

Newsletter April 2020

These are unprecedented times, whoever thought that most of us would be at home, keeping indoors to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

During this time please continue to support the parish and all those who serve the community in your prayers.

As Rector of the parish, I am very conscious of those in our community who are temporarily out of work, those who are self employed and are worried about their businesses and their staff.

Those who are trying to work from home with small children running around the house and those of you who have teenagers who may be bored, miss their friends or are studying for major exams.

Some of you will be on your own at home and your house is quiet and the much anticipated visit of a grandchild or a coffee with friends is now on hold.

You may have young adults or grown up children and grandchildren working away and you may be worried about them.

Many of you will be caring for a relative or parent and you will be doing your best to protect and cocoon them as best you can.

Some of you are working on the frontline and in healthcare and are anxious about those in your care and those that you return home, as I mentioned in my facebook message , 'Be strong for the Lord your God is with you'.

Some of you will have had a funeral in the family and this will have been particularly difficult for you with the current restrictions.

Remember that you are in my prayers and pray for one another , the parish and for all those who serve the community.

I have written the following prayer with those who work in health care in mind, but it can be broadened to include all those who serve the community at this time.

Loving God,

We give thanks for all who work in healthcare at this difficult time.

Keep them safe and strong as they care for all who are unwell and may feel anxious or distressed.

Be with them as they bring healing and hope to those who come to them in need,

Amen.

We have put services together for the last few Sundays and we plan to continue with this as long as the restriction apply.

These can be found on the parish website, parish facebook page and links will be circulated via the parish email list.

<http://traleedingle.ardfert.anglican.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Trale-and-Dingle-Group-of-Parishes-680304582052423/>

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On Maundy Thursday we mark the institution by Jesus of what we now call the Holy Communion, The Lords Supper, The Breaking of the bread or The Mass, as he shared a Passover meal with his friends.

What did Jesus mean when he broke the bread and shared the cup of wine , and said “Do *this* in memory of me!” at the supper the Passover meal that he shared with his friends. **Exodus 12: 1-4, [5-10], 11-14** tells the story of the greatest saving act of God in the Old Testament, the exodus

from Egypt and freedom from slavery. It opens us up to the idea that God enters our lives to save us and set us free from whatever oppresses us.

The Jewish people were commanded to **remember** Gods work in bringing them to freedom every year and they still do that today as they celebrate the Passover together as a major family meal. Jesus reimagined this meal and gave it as a gift to his disciples and to us as a way of remembering him, to reassure them of his presence and of all he accomplished and urged to be continued in his name. This Holy Week and Easter **Let us remember**

- **The people that are important to us,**
- **Those who we are separated from at this time.**
- **The freedoms that we generally take for granted.**

On Good Friday we think of the cross and the passion of Christ and his willingness to **sacrifice** everything and put his life on the line for his people. His example had a huge effect on his followers. This has trickled through the ages to us and his life, passion and example has contributed to making the world a better place.

Think of those today who **sacrifice** so much for the benefit of others and the difference they make. Think of those who go to work today fully aware that they are at risk from the corona virus as they too do their duty and serve their communities. Think of those who had to close their business and the impact it will have on them, their employees and countless sacrifices that others are making too, straying indoors particularly apartment dwellers. In light of all that the sacrifices that many of us are asked to make for the benefit of others and for society pale into insignificance.

Easter Day.

Easter is about The Triumph of Jesus over evil and the new life that he brings, Its about hope, its about glimmer of light in the amidst of darkness, The prayer of St Francis comes to mind

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace

Where there is hatred, let me sow love

Where there is injury, pardon

Where there is doubt, faith

Where there is despair, hope

Where there is darkness, light

And where there is sadness, joy

Readings for Holy Week

Monday: OT: Isaiah 42: 1-9 NT: John 12: 1-11

Tuesday: OT: Isaiah 49: 1-7 NT: John 12: 20-36

Wednesday: OT: Isaiah 50: 4-9a NT: John 13: 21-32

Maundy Thursday: Exodus 12; 1-14 John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday: OT: Isaiah 52: 13 – end of 53 John 18: 1-end 19

Easter Eve: OT: Job 14: 1-14 / NT: 1 Peter 4: 1-8 / Matt 27: 57-end

Scripture readings for Easter day:

Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 28: 1-10

With every best Wish and Happy Easter to you all.
Jim