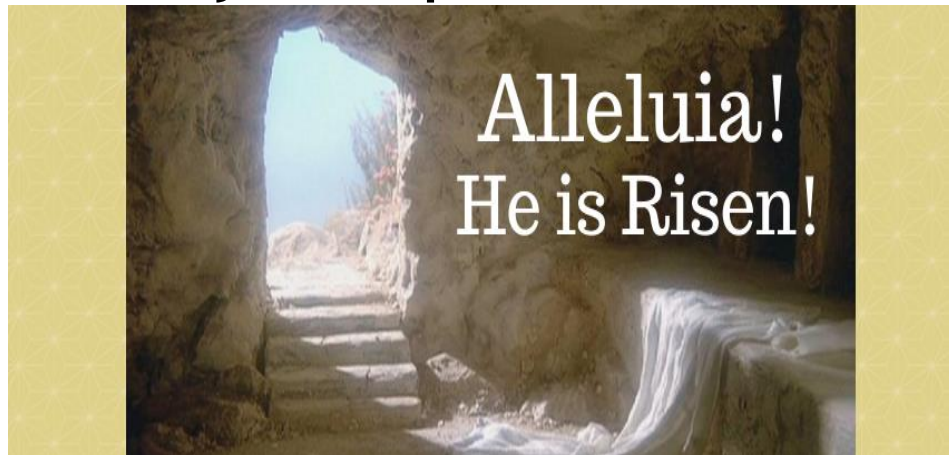


Easter Sunday 12th April 2020 Newsletter



CHRIST OUR LIGHT - THANKS BE TO GOD

Wishing everybody a Peaceful and Blessed Eastertide
Fr Alf, Catherine and Frances

Prayers Please

We pray for all the sick and housebound in our parish, and other relatives and friends.

Bernard Holder, Christopher Scott, Jackie Harte, Moya Fau-Goodwin, Anne Hurst, Colin Spragg, Margaret Padfield

Lately Dead: Nicole Poirier, John Cranshaw, Patricia Calvert, Frank Gordon, Emma Thomason

Anniversaries: Eileen Gill, Marie Lamoury (19th), Ian Fazakerley (21st)

Mass Intentions: Nicole Poirier, Eileen Gill, Victor Gill (Birthday Remembrance), Isabelle Owen (Birthday Remembrance) and her family, Joseph Fitzgerald, Deceased members of the O'Brien and Fitzgerald families, Patricia Calvert, Ian Fazakerley, Marie Lamoury

Let us also pray for all key workers who are on the front-line during this current pandemic. We thank them for all they are doing and ask the Lord to keep them safe.

Hope In The Future

We pray for the people of the parish of The Good Shepherd, Colne, and for Mgr. Peter Wilkinson, their parish priest. We pray for the parish primary schools, for Fisher-More College and for Pendle Community Hospital.

Pope Francis: - *In these holy days lets us stand before the Crucified One and let us ask for grace to live in order to serve. May we reach out to those who are suffering and those most in need. May we not be concerned about what we lack, but what good we can do for others.*

Dear friends,

Today should be a day for joyous celebration, the greatest feast in our calendar, the Lord's Resurrection from the dead.

After all, Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum is the high point of our year. Yet, I would never have imagined celebrating my first Easter as a Parish Priest, would be in an empty Church; but that reminds me that it is the always the empty Tomb that gives us hope.

Every dimension of the Paschal Mystery, The Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection shapes our Christian life; everything else is commentary.

Sadly, in celebrating Easter, this year, we must be conscious of those who have died from Covid 19; let us keep their families and loved ones in our prayers and take comfort in our faith in the Risen Lord. Continuing to pray for you all and an end to this pandemic.

Wishing you all happy and blessed Easter.
God bless Fr Alf

This Newsletter is sponsored by

HOWARTH'S FUNERAL SERVICE

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REGINA CAELI - one of four Marian antiphons, traditionally said or sung after night prayer, immediately before going to sleep. It is said throughout Eastertide. (That is, from Easter Day through Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter.

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

For he, whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

Has risen as he said, alleluia.

Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray: O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL PRAYER INTENTIONS

In these sad times, let us pray for all those affected by the Corona virus; may those who are affected be healed quickly and may those who are living in isolation know the support and love which surrounds them.

We pray for doctors, nurses, carers, scientists and all who are working so hard, to be given the strength and the courage they need to respond to this crisis. We pray that the spread of will soon be brought under control.

And finally let us commend to the Father, the souls of the lately departed that they may enjoy eternal rest and their families may be consoled by the Lord and, throughout this time of tribulation, grant that we may all find comfort in your merciful love.

PARISH DONATIONS - STANDING ORDER

People have enquired how they can still donate to our Parish, in the absence of public Mass. This can easily be done by setting up a Standing Order through your Bank. If you have any queries regarding this please contact Chris Molyneux from the Parish Finance Committee, who has kindly agreed to assist with enquiries 01204 400472 or 07789816002

Church Services Online: Fortunately, there are many online resources available to help you with your prayers at this time, including the daily live streaming of Holy Mass. For links regularly updated: www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/covid-19-online-resources

Postponement of the 88th Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

A statement has been released from the Salford Lourdes team regarding the postponement of the 88th Salford Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage from July 2020 - July 2021 due to coronavirus.

"It is with great sadness and deep regret that we must announce that this year's annual diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes is to be rescheduled to July 2021, with exact dates to be confirmed in due course.

This has been a very difficult decision and we understand that this announcement will be a terrible disappointment to you all as the shrine of Lourdes means so much to so many in our pilgrimage family. We look forward in hope to welcoming you back to Lourdes on our return next Summer and thank you for your patience and understanding at this challenging time.

If you have already booked a place on this year's pilgrimage with Joe Walsh Tours, their representatives will be contacting you in writing over the coming days to confirm our decision to reschedule to next year and to explain how your booking will be carried forward. Information is also available on the Salford Lourdes website: www.salfordlourdes.co.uk"

CAFOD: Thank you for the recent collection for the Fast Day. Your kind contributions amounted to: £1,368.54.

FUNERAL RESTRICTIONS DURING THIS TIME

Unfortunately, funerals/requiems cannot take place during this time of pandemic in church. We are restricted to graveside or crematorium with only with limited numbers, but memorial masses will take place, if requested, when we return to normality

JOHN CRANSHAW RIP

Of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of John Cranshaw. John, sadly died on the evening of the 6th April 2020. John's funeral will be on Thursday next and there will be a memorial Mass in due course at St Brendan's.

HANNAH THOMASON RIP

Of your charity please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Hannah Thomason. Hannah, sadly died on the 10th April 2020. Hannah's funeral will be on Tuesday 21st April, and there will again be a memorial Mass at St Brendan's in due course

EASTER SUNDAY REFLECTION WITH THANKS TO DAVID FRANK

Easter will be different this year; we will not only be celebrating the greatest feast in Christianity but we will be also celebrating the greatest self-sacrifice of an unaccountable number of God's children as they isolate themselves from society in a united effort to defeat this virus that is threatening so many lives.

There are many thoughts running through my head as I write this reflection; many images that remind me of Holy Week, many a passage of scripture enriching our liturgies and reminding us that although each year is new God's time remains eternal. Many years ago, when I was a teenager, I recall a Good Friday, it was warm and sunny, my football team was at home and the kick off was 3pm. It was a choice between football and the church and I was going to the match. On the way, I met a friend who was going to church, we stood and talked then he turned his way and I turned mine. As I went along, I began arguing with myself, then with a sigh, I turned and followed him to church. I chose Jesus that day and I have never regretted it.

Whilst watching the stations of the Cross on Facebook, I was struck by the image of Simon of Cyrene as he knelt to take up Christ's burden on that fateful day. Simon was a stranger, caught up in turmoil of a crucifixion and given no choice but to help a man on his final journey. Cyrene is on the coast of Morocco many thousands of miles from Jerusalem, how he came to be there is a mystery, but this man was the only one to show compassion for to the one who was literally dying for my sins. He reminded me of the many doctors and nurses in the NHS, often coming from foreign lands, who are giving their compassion and skills to help today's sufferers and so I prayed for them during the service.

One Easter I was working in Saudi Arabia, and as it was a strict Moslem country, there was no access to Church services. It was at the end of Ramadan and the people were celebrating the feast of Eid-Al-Fitr, a time of joy after a period of fasting. I was feeling sorry for myself because I could not celebrate my faith while around me people were celebrating and giving thanks to God.

It struck me then and again now, although we give great store by celebrating our faith together we are also celebrating alone; that Jesus sacrificed Himself for each one of his creation and even though we may be self-isolating alone or with our closest family we are joined together by an invisible and unbreakable bond as the family of

God. This thought should bring us great comfort today, the love of God, freely give, knows no barriers.

David Frank

EASTER DUTIES

Pope Francis made a statement, which may offer you comfort: "I know that many of you go to confession before Easter ... many will say to me: 'But Father I cannot leave the house and I want to make my peace with the Lord. I want Him to embrace me How can I do that unless I find a priest?' Do what the catechism says. It is very clear. If you don't find a priest to go to confession, speak to God. He is your Father. Tell Him the truth: 'Lord, I did this and this and this. Pardon me.' Ask His forgiveness with all your heart with an act of contrition, and promise Him, 'afterward I will go to confession.' You will return to God's grace immediately. You yourself can draw near, as the catechism teaches us, to God's forgiveness, without having a priest at hand."

Pope Francis Prayer to Our Lady (Covid 19)

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain,
with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,
as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,

through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.
Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test -
and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

