

St. Mary's Falmouth & Helston RC Parish

The Parish is a part of Plymouth RC Diocese, a Registered Charity no. 213227

Parish Church:- St Mary Immaculate, Falmouth serving St Edwards, Mawnan Smith

St Mary's, Killigrew St, Falmouth, TR11 3PR - email: falmouth@prcdtr.org.uk phone 01326 312763

Parish Priest - Father Brian Kenwick V.F.

Safeguarding Officers: - Sheila Jordan (619648), Hilary Kiszczuk (212070)

Parish School: St Mary's RC Primary, Mongleath Road,

01326 314540

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

Psalter 4

3rd May 2020



FALMOUTH

SAT 6.30 pm FALMOUTH
SUN 9.00 am MAWNAN SMITH
SUN 10.45 am FALMOUTH

All public Masses suspended
Fr Brian will offer Sunday Mass for the
People of the Parish privately

Weekday Masses (4th week of Easter)

MON ENGLISH MARTYRS
TUES St Richard Reynolds
WED Easter weekday
THUR Easter weekday
FRI Easter weekday
SAT Easter weekday

All public Masses suspended
Fr Brian will offer daily Mass for the
People of the Parish privately

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Currently unavailable

HELSTON

St Mary's Helston, serving St Michael's Mullion.

email: helston@prcdtr.org.uk phone 01326 572378

Resident priest - Fr Paul Andrew Email: frpaulandrew@live.com emergency contact 07548654893

See also our Facebook page: "Catholics on the Lizard Peninsula"

Safeguarding reps: Meg Trevaskis & Margaret Chambers.

Hall contact: - vacant



SUN 9.30 am HELSTON

All public Masses suspended
Fr Paul will offer Sunday Mass privately

Weekday Masses (4th week of Easter)

MON ENGLISH MARTYRS
TUES St Richard Reynolds
WED Easter weekday
THUR Easter weekday
FRI Easter weekday
SAT Easter weekday

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Currently unavailable

Please contact Fr Brian if you have a relative in danger of death for advice.

4th Sunday of Easter - homily

Alexander the Great once said, "I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion."

In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us that we are His sheep, His flock and He is our shepherd, our leader and our king, who will lead us to eternal life.

The Book of Revelation refers to Jesus as 'The Lion of Judah' so we have a mighty leader, a wonderful, caring shepherd that leads His Church, that guides His flock.

All that is evil, all that is dark and sinister rightly should be afraid of the flock led by Jesus the Good Shepherd for we witness to and proclaim that love will defeat hate, light will overcome darkness and eternal life will banish death.

Jesus our good shepherd is no distant leader, He is not a stranger to His flock. He, as Pope Francis would agree, is among His flock, He knows the smell of His sheep.

Although we are the sheep of Jesus, although we belong to His flock, Jesus knows, cares and loves us as unique individuals, created and made in His own image.

Yes, Jesus is our good Shepherd and we are the sheep of His flock but we do not follow Him blindly without thought and purpose. No, we freely follow our Shepherd knowing and believing that the Lion of Judah will lead and guide us to the sheepfold of eternal life.

The voice of the Shepherd that calls us to follow is not the voice of a stranger, no it is the voice of a friend, a saviour, the voice of God.

The flock of Jesus, the Church He founded, is truly the family of God.

It is a real community, it is an authentic family. And a family without the occasional black sheep would not be a real family at all.

The flock of Jesus, His Church, His family is not perfect, it has its fair share of those with faults, failings and imperfections. But those of us, including me, who are not perfect and not always obedient sheep, are still loved and cherished and protected by Jesus our Good Shepherd.

Indeed, the Gospel tells us that if one of the sheep should wander off, Jesus will seek, find and return the stray back to His flock, back to His Church.

When the Coronavirus attacked our flock all our churches and places of worship were forced to close.

When we could not flock together, come together for the celebration of the Mass I was worried, I was deeply concerned that our parish would be scattered and disheartened.

How wrong I was! Through Jesus the Good Shepherd we have kept together, He has ensured that we remain the flock led by the Lion of Judah.

Through the efforts and commitment of you all, we have remained united as the flock of Jesus.

Your witness, your care, love and concern for others, has shown me that there is nothing sheepish about your faith, there is no woolly thinking among you about how you go about sharing the values and teachings of the Gospel.

Back in 2015 Bishop Mark appointed me as your Parish Priest, to be the Shepherd of this flock.

To my unending gratitude, to my eternal thanks, in the last few weeks the flock, the parish has cared, loved and cherished me your shepherd, in so many and wonderful ways. Thank you!

As your priest, as your shepherd I am very much part of the flock, a member of our wonderful parish. For Jesus is the true Shepherd of our parish and the whole Church.

We are indeed sheep, a flock led by a lion. Jesus is the Lion of Judah, the Good Shepherd who will defeat and overcome the evil that attacks us at present and lead us to the sheepfold of the better days that will come.

Keep faith and may God bless you all.

Mass in Polish

Available by live stream on YouTube Christ the King Plymouth. The current link is identified by the title of the Sunday so for this week it will be 'Czwarta Niedziela Wielkanocna'
They also have Children's Liturgy weekly but recorded.
They have a bi-weekly Prayer with the Word of God group (this coming Tuesday) and a separate Men's prayer group that are all on line... any others... But people need to email Fr Jacek on jacekkostuch@gmail.com if they will to join these or receive information so they can join if they wish.
Please share this information with any Polish people you may know.

MISSION MADE POSSIBLE!

Is the thought of sharing your faith with family friends and others just too scary? Are you thinking; 'that's not for me, I could never do that' or perhaps you just don't know where to start? Well you are not alone JOIN CATHOLICS IN OUR DIOCESE AND ACROSS THE GLOBE WHO FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME WAY.

With the encouragement of Bishop Mark, you are invited to take part at home, and learn how to have these conversations appropriately and without feeling awkward.

If you would like to learn more please send an email with your telephone number

to jonathan.bielawski@prcdtr.org.uk and follow this link to watch the overview video titled 'How to Evangelise' <https://wp.me/paTncV-8rl>

Fr. Jon Bielawski

2020 World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations - also known as Vocations Sunday - this year will be celebrated on 3rd May 2020. This day flows from the broader culture of vocation, and is when the universal Church asks the Lord to send more labourers to the harvest.

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, writes:

Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations. May she touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God's call in their lives, to find courage to say "yes" to God, to overcome all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world. May the Virgin Mary accompany us and intercede for us.

Through your prayers and encouragement our seminarians, Albert and Andrew, continue to thrive on their vocational pathway towards ordination as Diocesan priests. If you have been watching the daily Masses streamed on location at our Cathedral, you might be aware that Albert is currently assisting Bishop Mark there, and similarly Andrew has been assisting Fr Chris Findlay-Wilson with the on-line liturgy at Parkstone, Poole. Because of the pandemic, both men have had to move away from their usual community life at seminary, and are studying remotely via on-line resources to continue their formation. Their willingness to 'up-sticks' is testimony to their fortitude and generosity of spirit under what are difficult circumstances for us all. We look forward to Albert's ordination to the Diaconate in July of this year, and to Andrew's next year.

This year we have one of our enquirers going forward to our annual selection conference to be held later this month. Do please keep Charles in your prayers as he continues to discern his way forward, seeking to carry out the Lord's will by offering his life in service of the Lord and His Church.

Finally, I invite all those curious about the priesthood or religious life to contact me, Fr Ralph Candy, on 01803 557518, or send me an email to vocation@prcdtr.org.uk. In the meantime I'll leave you with a prayer for Vocations Sunday 2020, which we can all make our own:

Loving Father,

you call us by name.

As we journey through life

help us to be confident in our own unique identity

*and to find opportunities
to develop our own gifts and passions.*

*We pray that the Holy Spirit
will pour on us wisdom and guidance
to help us realise and follow our dreams,
discerning your plan for our lives.*

*Bless your Church
by raising up dedicated and generous people
from our families and friends
who will serve as Priests, Deacons,
Sisters and Brothers.*

May we support one another in response to God's call.

*We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

Fr Ralph Candy
Vocations Director

On-Line Masses

Several places are live-streaming Masses, this is one <https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/> as we hear of others we will let you know. We have also received an email from our sister parish in **Falmouth Massachusetts** offering their live Masses, they invite us to connect to their website falmouthcatholic.org to join them in worship--the times may be a bit daunting, but we can access the service really at any time .

And, of course, **Fr Paul** is live streaming on his Facebook page – 9.30 am daily and the Bishop is streaming from the cathedral on YouTube – Plymouth diocese, check cathedral parish newsletter for Mass times.

Pastoral Message to the Diocese: "Let us be like Christ the Servant"

Dear friends,

You will recall when I wrote before Easter, that I described this period we are living through as "a long Good Friday". That is still so true, in so many ways. I have also been struck, over these past days, at how much each of us is having to live the Paschal Mystery, participating in a very real way in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Today, I would like to share some thoughts with you on how we have been invited into sharing in the Lord's experience of His Last Supper with His disciples. At first, this may appear odd, since we are still unable to celebrate the Eucharist publicly, and we are not even able, yet, to visit our Churches to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Hopefully, it will not be long before we are able to do so.

You know that on Maundy Thursday, alongside remembering the gifts of the Eucharist and the gift of the Priesthood, the Lord also gives us a very profound example of loving service. The

Gospel for that night is from John 13, where Jesus humbles himself to wash His disciples' feet. We experience Him as *Christ the Servant* in a very beautiful way. Having washed their feet, he says, "I have given you an example for you to copy what I have done". We know that message is for us, too.

This Gospel, of the washing of the disciple's feet, is being fulfilled many times over, in these days. Again, and again we hear the stories of people caring for others. On a personal note, my brothers and I are extremely grateful for the loving care and treatment my mother received in hospital these past weeks whilst battling Covid19. I also wish to thank all of you for your concern and prayers. Mum was discharged to my brother's home earlier today. As she left the ward, all the hospital staff cheered and clapped, exclaiming, "Mary is going home". Every patient who returns home is celebrated in this touching manner. For me, it is a real experience of the power of prayer, as things looked very dark some days. She now requires ongoing support at home and a team of carers are assisting with that. I am conscious that it is doctors, nurses, cleaners, carers, the Catholic Chaplain, and support staff, who are presenting the face of Christ the Servant to our family in these days. I know it is the same for many of us.

I want to give thanks, too, for the many acts of loving service that are taking place in our Diocese, carried out by so many, in so many different situations. I would like to highlight the following as examples of the various ways in which priests and parishioners are modelling *Christ the Servant*.

Reaching out to the Isolated and most vulnerable

Caritas Plymouth has developed a short guide for parishes to support social action and offer some top tips for keeping volunteers and communities safe. Some of the very good things that they point to:

- Parishes have compiled lists of parishioners who may find isolation difficult to cope with and are linking them up with those willing to provide befriending.
- Parish volunteers, in some areas, have set up rotas to call vulnerable people on a regular basis, some providing shopping or other practical support for those who are self-isolating.
- Priests are actively encouraging parishioners who are not self-isolating to volunteer locally. Those who are isolating are being encouraged to offer phone support.
- Parishioners are being asked to remember others in their prayers, and to support other charities e.g. through donations to foodbanks, charities supporting the homeless, or seafarers.
- Some parishes have made their grounds available for families living without gardens, to provide a safe space to take their daily exercise.
- Some parish groups have sent cards to all Care Homes in the parish area, thanking them for what they are doing, and letting them know we are praying for them.
- First communion children have been invited to make rainbows, to be posted in windows or sent to local care homes.
- Direct support is provided to vulnerable groups (including seafarers, refugees, homeless and the elderly) through key partner charities including the SVP, the Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth), St Petroc's and Stella Maris.
- Our parishioners are taking action in their local communities. Many are key workers undertaking the vital roles that keep others safe and well, others are volunteering in their

local communities to operate helplines, shop for others, deliver medicines or offer befriending services.

Any parishes wanting any further advice or support are invited to contact caritas@prcdtr.org.uk

Young people and schools

- Our Catholic schools continue to provide support for the children of Key Workers and/or vulnerable children and provide inspiration and encouragement.
- 32 Plymouth CAST schools are currently open across the Diocese. On Monday this week, over 300 children of key workers and vulnerable children were being cared for in our schools.
- Schools have created rainbow banners to thank the NHS, and those supporting the sick and dying.
- Some Catholic schools are organizing their own food collections and taking food to vulnerable families. School deliveries are being undertaken by teachers as part of the process of ensuring that children get the support they need at this time.
- Primary school children have written letters to older people who are self-isolating in a number of our parishes and have started to receive responses.
- Resources for the religious formation of our children and young adults are available online at the Diocesan website under the title "Spiritual Life ...(then)... Sharing the Faith".
- Young people are sharing messages of inspiration and encouragement via our Diocesan Facebook page, with short video messages and artwork as well as preparing children's liturgies and sharing them online.

Proclaiming and Celebrating the Faith

- There has been an amazing growth in the use of social media to experience Mass online, and to pray through live streaming and YouTube. Thousands of people have been supported and encouraged through these messages of hope with more people attending 'virtual' masses than we anticipated. We must hold on to some of this presence in online platforms, after 'lockdown' has been lifted.
- Some parishes are using Zoom and Skype to 'gather' and share experience and to talk about their faith.
- Pastoral care continues and in some creative ways - including opportunities for the Sacrament of Penance (whilst respecting social distancing using the car park).
- Priests are ministering to the dying in hospitals, Care Homes and private houses, offering encounters in the sacraments and praying, for and on behalf of others.
- Priests are celebrating Masses every day in their parish church, without a congregation. Several of them have written to me about this experience, and how they are very much doing this for their parish, for the Church and for our world at this time. One wrote: *"When I open my arms to say "The Lord be with you" I find I am saying it to all my friends and relations near and far, to all the people for whom, as a priest, I have been ordained to pray. The fact there is no congregation present whom normally one is either speaking to directly or trying to draw into the communal prayer of the Mass, means that the dynamic becomes intensely personal. The Word of God is being spoken to me alone – what is it saying to me, here and now? The prayers of the Mass which I utter are my prayers which I must pray in faith, hope and love. Of course, this is also true in every*

celebration at which others are present, but when one is alone, there is no hiding away: one is metaphorically naked before God as Jesus was literally on the Cross – my words really have to be his words “This is my body....” It is helpful for me to know that the Church – through the Pope and the Bishops – is asking me to celebrate in these days on behalf of the people. “With you I am a Christian, for you I am a priest” as Augustine said. So, I am fulfilling one of my priestly ministries, not just for my own benefit, but for others – not least to pray for an ending to this plague and a return to the coming together of God’s people around a communal altar.

- Each week parishioners are connected through email and letters from their parish priests
- Through social media, the Diocesan Evangelisation Team are helping people in their homes, to have some formation on how to connect and communicate with confidence, conversations about faith, with friends, family or in everyday encounters. More people can do so by registering their interest at the following link - info@genesismission.co.uk

I am sure that there are many other examples of loving service which you have experienced locally. Let us thank God for them all.

In this period, leading to the Feast of Pentecost, we recall the experience of Our Lady and the disciples waiting in the Upper Room for the gift of the Holy Spirit. It looks as though ‘lockdown’ will go on for us, for several weeks yet. May we unite ourselves to that experience of the Early Church, so that the Holy Spirit may be freshly poured out upon us all, leading us ‘outwards’ in the mission of the Lord. Let us each be like Christ the Servant.

Pray for me.

Yours devotedly

+ Mark O’Toole .

Rt Rev Mark O’Toole
Bishop of Plymouth

From Father Brian

This weekend we reach the Fourth Sunday of Easter, known to many of us as 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. It is also a 'World Day of Prayer for Vocations'. Through our baptism all of us have a vocation to serve and witness to God. Our vocation is given to us by Our Lord and cannot be fulfilled by any other person, it is unique and special to us. Of course, on this Sunday many of us will think and pray about vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and the Religious Life. Please Keep this intention in your prayers. I just wonder whether when this present crisis is over will there be an upturn in vocations to the Religious Life and the Priesthood?
Have a good and safe week
God bless you all.

Points to Ponder

Where the needs of the world and your talents cross, there lies your vocation.
(Aristotle)
My vocation, at last I have found it, my vocation is love.
(St Therese of Lisieux)
The human being is an animal who has received the vocation to become God.
(St Basil)

Please remember in your prayers **Sylvia Rowe**, who died last Friday. May she rest in peace. Her funeral will be next Thursday, sadly due to current restrictions this will be a private service.

Please also pray for **Wendy Pyatt** who died last Wednesday. May the Lord grant her eternal rest.

Diary Dates – all events are postponed or cancelled at this time

Prayer Requests

Please pray for those in the Parish who are sick or housebound or in need of our prayers.

Falmouth:

Kathleen O'Flaherty, Colin Campbell, Annette Biagini, Theresa Sullivan, Isabella Grace, Colin Jago, Jason Campbell, Winn Xenaky, Sister Martin, Steven Pellow, +Pat Berney, Hugh McLoughlin, Rosemary Moffat, David Stevens, Noelle Elliott, and Mary Froom.

Helston:

Heather Ashton, Frieda Curnow, Poppy DeAth, Isobel Ellis, Mary Gilbert, Mary Harry, Walter Hayes, Celia Kirkland, Colin & Theresa Neal, John Shiell and May & Gordon Steward.