

St John the Evangelist 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Fr James Callaghan OSB

19 April 2020 (Year A)

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Prayer to St Michael

Holy Michael, Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do Thou, Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust down into hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

Mass Times this Week

Saturday 18	Easter Saturday
5:45pm	Vigil Mass: <i>Parish</i>
Sunday 19	2nd Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday
10:00am	Mass: <i>Fr Leo Chamberlain RIP</i>
Monday 20	Feria
Tuesday 21	St Anselm, Bishop & Doctor, Mem
Wednesday 22	Feria
9:30am	Mass: <i>John Simpson RIP</i>
Thursday 23	St George, Martyr, Patron of England, Solemnity
6:30pm	Mass: <i>Venerable Mary Ward</i>
Friday 24	Feria
9:30am	Mass: <i>Vocations</i>
Saturday 25	St Mark, Evangelist, Feast
5:45pm	Vigil Mass: <i>Health of Community, Schools and Parishes</i>
Sunday 26	3rd Sunday of Easter
10:00am	Mass: <i>Parish</i>

LAUDETUR JESUS CHRISTUS, ALLELUIA!

This is the last day of the Easter Octave, so it is still appropriate to wish you all a very Happy Easter again! An Easter Week of mixed emotions and feelings, I think; on the one hand we are celebrating the triumph of life over death, and rejoicing in the spring-time, with the fine weather and the profusion of blossoms everywhere. On the other, however, many of us are keeping an anxious eye on the official statistics to see how rapidly the infection-rate and the death-toll are rising as a result of Covid-19, or worrying about those we love yet may not even be able to visit.

It is important to remember that human life has always consisted of mixed feelings, and accept that although they are inevitable in this life as symptoms of our divided hearts, there is help available, as the readings today show if only we are prepared to take them to heart.

The opening verse from Acts in the first reading shows us clearly what we must model ourselves on: "The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking bread and to the prayers." Especially at this time let us remain absolutely faithful to these four aspects of our Christian lives - even though the breaking of the bread remains problematic during this lock-down! We may be tempted not to bother, especially if we find

ourselves in a low mood, but let us never think for a moment of giving up!

Why? Well, what does St Peter say in the second reading? "Through your faith, God's power will guard you..... This is a cause of great joy for you, *even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials.*" This wonderful passage shows us how much God is with us; oh yes, He certainly knows of the trials which are plaguing us now and how they are affecting us in so many different ways, so let us not flag or lose heart, but rather pray for renewed strength to carry on going forward in faith.

Faith is the key, as the Gospel reading shows; notice how *three times* in this passage from (our) St John, Our Lord said "Peace be with you!" My dear friends, let us be certain that He is saying exactly the same to us at this time in particular, just as He said it to St Thomas. Poor Thomas: so slow to believe and so full of doubt! Isn't it wonderful, though, how God takes us just as we are, and not as where we might wish we were! Look at the special privilege He gave St Thomas, allowing him to put his very hands into His wounds, and telling him to put his doubts aside and to *believe*.... How much greater a privilege is he waiting to give you and me who try so hard to believe fully and who don't quite manage it so often!

Surely St Peter, in the second reading, is harking back to that evening exactly one week after the Resurrection: "You (he means you and me!) did not see him, yet you love him.....", taking up exactly what the Lord said to Thomas.

This all shows yet again the indescribable mercy of God - and let us all remember that today is the Feast of Divine Mercy, on which great graces are freely offered. There is much about the Feast and the Divine Mercy Chaplet on the internet, but I would like to close simply with the 3 O'clock Prayer which we could say today and at 3pm every Friday:

You expired, O Jesus,
but the source of life gushed forth for souls
and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world.

O Fount of Life,
unfathomable Divine Mercy,
envelop the whole world
and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water,
which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus
as a fount of mercy for us,
I trust in You.

Amen.

God bless you all! Wash your hands, and above all keep smiling - there is much to smile about!!

Fr James.

Thought for the Week

I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be.

Douglas Adams

(Not very Paschal, but it does apply to our life-journeys!)

Information and Useful Links

Please see our website for a list of on-line resources, including churches who are live-streaming Mass, and Magnificat's offer for free on-line access during this troubled time. You can also go on www.ChurchPaper.co.uk for editions of all the catholic newspapers.

Please give Kathryn your email address if you would like to receive the bulletin in soft copy.

Please let Kathryn know if you are in need of any kind of assistance at this time.

For those who are interested, there is a live stream from the Diocese of Leeds that could be followed. From the website, it is to attend daily mass, prayers, and the Holy Week masses as well. The Leeds Cathedral live YouTube channel can be accessed from Diocese of Leeds website.

Adoration, Words of exhortation and mass could also be attended by Searching "Divine Retreat Centre UK" from YouTube. Live stream daily as from 17:00

Middlesbrough Food Bank: Thank you for your donations

Due to the continued situation under COVID-19 there will be no more deliveries to Middlesbrough for the time being.

Please remember that financial donations would be an alternative if it was easier for you at the moment. There are some flyers at the back of church and donations can, of course, be made online. Cash donations, however small, could be handed in to St Benedict's House.

If you want to keep up to date, please consult the MFB website: middlesbrough.foodbank.org.uk. If you need further information or want to help, please ring: 01653 628755. God bless.

Note that if you have items you would like to donate, we can arrange for them to go to the Easingwold Food Bank in lieu.

APF Red Boxes

If anyone would like a red box, please contact Anne on 01347 823015

Offertory Collections and Charities:

- Thank you for those of you who have offered different ways in which they can still make an offering to the Parish. Envelopes can be dropped through the letterbox of the priory, and if you wish to pay by standing order, Kathryn can set that up. We are most grateful for whatever you can do. This week, Kathryn counted £90 from envelopes dropped through the door. Some people are kindly dropping cheques in also. If you would like to do so, please note that our Account name is "**Ampleforth Abbey Trust: St John's Parish**". Simply "Ampleforth Abbey Trust" will do – there is no need to worry that the money will not come into the parish account, it will! Fr James does not have a personal bank account, so the bank will not accept cheques made out to him.
- Easyfundraising this quarter has raised £42.44 for the Parish – thank you very much to those who have signed up. Please see Kathryn if you would like to donate as you shop, at no cost to yourself.

Eggs: Free until further notice

Please take what you need from the Porch, many thanks to Trish and Jane. You are still welcome to donate to the Poor Box if you wish, but there is no obligation.

Upcoming Events COVID-19 permitting (See Posters)

Parish Forum meeting to be postponed. Details of the Summer Fayre will be on the agenda.

July

- Sat 4 Summer Fayre in the Priory Garden

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

the Sick, Infirm and Housebound: Sally Agar, Mattie Burke, Mary Capaldi, Kitty Carrington, Cath Cavanagh, Jenny Cook, David Craig, Paul Gallagher, Pat Grotrian, Catherine Harmer, Graham Harrand, Mary-Rose Harrison, Marta Hatfield, Vince Kelly, Darren Kennedy, Lt. Commander Matthew Kiernan, Kay Moss, Marion Myers, Marie Podgorski, Harrison Torr and Sophie Williams; *those who have Died recently:* Michelle Hebb, Noreen Fodden, James O'Brien, Danny O'Donnell, Gillian Mayne and Conal Kavanagh *and those whose Anniversaries occur about this time:* Ann Gill, John Edward Doyle, Marea Sullivan, Kathleen Mullen