

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

FIFTH (Passion) LENT (A)
March 29th 2020



Lazarus!
Come forth!

“For you have given your children a sacred time for the renewing & purifying of their hearts . . . That they may deal with the things of this passing world, as to hold rather to the things that eternally endure.” Lent Preface II
Thank God for our gift of faith!

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FIFTH LENT (A)

Psalter Week 1

Introduction: Where there are darkness, sin and death: Christ is with us as Redeemer.

First Reading : Ez 37 : The spirit of God offers new life to the people of Israel.

Resp.Ps. WITH THE LORD THERE IS MERCY AND FULLNESS OF REDEMPTION.

Second Reading : Rom 8 : Addressing the decadent Romans, St Paul tells that true life is spiritual.

Gospel : Jn 11 : Jesus, the Lord of life, raises Lazarus from the dead.

MASS INTENTIONS

God willing, Masses will be offered during the week for:

- * June & Bernard Steer (wedd. anniv.) (V&EG)
- * Timothy Killeen RIP; Maureen Killeen RIP; (JK)

Thanks for your Mass intentions.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:

Mary Perry, Peter James, Adrian McHugh, Fr John Cairns, Fr John Sullivan, Cn Michael Moore, Sheila Doyle, Pauline Anderson, Eileen Berry, Phillippa Phillips, Monica Krommendijk, Nella Lewykyj, Evelyn Matthewman, Neil Appleton, Alice Canning, Dorothy Yarwood.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time : Frs Geoff Kitchen, David Everitt; *Christine Liley, Martha Gale, Kathleen O'Grady, Tim Killeen, Richard Cooke, Thomas Brown, Mary Bramhall, Barbara O'Neill, Ian Daniels, Peter Cranston: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord : May they rest in peace : Amen*

*Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Canon John Berry** who died earlier this week. Even at the age of 89 he was still in post as parish priest of Eastwood. His death was occasioned by the present 'flu epidemic.*

He taught me - hardly a teenager - the little French I have; he instilled in me a love of pipe-organs and the music they make; he invited me to turn the pages as he played wonderful music; he welcomed me into two choirs - plainchant & polyphonic; he is surely now conducting the chorus of angels, and conversing in fluent French with St Vincent de Paul, the cure d'Ars and all French saints- and praying for us who fight against this epidemic. May he rest in peace.

PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND we celebrate the fifth Sunday of Lent, the start of the inner season of Passiontide. “Celebrate” has a different ring these days, when little celebration is evident. We are part of seemingly a universal lock-down. Sister Ethel in rural and remote Zambia tells of her school’s closure and self-isolation everywhere. But with Martha & Mary we will rejoice that Jesus is the conqueror even over death as he raises Lazarus from the dead.

CLOCKS FORWARD Even time has taken on a new dimension; our ordinary timetable—governed by work, duty & ritual—is on hold. The rhythm of daily rituals and duties and journeys and chores are suspended, as seemingly is time. I rarely look at my watch! A strange feeling of the springtime enlightening now being our clock and even calendar.

PURPLING The mystic ritual of covering all our images this weekend is much-reduced. I hope that our external images, statues and crucifixes, might be covered as a sign even of the times. Our purpling coincides with our journeying with Jesus to his suffering and death. With so many in our world shouldering that cross these days, there is a fitting empathy, and encouragement to prayer.

LOCKED CHURCHES Earlier this week we had to lock our churches. Thanks to those who maintained a “holy (open) hour” up till then. Respecting the sudden closure of Confessionals and constraints on priestly ministry to the sick, The Vatican has issued extraordinary directives on Plenary Indulgences and absolution. These details are easily found via the CBCEW website.

Last Sunday we were allowed to open the churches at usual worship-time. Not so this weekend.

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS MARY’S DOWRY In 1381 King Richard II dedicated England to Mary as her Dowry. The Bishops of England have been preparing for the Rededication of England to Mary for some time. It will take place at the National Catholic Shrine, the Basilica of Our Lady in Walsingham at 12 noon on Sunday 29th March (though this will now be done behind closed doors because of coronavirus restrictions). At this worrying time in our history as a nation, under the threat of this pandemic and deprived of the ability to attend Holy Mass because of the health risks, Catholics throughout England are invited to join the Act of Rededication of this country to Mary as her Dowry. Everybody is invited to join in the prayers and to participate in this loving act. <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>

“O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England, thy Dowry, and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee. By thee it was that Jesus, our Saviour and our hope, was given unto the world; and he has given thee to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us thy children . . .”
And go to “Torch” Dominican website to read Archbishop Malcolm’s wondrous homily on this theme.

RESPONDING TO PASTORAL EMERGENCIES

Bishop Patrick has asked those priests who are deemed to be “at risk” temporarily to stand down from external pastoral ministry

These priests may neither leave, nor welcome folk into their presbytery for pastoral ministry. They remain available for “ordinary” (whatever that can mean in these

extraordinary times) ministry.

The remaining priests in each deanery are now taking on emergency pastoral duties. Locally, that means on this eastern side of the Peak, Fr Martin and Fr Daniel are taking turns at being the priest on call for 24 hours at a time. To ring the duty priest, at any hour of day or night, please phone the special number: 01457 620272. You will hear some information, then you can press a button on your phone to be connected automatically to whichever priest is on call.

HOLY WEEK AHEAD Directives have been issued from Rome this week about the celebration of Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Grim reading! The celebrations are to be offered by clergy everywhere in locked and empty churches. Happily however, our Bishop hopes to stream all Masses & liturgies from the (empty) Cathedral.

UNEXPECTED DELIGHTS

- *This week has been oddly a time also to give God thanks for unsought blessings: Standing under a pink-blossomed cherry tree and be delighted in the buzzing-umbrella of bees rejoicing with eager joy at the new-nectar prospect;*
- *The resurgence of God's Noah-covenant sign. After the Flood, God showed a rainbow to signify his newly-established covenant of love for his people. In this week of springtime weather - after the floods and storms of recent times - the rainbow was resurgent in our land in window and pathway;*
- *Receiving countless messages asking after the clergy's health, and promising support and prayer. Even more messages offering that support to folk who are deemed to be in need;*
- *The blizzard of e-messages telling of Mass-streaming, prayer-resources, and all manner of consolation for the afflicted;*
- *The discovery of Whatsapp and its curious delights (not least that Fr Daren is streaming Mass . . .)*
- *Meeting devout folk outside the church—just sitting for an hour (thank God for the earlier warmth) - to “be close to the Lord”. Then reflecting on the word “sanctuary”, etymologically rooted in Holiness, and how many folk must be seeking sanctuary from present circumstance. And our holy places are locked . . .*
- *But not to nesting birds! Both at Immaculate Conception (tree-creeper, nuthatches and even jays), and St Charles (blue & great tits and bullfinches) seeking nesting-sites;*
- *And the silence of the skies, with the usual cavalcade of overhead aircraft now grounded—but allowing the delight of springtime bird-song;*
- *And reading the story of the Plague at near-by Eyam 1665-6, and the valiance of the rector Mompesson and erstwhile rector Stanley. Not so much self-isolation as village isolation.*
- *The discovery of ‘Magnificat’s excellent liturgy sheet for home-use this weekend. Please download it and use it.*

I AM PRINTING SOME COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER & LEAVING THEM ON THE TABLE IN THE RECTORY PORCH. PLEASE TAKE COPIES TO INTERNET-LESS PARISHIONERS / HOUSEBOUND etc

AND FINALLY We pray for each other in this testing time; we pray for sick & afflicted; for nurses & doctors and ambulance-personnel; and for those desolate in self-isolation. Lord in your mercy . . .