



Lent 2024

*In the Parish of St Mary's, Portsea
With St Faith's Landport*

Each year we are given the opportunity to step back from the routines and busyness of life and spend some time in reflecting on our faith as we prepare for our celebration of Easter. The season of Lent encourages us to give up some things and create some space to enable us to be aware of God and his love for us.

We hope you will find a way to join with us in the Parish as we 'Watch and Pray' and seek the restorative love of God in our lives.

This is especially important in the times of uncertainty, darkness and challenge which we seem to face at the moment in our world.

Our Archbishop's invite us to join them and the whole Church of England in journeying together through Lent.

'Our prayer is that this Lent may bring you not only waiting, but healing, not only rest but renewed hope. May we all be encouraged and supported as we journey together. And may we meet and be transformed by the Lord of lords, whose day is near.'

There are a variety of ways you can share in this journey with us.

There is a **copy of the Daily Reflections book available from Church (we will be giving them out on Sunday Feb 11th**, please let us know if you need one sent to you). There is also a **small booklet for children and young people** to use. Alternatively, you can follow the reflections online or on social media – see the Church of England website or pages for details.

Worship

We will be continuing with our regular times for worship both in our churches and online.

Perhaps you could make a Lenten commitment to be at a service each week?

We will also have some special services.



We will mark the start of Lent with two special services on **Ash Wednesday (Feb 14th) – both at St Mary's**. There will be a service at **Noon** followed by Fellowship Lunch (please bring your own food) and **another at 7pm**.



Mothering Sunday March 10th

at the **9.30am St Faith's** and **10am at St Mary's** we will be giving thanks for all who care for us and sharing flowers as a sign of that thanks.



Also, on **March 10th at 4pm** we will **welcome Bishop Jonathan as he baptises and confirms** those from our community who have been exploring their faith with us. Please come along to welcome the Bishop and support those being confirmed.

Sunday March 17th is Passion Sunday – as we enter the final fortnight of Lent and focus our prayers and reflections on the passion and suffering of Jesus on the cross. At St Mary's we will have **at 4pm Music and reflections for Passiontide**

Details of our Holy Week services will follow –

join us on **Palm Sunday (March 24th)** as we gather at **St Faith's** at **9.30am** for our procession to **St Mary's**

Reflection and conversation

This Lent as we 'Watch and Pray' we will be thinking about the restorative love of God and how we can reflect that in our own lives and relationships. In a world and society where people quickly judge others and create barriers, we need to consider how we can reflect Jesus' teaching to love our neighbour and to pray for our enemies. How can we develop skills and ways of building bridges and seeking reconciliation?

We have been asked to explore a course being developed for use in schools and church communities which Revd Wendy May is working on.

There will be **3 main opportunities to meet with others and reflect on this theme each week.**

Mondays at 6pm there will be a chance to meet with others. This will be **at St Faith's** (and for Lent will also be the session for Tuesday Chaps)

Wednesdays at St Mary's after the Noon Mass (please bring your own lunch – unless a soup lunch – see below) and share in a led conversation on restorative love in action.

Saturdays at 9am (check each week for venue) **a Lent Breakfast** (a light breakfast will be provided) which will consider the theme. **(Starting on 17th Feb at St Mary's)**

Building up the Common life

Through the coming weeks there are other opportunities to gather together and build up our common life as we journey together

Soup Lunches

Some of you may remember that in Lent we traditionally hosted Soup lunches. These were originally developed in Churches to raise funds for charity as part of our Lenten journey. In Lent we are encouraged to 'fast on certain days' or 'give up' certain things. The Soup lunch was intended to be a simple lunch of soup, bread and cheese. Those attending would then be invited to make a donation – of the money they would have spent on the things they had given up or saved spending on a meal.

We will be re-introducing **a simple soup lunch** this Lent to recapture something of that original concept. We hope you might join us as we meet and **help support the Bishop's Lent Appeal.**

There will be lunches (Soup made by the clergy) on **Weds 21st Feb and 20th March**. There will also be one on **Friday March 1st** after the Noon Service. **(If sufficient numbers we will also hold one on Fri March 22nd).** We hope you might join us.

Shrove Tuesday (Feb 13th) at St Mary's



At **6pm** there will be **Pancake Races** in the Church ending at about 6.30pm with some **Food** – followed by a **Quiz** (at around 7pm). Tickets are available for the food and the quiz. All funds raised will be given to the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

Saturday Feb 17th

at **2.30pm** and **7pm** the **Parish Panto** will be at **St Faith's**

Sunday Feb 25th at 5.30pm Young people and adults

meet with Fr Rajiv at St Faith's

Sunday March 3rd 4pm Choral Evensong at St Mary's

Monday March 11th 7.30pm Julian Prayer Group

meets at St Faith's for a time of stillness and prayer.

Tuesday March 19th 7pm The PCC meets at St Mary's

Thursday March 21st 7.30pm

Royal Marines School of Music Concert at St Mary's

Saturday March 23rd 10am Messy Holy Week at St Mary's –

if you could help us with welcoming young families to the church for a variety of activities and providing them with a lunch, please contact Fr Rajiv.

If you would like to have a conversation about faith or a visit, then please let one of the Ministry Team know and we will make arrangements.

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