

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, LUCKS HILL, WEST MALLING
PRIEST: Fr. Peter Soper, The Priest's House, More Park, West Malling, ME19 6HN Tel: 01732 843302
e mail: westmalling@rcaos.org.uk Website: www.westmallingrc.org.uk
St. Thomas More Pre-School, St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre, Lucks Hill, West Malling, ME19 6HN Tel: 01732 874559

Fourth Sunday Of Lent (A)
A LENT OF INCREASED PRAYER, LOVE & SELF-CONTROL FOR OUR PARISH
Mothering Sunday
22nd March 2020

My dearest Parishioners,

CORONAVIRUS AND OUR CHURCH AND PARISH

Please see the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter attached to the newsletter and we have also received a list from him on the procedures we now have to follow. In line with this we have bringing in the following procedures for the Parish: -

- (a) **MASSES** - There will be no public celebration of Mass or Communion Services. I will celebrate Mass on my own in the house at some point in the day for the following intentions: -

Saturday 21st	- Norman Neale RIP
Sunday 22nd	- Jurek (George) Makuch RIP (Anniv.)
Tuesday 24th	- Tony Brewer RIP (Dee & Peter)
Wednesday 25th	- Lindsay Corette RIP (Steph, Ian & Family)
Friday 27th	- Mary Goldsmith
Saturday 28th	- Ann Ivell RIP (Anniv.)
Sunday 29th	- Fr. Timothy Daly RIP (Anniv.)

Mass intentions for the future that are not already booked should be emailed or telephoned to the office on Wednesday and Fridays between 9am and 12 noon.

- (b) **MASS ONLINE** Fr. Geoff from Bearsted will be streaming Mass each Sunday - go to catholic-bearsted.org.uk. Also daily Mass is being offered by "Word on Fire" - go to wordonfire.org/daily-mass. Walsingham are also continuing their full liturgical programme - go to Walsingham.org.uk.
- (c) **THE CHURCH** The Church will be open for short visits for private prayer on the following days and times: -

Saturday 21st	- 5pm to 5.30pm
Sunday 22nd	- 10am to 10.30am & 5.30pm to 6pm
Monday to Friday 23rd to 27th	- 9.30am to 10am

Mass leaflets, prayer candles and other sheets and booklets will be available on tables in the porch.

PLEASE DO NOT USE THE TOILETS OR LIGHT CANDLES AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND TAKE ANY SHEETS, ETC. USED BY YOU HOME. ALSO PLEASE WASH OR SANITISE YOUR HANDS BEFORE COMING TO THE CHURCH AND AS SOON AS YOU CAN AFTER YOU LEAVE.

- (d) **CHURCH OFFERINGS** - Please do not bring or leave money or envelopes to the Church or house. The best thing for those who can is to arrange 'standing orders' with their bank, which we would appreciate to keep the Church and Parish going. With self-denial envelopes, the best thing would be just to keep the money collected at home until we are able to receive them at Church. In all of this, please, only if you can afford it - your needs must come first.

- (e) **BAPTISMS - RECONCILIATION - WEDDINGS - FRIDAY EXPOSITION - CHILDREN'S LITURGY - PRAYER GROUPS** These are suspended for the foreseeable future. If you have problems about reconciliation/confession please contact me.
- (f) **FIRST COMMUNION** will be postponed until at least September and maybe after this depending on the coronavirus. First Communion classes are also suspended.
- (g) **PARISH GROUPS AND MEETINGS** are all suspended for the foreseeable future. This includes the Lent Area Group Masses and the Youth Group Passion Play. Please keep in touch with each other by email or phone.
- (h) **FUNERALS** We ask you to pray for Beverley Heasman and her family - her funeral is due to take place this Thursday at Vinters Park Crematorium. Also Lindsay Corette and his family as they prepare for his funeral. But all of this will be dependent on instructions we receive from the government and undertakers so please keep them specially in your prayers.
- (i) **LOOKING AFTER EACH OTHER** Please look after and support each other in these difficult days especially the elderly and vulnerable in your neighbourhood in whatever way you can. And please look after yourselves and keep safe. We particularly thank our pre-school and school staff for keeping our schools open for key-worker and vulnerable children.

These are very challenging and difficult times for us all and I want you to know that I'm keeping you very specially in my prayers and thoughts. And let us use Lent to help us in this. The theme for this 4th Week of Lent is 'light' - the new light, love, strength and life the Lord wants to bring us in this Lent and Easter in these challenging times and that we will find through our prayer. So let us encourage each other to pray together and as individuals during this week. I attach this week's Mass sheet and prayer sheet (with the children's word - "thinking of others" - to this newsletter to help in this. Also, it's Mother's Day and we wish all our Mums here and in heaven a lovely day and let us do all we can to show them our love in the restrictions and difficulties of these days.

My love and prayers to you all - and God Bless. Fr. Peter

P.S. Please note I am only able to access the email when the office is open on Wednesdays and Fridays so, as well as emailing, can you phone me on 01732 843302 if you want or need me - thanks!

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Betty Ward; Moira Stevens; Peter and Dee Avery; Mary Wilmot; 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; 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: Beverley Heasman; Lindsay Corette; Archbishop Peter Smith; Fr. Henry Reynolds; Tony Brewer; Carol Blackmore; Bruce Costin; Fr. John Castelli; also Ann McCormack; Colm Hillan (month's mind). Please keep in your prayers all who have died in conflict throughout the world especially the innocent civilians.

ANNIVERSARIES: John Carroll; Leonard Love; Brendin O'Doherty; Hubert Madge; Harold Taylor; Frances Chapman; Danielle Blackburn; John Brennan; Margaret Almeida; Ann Ivell; Violet Bigg; Philip Mallon; Mary Allen; Joy Whittaker; Laurence Sheldon; Reamonn Johnston; Douglas Valentine; Fr. Timothy Daly; May Middleton; Gertrude Ennis; Anthony Thompson-Murray.

