



The OLOP Lockdown Link

25 June 2020 - Fortnightly edition

Welcome to The OLOP Lockdown Link!

Since the beginning of the lockdown and the closure of the parish office, there has not been a newsletter. We very much hope that we will soon be able to have everything back to normal, including the return of our usual comprehensively informative newsletter. Meanwhile, we, a small team of volunteers, hope that this stop-gap fortnightly publication will be of some help. Who knows... it could be the first and the last edition!

Do we crown Jesus, or the virus?

The unusual circumstances require from us an adequate answer, but how to measure our response. We know that in order to love we need to have faith, be prudent, self-resistant and obedient, yet brave and generous. In the passage of the

author of "The Epistle to Diognetus" from late 2ndAD indicates we, Christians, not distinguished from other people neither by country, nor language, nor the customs which we observe. "But, inhabiting Greek as well as barbarian cities, according as the lot of each of them has determined, and following the customs of the natives in respect to clothing, food, and the rest of their ordinary conduct, they display to us their wonderful and confessedly striking method of life. They dwell in their own countries, but simply as sojourners. As citizens, they share in all things with others, and yet endure all things as if foreigners. Every foreign land is to them as their native country, and every land of their birth as a land of strangers. They marry, as do all [others]; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring. They have a common table, but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but they do not live after the flesh. They pass their days on earth, but they are citizens of heaven. They obey the prescribed laws, and at the same time surpass the laws by their lives."

Gospel for today (Sunday, 21st) we are given very direct guidance: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell". (Mt 10:28) It is obvious that the Lord is making the point that there will be people who would challenge us. Can't we see that He is referring to anything what might kill our body, such as an invisible virus? Can the virus kill our soul? Can we enter into a trap when our soul is not functioning as we are overtaken by fear? Do we crown Jesus, or the virus?

Indeed, in finding wise balance in different practices we do these days, our heart, our hope, our salvation is not put in medical stability such as vaccine, but in the Lord who created heaven and earth. Apart from that, as the

Fr Stan

Who to turn to.....

- For your **spiritual needs**, as always, contact Father Stan:
fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
or tel. 0118 9663711

- For practical help with **shopping, trips to chemist, friendly chats**, etc:
tel. The Earley Help Hub
07493 784091

BREAKING (GREAT) NEWS

This week we have heard the happy news that the government will permit us to resume the public celebration of the Liturgy in our churches from 4th July, subject to safety restrictions etc. As with the reopening in general, this will be dependent upon the decisions of parish priests in the light of local circumstances and resources. To help, later this week our bishop hopes to send us some updated guidance based on the document previously sent: "Guidelines for the Gradual Reintroduction of Public Liturgies (21st May)". During July we will stick to our current arrangement, for keeping the church open for private prayers as outlined overleaf. **Sunday Masses will be live-streamed and posted on the parish's Facebook page.** From Sunday 12th July, we will make Sunday Masses and one weekday Mass available to our parishioners. More details to come.
God bless you,

Fr Stan

We are open!

The church is now open for private prayer - **from 11am until 7pm every day except Saturday, when we will be closed**, subject to review. There is a one-way system: walking towards the altar down the centre aisle, and then returning to the main entrance down the sides, just like during communion.

You will need to maintain a 2-metre distance. This also means not sitting at the end of the row, but walking 2 metres (approx 6 feet) away from the aisle.

It is also necessary for us to know who has been in the church on which day, in case there is any later development. We have loose forms for those in attendance to complete, which can then be deposited in a secure box. So, the path has been prepared for you, we have gone before and made everything ready - come and spend time with our Lord in His House!

Nancy Johnson & Colin H Tomlinson

Website and Social Media

We are trying to keep our website up to date in these challenging times. The address is: olop.org.uk. You will find suggestions for other websites to help you find online Masses.

Our Facebook page is [facebook.com/olop.church](https://www.facebook.com/olop.church)

Let us pray

3 pm prayers on Facebook: if you would like to lead one of these sessions, including Divine Mercy and Rosary prayers, please contact the parish team via the new email, stating on which day you could regularly help.

Friday Adoration - Please support this great private devotion. If we have more volunteers, we will extend adoration overnight from Friday till Saturday. Anyone interested please contact the Parish Team by the new e-mail.

Deaths and anniversaries

Since our last newsletter, the anniversaries of many former parishioners have taken place. A full list can be obtained by contacting: earley.matters@gmail.com

Fund raising quiz

QUIZ NIGHT!

Yes, we want to find the **FUN** in fund-raising. We certainly need to find the £££££ to reduce the alarming parish debt following the steep fall in revenue during lockdown.

We are holding a **FUNd -raising quiz** on **Tuesday 7 July** from 7.45 pm till about 9.00 pm.

Please join us – there will be a wide range of questions, and even the quiz host will know the answers to some of the questions!

To take part, you need:

1. to be able to use Zoom.
2. to be happy to pay a **MINIMUM** contribution of £5 – payment details will be sent to you.
3. register your interest to take part by emailing: olopsvp@gmail.com before **Friday 3rd July**. Joining instructions will then be sent to you on **Sunday 5 July**.

Please note: under 18s welcome but must be accompanied by an adult!

New Email Address

We have a new email address for any **concerns** or **suggestions** regarding the parish operations, and to make our day-to-day correspondence related to **evangelisation** and **pastoral matters** (suggestions, ideas, requests, thanks and complaints) in a most efficient way. Please avoid using other emails, including the private addresses of our parishioners.

earley.matters@gmail.com

Using this address will ensure your email receives due attention in a timely manner.

Please do not use this address for circulars.

Laugh with Layman

Our anonymous Layman has a strange sense of humour... And an irrepressible need to share some jokes he has come across. So we have let him have a bit of space!



Seen on a church sign: Jesus can wash away your sins, but you still need to wash your hands.

There are so many coronavirus jokes around - ---- it's a pandemic!

Telling your suitcase there's going to be no holiday this year can be tough. You are left with a lot of emotional baggage.

*Therapist: Your wife tells me you never buy her flowers
Husband: To be honest, I didn't know she sells flowers*