

Helping Those Most Vulnerable

The Lonely and the Vulnerable in and beyond our parish community are going to be even more in need of friendly contact and support during this pandemic. If you know of anyone, or are yourself, lonely and/or vulnerable, please consider giving details to the parish office or by email to the St Vincent de Paul group at olopsvp@gmail.com.

Support the Church: The faithful are urged to continue generously in supporting their parishes, which otherwise will lose vital income. Donations can be made by cheque and posted through the the Parish office letterbox. If you do not already do so, please consider setting up a standing order.

Our Parish Bank Details : Our Lady of Peace
Ref: Parish/Your name
Lloyds Bank 30 93 04 A/C No: 00886018

Social Club: All events (including regular opening hours) have been cancelled, until Easter Sunday. Please see website for further developments -www.olopsocialclub.co.uk

Christian Puzzles: Open Bible Trust published a book which has about 100 Bible puzzles. Please go to www.obt.org.uk and click on "Free Downloads" and then on "Unpublished Booklets" and then scroll down and you will see "Word Searches and Other Bible Puzzles" and it is FREE!

Royal Berkshire Hospital Chaplain

RBH: 0118 3227105.

On admission all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic & if they wish to have Communion or see a priest. All arrangements in RBH are "Patient Led".

Reading Catholic Churches

Christ the King, Whitley	Fr. Pat Madden
St. John Bosco, Woodley	Fr. Bill Wilson
St. James	Cn. John O'Shea
English Martyrs, Tilehurst	Cn. Michael Dennehy
St. Joseph, Tilehurst	Peter Glas
St. William of York	Fr. Mathew Goddard / Fr. Patrick O'Donohue
Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham	Msgr. Patrick Daly

Community Support

One Reading Community Hub: www.reading.gov.uk/coronavirus. This has been set up by Reading Council for residents needing support during the outbreak and for those wanting to volunteer.

Readifood (Reading's Foodbank) Volunteers needed -We could do with a few married couples (i.e. not isolating from each other) to drive our vans on parcel deliveries to doorsteps. (No public contact). Also volunteers to sort food and make up parcels. This takes quite a bit of concentration and not as easy as it sounds! Strict social distancing and hygiene rules in place. Masks available. (No-one with underlying health issues or over 70) Email wendy@fcg.org.uk or ring 0793 684 5301 Please follow us on Facebook for regular updates <https://www.facebook.com/ReadiFood/>

Homeless: Mabel – CIRDIC homeless. B4N is continuing. They need bread and food. Feeding people outside. 07817-373773 or enquiries@cirdic.org.uk (Mabel).

Emergency numbers for a Priest –

Please call your own priest first

0118 931 4469
0118 969 3423
0118 957 4171
0118 957 2149
0118 942 8632
0118 966 5284
0118 947 1787

Our Lady of Peace & BI Dominic Barberi

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA Website www.olop.org.uk
Portsmouth Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No 246871

Parish Priest	The Rev Fr Stan Gibziński fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Secretary	Rachel Alexander 0118 966 3711 earley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Safeguarding Officer	Mable Thyveetil 07726 589624
Hall Bookings	Margaret Dias 07763 681072 hallbookingsolop@gmail.com



The Church office is closed but operating remotely on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 11am-4pm

4th Sunday of Lent

Year A

29th March 2020

"Night is coming, when no one can work" (John 4:9)

When Jesus was healing the man born blind, He said: "as long as it is day, we must do the works of He who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

A question arises; when is "night"?

At first reflection, we focus on the image of "night" as the description of the Passion of the Lord, His arrest and execution. There is much truth in that way of thinking, as the Lord was aware that healing the blind man would bring controversy. In this light, we understand that, as long as Jesus is alive, namely "as long as it is day", He would work freely and sufficiently, healing the sick and proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven.

When we reflect more on this passage, we see that during the night when Jesus was betrayed, the New and Everlasting Covenant was instituted, and His Passion saved us and brought us to New Life. Union with Christ and His Passion, or recognising Christ in the middle of our nights, brings much light and freedom. The night of hatred, in a spectacular way became bright and the source of light and Friday of the crucifixion was turned into Good Friday. This is the work of the powerful mercy of Jesus. Due to Jesus' Passion, times of persecution, rejection, imprisonment, or incapacity due to illness or accidents are not real enemies to us.

Apart from that, it is good to add that each one of us is given a conscience, the hidden sanctuaries where God speaks to us. None of the nights can overwhelm us, then. Conscience is a gift where we find our integrity. It is a place in our souls, which is very receptive and hungry for the Truth. The beauty of truth, such as the Passion of Christ, enlightens us even in the middle of the darkest nights. Conscience helps us in all sorts of dramatic situations to see light because God is with us. Blessed are those who are attached to the Lord in their darkness as they are united with the Passion of Christ and become the source of love, freedom and integrity.

The Lord said: "Night is coming, when no one can work". What kind of night then? The real night, is, then, when we cannot see Jesus, when He is dead to us. The night is, also, when our conscience is overtaken by other false promises, when it is blocked, spoiled and dirty. Then, we are paralysed, disintegrated, blind, and cannot work at all.

The real night is when we cut ourselves off from Christ, or when we are misled and withdrawn from Him. St. Paul explained this kind of night to Timothy: "For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear." (2Tm4:3).

"But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, he gave the right to become children of God." (Jn 1:12) May God keep us in that grace and never permit anyone to separate us from Christ.

Keep safe and hope that we go through this crisis secure and successfully. We keep our trust in God. God bless you.

Fr. Stan

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sun 29th March 5th Sunday of Lent	11.00am	Peter Plumb RIP rec. dec
Mon 30th Mar	10.00am 3.00pm	Thyveetil family intention Adoration, Rosary & Divine Mercy (Live Stream)
Tues 31st Mar	10.00am 3.00pm	Thyveetil family intention Adoration, Rosary & Divine Mercy (Live Stream)
Wed 1st Apr	10.00am 3.00pm	Adoration, Rosary & Divine Mercy (Live Stream)
Thur 2nd Apr	No Mass 3.00pm	Adoration, Rosary & Divine Mercy (Live Stream)
Fri 3rd Apr	Mass 3.00pm 7.00pm	Joseph Thomas & Martin RIP Adoration, Rosary & Divine Mercy (Live Stream) Stations of the Cross (Live Stream)
Sat 4th Apr	No Mass	
Sun 5th Apr Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	11.00am	Gordon Smith RIP

Mass Live Stream Links

On YouTube: Vatican English YouTube, Bishop Philip - Portsmouth Catholic Diocese YouTube.

Online: Walsingham Shrine: www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream,

Oxford Oratory: <https://www.oxfordoratory.org.uk/>

Live church service links: <https://www.churchservices.tv/whats-on-now/>

OLOP Parish Live Stream Link via facebook.com/olop.church

Monday – Friday at 3.00pm. Adoration, Divine Mercy and the Rosary with Fr Stan. He will say the prayer and be with all the parishioners together in prayer via Facebook Live Stream.

On Friday at 7.00pm. Fr Stan will also live stream the Stations of the Cross.

Parish Masses. Father Stan will celebrate the Mass, privately. If you would like to offer a Mass Intention, then, please email the Parish Office.

Anniversaries: Please keep in your prayers

22nd Mar: Mary Molony (1981); & Richard Martin (2003); **23rd Mar:** John Austen Fardy (2006)

24th Mar: Joyce Hart (1990); Jorge Hortal (1999); Ray Dils (2002);

25th Mar: Irene Hickson (1994); **28th Mar:** Elizabeth Caton (1999); **29th Mar:** Vera Seckey (1979); and Daniel Lynch (2004). **30th Mar:** Andrew Molony (1997); Chantelle Pattinson (2000); **1st Apr:** Patrick Burke (2008); Frederick V. Ntang (2010); Bridget Fuery (2012);

2nd Apr: Mabel Blake (1985); **3rd Apr:** Edward Woyczys (1973); John Newton (2003);

4th Apr: Maria Colella (1989); Bridgeen Fox (2012). **5th Apr:** Christopher McDonagh (2017)

Sunday 29th March: England to be Re-dedicated as Mary's Dowry

The Rededication Prayers will take place at noon, at the beginning of midday Mass which will be livestreamed from the Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream. To find out more about the Rededication and to download the prayers visit www.walsingham.org.uk/rededication.

Spiritual Communion

For the times in the days and weeks ahead where you will be unable to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion, you can still reach out to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament with an act of Spiritual Communion. When you are watching a livestream of the Mass, at the time when you would normally receive Communion you can instead say this prayer

Prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot, now, receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Link to Spiritual Resources

Universalis: you can download for free all the readings and prayers. www.universalis.com. There is an app also that you can use on your computer, on Apple and Android devices. It contains all of the daily Mass readings and prayers, the prayers of the Angelus, and the Prayers Divine Office in several languages. Cost of app is £10.99.

'Word on Fire' has a huge range of online resources for prayer and catechesis on their

website and social media accounts, including a live daily Mass: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>

UK Catholic Diocesan newspapers on one website : www.ChurchPaper.co.uk

Portsmouth Diocese e-news:

Don't forget you can keep in touch with what's going on in and around the diocese via e-News: [.http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews/](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews/)

Guidelines on the Holy Week and Paschal Triduum liturgies from Vatican.

Attached to the newsletter are the guidelines from Vatican. Please make every effort to use the online resources and take part in the Holy Week via the Livestreams available.

Holy Week:

Sunday 5th April : Palm Sunday
Thursday 9th April Maundy Thursday
Friday 10th April Good Friday
Saturday 11th April Holy Saturday
Sunday 12th April Easter Sunday

"The faithful should be informed of the beginning times of the celebrations so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes. Means of live (not recorded) telematic broadcasts can be of help. In any event, it remains important to dedicate an adequate time to prayer, giving importance above all to the Liturgia Horarum."

Parish News

Parish Office: The office will operate remotely. Please correspond via email and only leave urgent messages on the Parish Office phone.

Message from Rachel (Parish Secretary): In the coming days, I will be calling everyone on the Parish Database to check that they are ok and also, to see if they are happy for SVP to contact them and if they are ok to be part of the Parish Whatsapp group to stay in touch. It's a massive list and it will be really helpful if you can email the parish office to confirm the 3 questions so I can be in touch with those who are not electronically available. Thank you.