamed)

Tues April 11th

Easter Week

9.30am Mass at St Faith's and coffee and chat

Weds April 12th

Easter Week

Noon Mass at St Mary's (live streamed)

Thurs April 13th

Easter Week

10.30am Mass at St Faith's and coffee and chat

Friday April 14th

Easter Week

11am Coffee and Chat at St Mary's

Noon Mass at St Mary's (live streamed)

7pm Organ Recital at St Mary's – Nigel Stark

Sat April 15th

Easter Week

10am Just Ask at St Mary's *come and enquire*

about Christenings, Weddings etc or simply 'just ask' something of the clergy

1.30pm Wedding Service at St Mary's

2nd Sunday of Easter

Next Sunday 16th

8am BCP Eucharist at St Mary's
9.30am Mass and Hymns at St Faith's
10am Sung Mass at St Mary's (live streamed)
11.30am Exploring Faith Groups

Mon April 17th

Easter Week 2

Noon Mass at St Mary's (live streamed)
7.30pm Julian Prayer Group at St Faith's
A time of stillness and reflection

Tues April 18th

Easter Week 2

9.30am Mass at St Faith's and coffee and chat

Weds April 19th

S Alphege

Noon Mass at St Mary's (live streamed)
followed by **Fellowship Lunch**
(bring your own food)

Thurs April 20th

S Bueno

10.30am Mass at St Faith's and coffee and chat

Friday April 21st

S Anselm

11am Coffee and Chat at St Mary's
Noon Mass at St Mary's (live streamed)
1.30pm Funeral Service at St Mary's
7pm Easter Bunny Drive at St Faith's –
A fun evening to raise funds for our Social Justice work – a Beetle Drive with seasonal twist ... wear your bunny ears! Tickets: £3 available at Church
10am Just Ask at St Mary's *come and enquire about Christenings, Weddings etc or simply 'just ask' something of the clergy*

Sat April 22nd

Easter Week 2

11.30am Fratton Big Local Fun Run ...
In the churchyard – one lap is ¼ mile. If you want to run and be sponsored to raise funds for Music Foundation please contact Maggie Moles. Or simply come along and encourage others!

3rd Sunday of Easter

Next Sunday 23rd

8am BCP Eucharist at St Mary's
9.30am Mass and Hymns at St Faith's
10am Sung Mass at St Mary's (live streamed)
11.30am Exploring Faith Groups
4pm Baptism Service at St Mary's

Future Dates

- Sunday April 30th** **2pm May Fayre Preparation** at St Mary's
- Monday May 1st** **10am – 4pm Community May Fayre**
- Thursday May 4th** **St Mary's Vestry Hall and St Faith's will be in use as Polling Stations**
- Friday May 5th** **7pm Organ recital** at St Mary's
- Saturday May 6th** Join us at St Mary's for a **live streaming of the Coronation** on the large screen.
- Sunday May 7th** **Noon Big Coronation Lunch** in the churchyard in partnership with Fratton Big Local – *bring your own food and have a picnic with entertainment and live music*
- 3pm Service of thanksgiving for the Coronation of King Charles III** at St Mary's
- 5.30pm Young People's Group** at St Mary's
Contact Fr Rajiv for details
- Tuesday May 9th** **7 – 9pm Tuesday Chaps** at St Faith's
Monday Men has moved to a new day! Contact Fr Rajiv for details.
- Friday May 12th** **6.30pm Music Foundation Concert** at St Mary's *with students from Portsmouth High School*
- Sunday May 14th** At end of 9.30am service **AGM at St Faith's**
At end of 10am service **AGM at St Mary's**
- Monday May 15th** **7pm Parish AGM and Fish and Chips** at St Mary's