

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, LUCKS HILL, WEST MALLING

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**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (A)
A "CORONAVIRUS" EASTER WITH THE RISEN LORD
12th April 2020**

My Dearest Parishioners,

LET US WALK THIS CORONAVIRUS EASTER WITH OUR RISEN LORD

In the words of the poet, George Herbert,

" Rise heart; your Lord is risen. Sing His praise without delays, who takes you by the hand, that you likewise with Him may rise....."

This Easter the Risen Lord comes to take each of us by the hand and raise us up with His risen love, strength, light and life to face and walk with Him through the challenges, difficulties, loss and darkness in our lives and faith in these Coronavirus days. He asks us to meet Him and each other in increased Prayer and Love so that He can do this and bring us the healing, strength and life that He brought to His broken Apostles in the first Easter Days. So, as they did, let us open ourselves to Him.

LET US WALK THESE EASTER DAYS WITH OUR QUEEN AND EACH OTHER

In her moving and inspiring Broadcast on Palm Sunday evening the Queen said:- ***" though self-isolating may at times be hard, many people of all faiths, and of none, are discovering that it presents an opportunity to slow down, pause and reflect, in prayer and meditation....."*** She also said : ***".....many will feel a painful sense of separation from their loved ones. But.....we know, deep down, that it is the right thing to do.....We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: We will be with our Friends again; We will be with our Families again; We will Meet again....."***

Better Days will return and, when they do, what a massive "Hug" we will be able to give each other then. But, as the Queen points out, these Easter Days give us "better days" to "hug" the Risen Lord and each other "spiritually" through increased Prayer and Love, so let us help each other to do this. I think of this specially with those who are suffering and facing challenges with the Coronavirus and those who have lost, and will lose, loved ones during these Easter Days, and pray that Prayer and Love will enable them to be united to the Risen Lord and their loved ones in Heaven and here on Earth and be "hugged" in this way in these days.

SO LET US PRAY, SING AND WALK TOGETHER

Attached to this Newsletter is the Easter Prayer Sheet for this Year (A) with Prayers and Hymns and a "Form of Service for the Home". In the light of these Coronavirus days, perhaps the Prayer for this week could be: -

LORD, THIS IS THE GREAT EASTER WEEK OF YOUR RISING. HELP US TO OPEN OURSELVES TO YOUR RISEN LOVE, STRENGTH, LIGHT AND LIFE IN THESE DAYS AND TO HELP EACH OTHER TO DO THIS, AMEN.

I ask you to join with me "in spirit" in this Prayer and Service at the following times: -

Monday 13th at 10.30am (an hour later as it's Bank Holiday!)
Tuesday 14th to Friday 17th at 9.30am.
Saturday 18th at 5pm.
Sunday 19th at either 10am or 5.30pm.

I will also be celebrating Mass on my own in the House for the following intentions: -

Monday 13th – For Easter strength, Light and Hope for All.
Tuesday 14th – Lindsay Corette R.I.P. and Family (with his funeral today).
Wednesday 15th – Loretta Ruddick R.I.P. (Chris and Ant Gobel).
Thursday 16th – Peter Avery -welfare (the Breakfast Club).
Friday 17th – Paddy Griffin R.I.P. and Family (with his funeral today).
Saturday 18th – Tony Brewer R.I.P. (Alice and John).
Sunday 19th – The Parishioners.

Photos – I would also like to thank very much those of you who have sent me photos of yourselves to put on my Mass Room wall which is a real help to connect with you when I'm saying Mass – and please keep them coming!

MASS ON LINE

Continue to go to Fr. Geoff at catholic-bearsted.org.uk – or Walsingham.org.uk – or the Diocesan Website – www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

LEGION OF MARY (MOTTINGHAM PARISH) At 3pm every day we are praying for all people in the world suffering as a result of the coronavirus and for the frontline and key workers who are doing a wonderful job in these difficult times. Please join in if you can:

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be to the Father.

Our Lady Help of Christians - pray for us.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart - pray for us.

St. Thomas More - pray for us.

St. Thomas of Canterbury - pray for us.

FUNERALS

Please pray for Lindsay Corette and for Fiona, Ethan, Liam, Emily and Kirsty with his funeral at Tonbridge Cemetery this Tuesday (14th).

Also for Paddy Griffin and his son, Joseph, and family with his funeral at Vinters Park Crematorium this Friday (17th).

And we pray for Mary Wilmot and her daughters and family as they prepare for her funeral at Vinters Park Crematorium on Wednesday 22nd April and Trevor Lingham and his family esp. David & Jenny & family as they prepare for his funeral.

We offer our love, prayers and support to them all.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Betty Ward; Moira Stevens; Peter and Dee Avery; Fiona Evans; Roy & Heather Lewis; Frank Ostridge; Jacky Seeds; Archie & Arrison Sullivan; Sheila Koster; Caroline Walker; Margaret Edwards; the Orlando Family; Ross, Philip, Niki & Freya; Betty Hatton; John Stevens; Meg Brewer; Natalie Walker; Jean Clifford; Adrian Atmore; James Bryant; Paula Thornton; Lynda Pitt (Betty Hatton's daughter); carers of the sick; our housebound and all at Maidstone Hospital, Hospice and local Nursing Homes. Please pray for all affected by cutbacks, illnesses and other challenges in our country and world.

RECENTLY DEAD: Mary Wilmot; Trevor Lingham; Paddy Griffin; Beverley Heasman; Lindsay Corette; also Archbishop Peter Smith and Fr. Henry Reynolds (month's mind). Please keep in your prayers all who have died from the Coronavirus this week and from conflict in our world especially the innocent civilians.

ANNIVERSARIES: Peter Whinfield; Kevin Cunning (Snr); Francis Micallef (& Lonza); Jennifer Weller; Susan Walkling; Peggy Lawrence; Elizabeth Kerr; Bridget Tenters; John Kibble; Jan Jablonski; Nora Edward-Roy; Danuta Jordan.

Let us now help each other to walk this Great Week of Easter well and find all the strength, healing, love and life - & "Hugs"! – that the Risen Lord wants to bring us in it.

And CHILDREN – try and sing your Easter Song -“One, Two, Three, Four , Five – our friend Jesus is alive...” (no (2) on the Easter Prayer Sheet) each day - AND ENJOY YOUR EASTER EGGS!

Continued Prayers and Love to you all especially those who are suffering and in difficulties – Easter Blessings and God Bless,

Fr. Peter.