

Bulletin 3 – Palm Sunday & Holy Week

We are about to enter the most important time in the Church's year – Holy Week. The word Holy, means set apart for God. This Holy Week presents us with new and unique challenges, which in turn offers us new opportunities. Many of us are isolating, all our churches are closed, and the ceremonies that usually accompany this special time are not able to be celebrated in our accustomed manner.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,

And in the depths be Praise.

In all His works, most wonderful,

Most sure in all His ways.

This hymn often sung at this time has for me a special poignancy this year. How very easy it is to praise God when everything is going well, everything is ok, and life is sweet. When we are down however, it's a different story and yet it is often in those "down times" that we feel God's presence more keenly. Our times of sadness, loneliness, even helplessness are the very times that we can feel the peace that the world cannot give. When we suffer, we have only to look at the Cross and as we meditate on what Our Lord did for us on Calvary and know that Jesus above all others truly knows what we are going through. I do hope that you will be able to access the net for the various masses and ceremonies that will be live streamed (links to them on our Parish website).

If you do nothing else, then please do pray the station of the Cross this Good Friday. As we contemplate that way of suffering and pain the effects of this Coronavirus can be put into perspective. The unfairness of the trial, the carrying of that Cross, the help of Simon, the act of kindness of Veronica have resonance for us all at this time. It was of course at the Cross that Mary His mother is given to be our mother too. She who could do nothing to help her beloved son in this terrible hour, simply stood by His Cross, and showed she cared by her very being there. May she be with us and our loved ones in our hour of need.

This Holy Week let us turn again to Jesus our saviour may He bring us peace, healing and courage for whatever befall us. May Mary be with us praying for us "now and at hour of our death" Another verse of that hymn says:-

And in the garden secretly,

And on the Cross on high.

Should teach His brethren and inspire,

To suffer and to die.

We know however that death is not the end, after the Cross comes the Resurrection. More on that next week!

Keeping in touch

One of the ways we can how each other we care is to use the modern technology. We can telephone, text or email, but don't forget to send Easter Cards and letters to your friends and

families. Some of you might like to write to Fr. Michael, I'm sure he would appreciate the thought. His new address is:- 60, Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 5HL

The Website has many links to live streaming of masses as well as ideas for prayers and devotions. We have also been given permission to put the usual "Sunday Message" which also have the readings and prayers for each week. The children too will find their weekly sheet "Look" which they use in Children's' Liturgy – please feel free to download them.

Palm Sunday would not be the same without you getting a blessed palm – we have placed a box with them in under the porch of our Church Hall – please help yourself and maybe take one to a friend or neighbour.

May God richly bless you this Holy Week

Fr. John