



# The OLOP Lockdown Link

13 July 2020 - Fortnightly edition

## Welcome to the second edition of The OLOP Lockdown Link!

The OLOP Lockdown Link team have been pleased to prepare this stopgap information sheet whilst the parish office has been closed. Happily, we can expect the usual comprehensively informative newsletter to return in August, so this is the second but also the final edition of OLOP Lockdown Link!

We are delighted to feature in this edition the great news that, albeit in restricted conditions, Mass is back! We are reminded that the dispensation from our Sunday Mass obligation is still valid.

## The Loving Presence of God.....and how it works in us

We are called as Christians to love God and love our neighbour. We must hold them in our minds and hearts and love them through our actions.

To start with, we need to accept in our hearts that “no one can serve two masters”. Who are these “masters” (kyrios in the Greek text). One is Christ, our

one true Lord - Kyrios. and all His words, including the 10 commandments. The other is Mammon – the false kyrios, the false lord.

Importantly, unless we find out and practise the truth that we are created to search for God and to serve Him with all our hearts, minds, soul and our strength in this life and in the life to come, our identity and relationships with one another are affected and we in one way or another praise the false kyrios, the false lord; This can lead to bitterness, pessimistic fatalism, jealousy, egoistic pride.

Because of that, one of our daily practices should be to

work on our memory so that every moment of our lives is permeated with the Loving Presence of God. Then Christ gradually creates stability in us, and, wherever we are in our lives, His light shines through us.

When we wholeheartedly commit to our Lord Jesus, we experience His presence in every moment of our lives. Each of those moments, whether easy or difficult, has a meaning and is an evangelical gift.

For that reason we do not come to the church primarily to find a shelter, to treat church as a form of escape from life, but to worship Him and offer Him ourselves and our sacrifices which we unite with Him. Yet, in front of Him we learn how to understand and make sense of our lives and how to live our often challenging lives to the full with our husbands, wives, children, at work and at home. When we come to Holy Mass, we are not coming for the purpose to feel good and uplifted (it may happen as a tangible fruit of our unity with Jesus) but to be sent off again to everyone and everything that makes up our “world” with increased faith, deeper (not naïve) hope, and greater charity.

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

## SUNDAY MASSES ARE BACK...

### ...but you'll need to book your place

Due to social distancing regulations, seating is very limited. Mass times have also changed in order to allow a suitable gap for cleaning etc between them.

Sunday Masses are at **8.30am** and **11.30am**, and there is also a Latin Mass on Mondays at 7.30pm. Book your place by calling:

**07444 079157**

Masses must be booked by 8pm the previous day. We are working towards making booking available online very soon.

## READIFOOD food bank appeal

Most needed items at present are:

- Tinned vegetables, peas, carrots, sweetcorn, potatoes or instant mash.
- Tinned Ready/meat meals; minced beef, hotdogs, chicken in sauce etc.
- Tinned corned beef, tuna and sardines
- Lentils; dried or tinned.
- Rice 500g/1kg bags.
- Tinned fruit.
- Tea bags boxes of 80's & 120's
- Instant coffee and toilet rolls



For individual people dropping off donations, please deliver to 33 Boulton Road, RG2 0NH 12 – 2pm, weekdays  
If you prefer, leave goods in the Advent Room, and Jack Noronha will deliver them to Readifood. **No fresh foods**, please.

### CIRDIC

Fresh food and vegetables are needed by CIRDIC to feed the homeless. Please take them directly to CIRDIC (St Saviours Church Hall, 1, Berkeley Ave, Reading RG1 6JT ) from 8.30am on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays.

## A note on parish finances



Owing to the closure of the hall and social club complex – normally sources of significant income – and also to the suspension of Masses and resultant loss of collection income, our parish bank balance is thousands of pounds in the red. Unfortunately, our outgoings have been mostly unchanged.

Thank you very much to parishioners who are continuing to contribute via direct debit or have made donations on the website.

If you would normally have placed your offering in the collection bags, please consider setting up a direct debit or make a donation on the website.

## TALKS—The Word of God for a World in Pain

In this period when we are focussing on the Word of the Lord, you may wish to register for these talks:

**The Word of God for a World in Pain** by Dr Scott Hahn.

Register now at: <https://www.oxcacs.org/product/the-word-of-god-for-a-world-in-pain/>

8 August 2020—3pm, Live Stream available to watch for two weeks after the talk.

## Laugh with Layman

Layman suggests some additions to our regular examination of conscience:

1. Have you knowingly stockpiled more toilet rolls than your normal supply?
2. Are you deliberately concealing all the stock of lemon curd in the Thames Valley?
3. Have you shouted indignantly at a film on tv because the characters were less than 2 metres apart?
4. Have you coveted your neighbour's facemask?
5. Have you ever taken less than 20 seconds to wash your hands? How many times?
6. Have you ever been distracted by adverts for other videos while attending Mass via Youtube?
7. Have you indulged in excessive consumption of chocolates and/or quarantinis?
8. Have you failed to remember what day of the week it is?
9. Have you succumbed to the temptation to check your emails/social media every hour of the waking day?
10. Have you ever uncharitably called someone a covidiot?
11. Have you flattened the curve? If so, what do you mean?
12. Have you been on Bournemouth beach on a busy day?
13. Have you actually completed those wonderful tasks you set yourself weeks ago? Really? Even the loft?

