

26th April 2020
Third Sunday of Easter Year A Part 1

'The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread'. Lk 24: 35

Immaculate Conception Church

Within the Pastoral Area of Southampton East
 346 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 3SB
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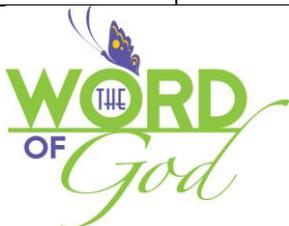
Parish Priest: Fr Antony Gatt

Hospital Chaplaincy: (023 8120 8517)
 University Chaplain: Sr Valentina Stilo (07983 883377)
 Safeguarding Officer: Pat Saunders (08044 2189)
 Parish Secretary: Rachel Brady (023 8055 5470)
~~Confessions: Saturday at 10.30am after morning Mass~~
~~Rosary: Wednesdays, starting 25 mins before Mass~~
Hall Bookings: portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sun 26 Apr	Third Sunday of Easter	Recently Bereaved
Mon 27 Apr	3 rd week Easter	
Tues 28 Apr	St Louis de Montfort	
Wed 29 Apr	St Catherine of Siena	Siobhan and Rich Channell
Thurs 30 Apr	3 rd week Easter	
Fri 1 May	St Joseph the Worker	Kate Paler RIP
Sat 2nd May	St Athanasius	
Sun 3rd May	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Winifred McDonnell RIP

NO PUBLIC MASSES

Fr Antony will say Mass privately each day and include all requested Mass intentions



SUNDAY'S READINGS

1st Reading: Acts 2:14-22-33
 Psalm: 15
 2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1: 17-21
 Gospel: Luke 24: 13-35

The Parish Office is closed.

The Parish email is still checked regularly. For non-urgent matters please send an email to portswood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
 Enquiries re the Sacraments--please make an appointment by email.

My dear Friends:

Believe it or not, there is quite a connection between this Sunday's gospel and the scenario many of us are currently living out and, to which, many of us are courageously, trying to respond!

The scene is set: some of the disciples are travelling from Jerusalem, their 'city of dreams' to a not-so-glamorous town called Emmaus! For some glorious years, Jesus had entered their lives like an energizing, illumining, beacon of light. His words had rocked many of his disciples to their foundations! These same words had filled them with a sense of amazing joy, vibrant hope, embracing love, and a pulsating vision of a new, and better world! The disciples had just seen that 'joy, hope, love and vision of a better world' nailed to a tree, crucified, killed and entombed! Their shattered hopes and dreams lay scattered around them like shards of glass. When the mysterious figure of Jesus joined the disciples on that road to Emmaus, their conversation would not have been overly positive!

You know, I was thinking that very possibly, many of us have experienced, or are experiencing, similar feelings to those of Jesus' disciples. For some of us, perhaps investing in a new work venture; moving to a different location, or country, for an exciting job; or,

meeting a soulmate...Perhaps we have invested hard-earned savings, or borrowed from family, friends or the bank to invest in that sure-thing business venture...or the date for that surgery, for which we had waited so long, and now postponed...these scenarios are **our** 'journeys to Emmaus'! I can assure you, Jesus walks by **our** sides, as lovingly, caringly and supportively, as he walked at the sides of his disciples on their journey.

However, He does not only *walk* with us! He is the Risen Lord! He is the Divine Healer and Restorer of our hopes and dreams. In the words of the great mystic, we are the bamboo flutes, raised and kissed by the lips of God. In the trials, frustrations, and irritations of these pandemic challenges, the same Risen Lord will breathe new life into **us**. The disciples recognized Jesus in 'the breaking of bread'. Although we might be unable to receive the Eucharist within the mass because of this pandemic, if we sit in stillness, and invite the Risen Lord into our hearts in Spiritual Communion, he will indeed respond to the invitation! In the same way he enabled and empowered the disciples on their journey, He will be our strength, our courage and our vision to rebuild our dreams, and realise them, in the weeks and months to come. Who was it said that it is not what *happens* to us which makes us who we are...but how we *respond* to it...which makes us who we are?!

And so, we also pray this Sunday, for all those who are in pain, or who have suffered bereavement. We pray especially for the Front Liners and their families, and for the many Front Liners '*who have given their todays*' so we can have a tomorrow.

It is within the Eucharist (or for now, Spiritual Communion), that we are all united in the strength, healing and love of the Risen Lord. Those dreams will be restored. The woundedness and brokenness will be healed. The darkness of fear will surrender to the Light of Hope. The Risen Lord's arms are around **all** of us. Just like the disciples, we will be able to say:

*Were not our hearts burning within us
while He spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?"
So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem
where they found gathered together
the eleven and those with them who were saying,
"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"
Then the two recounted
what had taken place on the way
and how He was made known to them in the breaking of bread.*

Remember me as loving you,

Fr. Antony

Spiritual Communion: *My Jesus, I believe that You are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I passionately desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to You now and forever. Amen.*

26th April 2020
3rd Sunday of Easter Year A : Newsletter Part 2

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The **Parish Bank Account** details are:

Name: **PRCDTR Immaculate Conception**

Sort Code 30-93-04

Account No: 00887995

For donations give a reference please

RF = Roof Fund

ERF = Emergency Relief Fund

followed by your gift aid number if you donate in this way

Thank you for your support and patience at this time

Please consider giving through internet banking

SAINT OF THE WEEK: ST CATHERINE OF SIENA. 1347-1380

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=9

St Catherine was born in Italy, Sienna in 1347. Interestingly she was born during the outbreak of the plague. Her twin did not survive infancy. When Catherine's sister died, the family wanted Catherine (aged 16) to marry her widowed brother in law, but Catherine refused, fasted, cut her hair and tried to look unattractive. Her parents relented and Catherine joined the Third Order of the Dominican order while living at home. The Dominicans taught her to write. In her early twenties, she received a vision to leave her home and enter public life. She supported the poor and sick and then travelled further. She was a renowned political activist, lobbyist and Mystic. She pressed for reform in the Church and the Papal States. Catherine encouraged Reconciliation, both as a Sacrament and for civic peace. She established a monastery for women and compiled a collection of over 400 doctrinal and spiritual letters and prayers known as her Dialogue. Catherine became ill and died of a stroke. An influential and popular saint in a political and religious sense, she became a Doctor of the Church in 1970.



COULD YOU INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? COULD YOU BE A CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEER?

Schools Volunteers are a vital part of our work bringing Catholic social teaching to the next generation – but there is a shortage in Portsmouth Diocese and we need your help. By becoming a CAFOD School Volunteer you will have the opportunity to be part of a global movement building a fairer world, inspiring young people to get involved. It only takes a few hours a week to visit schools, and with that time, you can help make an impact on future generations. Training and support is provided for more information please contact Jo Lewry portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or call 07710 094447.

9 TIPS FOR LOCK DOWN FROM SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

The Council have produced a helpful video at this website. They have also announced that garden collections resume this week!

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSOUTHAMPTON/bulletins/286d6c0>

“However Kerbside glass collections remain suspended until further notice. This will be kept under review and the aim is to re-introduce the service as soon as possible. Mixed glass bottles and jars should be stored safely at your home until the service is reinstated. Do not put glass in your general waste bin. You can deposit glass at one of the many glass bottle recycling banks in Southampton. This should only be done as part of an essential journey, such as visiting a supermarket or convenience store to purchase necessities”.

Don't forget their **COVID 19** information on their website.

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid19/supporting-you/> Please call the City Council on 023 8083 4800 if you need support. Out of hours emergency number is 023 8023 3344

MASSES FOR THE SICK AND THEIR FAMILIES, NHS FRONT-LINE WORKERS AND THOSE WORKING IN SOCIAL CARE.

In order to show a spiritual solidarity, Catholic Bishops will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join. This will be every Thursday at 1900 (7pm) the next one is on **30 April** with Bishop Richard Moth [Our Lady and St Philip Howard, Arundel YouTube Channel](#). See <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/masses-for-sick-and-nhs-covid19/> and other dates.

ONE MINUTE SILENCE: The Royal College of Nursing has worked alongside other unions to call on the country to observe a minute's silence next **Tuesday 28 April at 11am** to remember all the health, care and other key workers who have lost their lives to COVID-19. This day is marked internationally every year, but has a new importance in 2020.

FINANCES: A big **THANK YOU** for your donations to the **Parish Emergency Relief Fund**- which are still coming in! We will be reporting monthly in future. The total from launch until mid -April is: St Anthony's box (emptied -and assigned to the Emergency Relief Fund), £216.95.

Web site: £771.12; Bank Donations: £168.75 **Grand total to date: £1156.82**

Regular Standing Orders to maintain the parish amenities and expenses: £1100.51

Thank you for continuing your regular donations. Please consider putting money aside, dropping envelopes into the presbytery or signing up to internet banking!

A CALL FOR TALENTS and EXPERTISE- (subject to social distance of course!) help us to take Jesus to others: we need your professional and skilled help in these areas to help us address the needs of many within this crisis: (don't be backward in coming forward please!)

- Producing media materials as we cannot meet face to face;
- Hosting webinars/zoom etc /live streaming encounters for catechesis, spiritual and personal development;
- Finding useful resources (free and catholic);
- Managing data bases confidentially;
- Making short films/videos for adults and children;
- Producing quizzes and finding games;
- Running the weekly children's activity sheet.

QUIZ CORNER (answers below)¹

- (1) According to the Book of Exodus, where did Moses receive the Ten Commandments?
- (2) What is the name of the round metal container used to take the Holy Eucharist to the sick?
- (3) What is the name of the square piece of cloth that the priest places beneath the chalice and ciborium/bread during Mass to collect crumbs or spill?
- (4) Who am I? I was born in Yorkshire in the 16th Century. I married a butcher, we had three children and lived in a house called the Shambles. I was arrested for harbouring Catholic priests and was executed on Lady Day aged 30.
- (5) Who said this? *I sought to hear the voice of God And climbed the topmost steeple, But God declared: "Go down again – I dwell among the people".*

POETS CORNER FROM DENNIS WILSON- FLOWER OF HOPE

I saw a pretty sight today that filled me with delight,
A primrose, with its yellow flowers against the snow, so white:
For what could better speak of hope and cause the heart to sing:
Than the final snows of Winter, with the promise of the Spring.



And a little ditty

A lady on a 'bus one day, without the least concern,
Had handed the conductor there, a ticket marked return.
"I'm sorry, Mum," she heard him say, with gathering dismay,
"This ticket's a return alright, but going the other way."
"Oh, bother!" said the customer, "How can it be reversed?
I hardly ever come from there unless I've been there first."

(This incident actually happened, on a bus from Southampton to Chandlers Ford)

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Thank you Dennis for cheering us up. Do send us some more!

Are there any more poets out there please? Any musical composers? Video singers? Any artists?

Next week we will be starting a 'get to know you' section. We would like parishioners to pen a few words about themselves, preferably accompanied by a photo. Please could you send in a contribution?

¹ (1) Mount Sinai (2) pyx (3) corporal (4) St Margaret Clitherow (5) St Henry Newman (Cardinal)