

SACRED HEART & ST ANNE'S NEWSLETTER

Palm Sunday, 5th April 2020

THIS IS HOLY WEEK: Today we embark on the most solemn week in the Church's calendar as we anticipate Christ's passion, death and glorious resurrection on Easter Day. But first, Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, die and rise again. The palms symbolise the actions of the crowds which greeted his entry into Jerusalem, as they cut branches from the trees and strewed them in his path, crying out: 'Hosanna to the son of David! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!'

Sadly, in the prevailing circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic, we will be unable to congregate to celebrate the Easter Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday in the traditional manner but you will be able to access live-streaming of the various ceremonies and Masses via the link : dioceseofsalford.org.uk/covid-19-online-resources/ An extensive choice of churches across the UK and Ireland is available there with different times of celebrations for convenience. If you cannot access the internet, you can listen to Mass daily on the Irish RTE Radio (longwave 252).

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION : My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

ANNIVERSARIES : Please remember in your prayers all whose anniversaries occur about this time including : Mary Ellen Smith, Joan Mellody, Maurice Dudley, Joseph Gerard Magee, Marilyn Lazonby, Fr Gregory Wareing, Eric Ashworth, Clare Sandiford, Ann Storey (2019), Irene Smiles (2019), Grace Hoyle, Anne Dineen, Margaret Hayes, Mary Worswick, George Jonathan Pope, Catherine Bennett, Kathleen Atkinson. May they rest in peace. And please continue to pray for Colin Ball and Norma Collins whose funerals took place on Friday.

'LIVING FAITH': Copies of this handy little bedside book containing reflections and prayers based on the daily Mass readings (April-June) are still available. If you would like a copy posting out to you, or would like to pick one up yourself, please 'phone 580443 to arrange.

A PROPHETIC (?) PRAYER from the editor of 'Living Faith': 'Sometimes the weight of the world seems to be upon us. May the Scripture and prayerful affirmations (in the pages of this book) help us to reflect on the eternal truth that, no matter what trials we go through, no matter our losses, Jesus has secured victory for us. May we go forth with this Easter joy in our hearts.'

'STAY AT HOME - PRAY AT HOME' : The Salford Diocesan Website offers the following two short prayers which may be useful for us in isolation:

'But when you pray, go to your private room and, when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father, who sees all that is done in secret, will reward you.' (Matthew: 6,6).

'Jesus said: 'And know that I am with you, yes, to the end of time.' '' (Matthew: 28,20).

'PHANTOM OF THE OPERA' : Needless to say, our theatre trip to Manchester for this show on Monday, 20th April has had to be cancelled (the theatre is closed). We hope in due course to be able to advise about the possibility of a refund in respect of our tickets and of course the coach-fare.