



**EAST HENDRED
CATHOLIC PARISH**

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Parish Priest:

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19th April 2020 Second Sunday of Easter

Good day

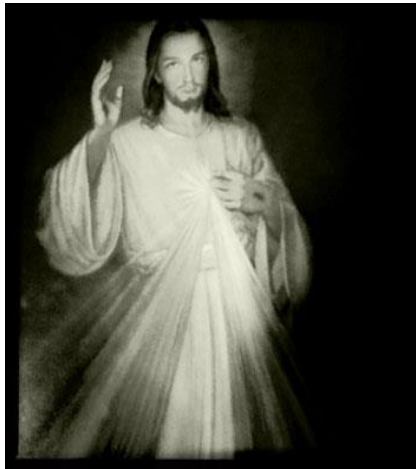
There have been nearly three dozen of these daily communications, Saturdays excepted, since 15th March. I am now having a break – a 'Staycation' – and plan to be back on duty by next Sunday. So, from Monday to Friday, 20th-24th, there will be no daily Mass and no daily bulletin. Some of you have found some of it helpful. Many of you have found the 'lock-down' a good opportunity to look further afield, as the electronic world permits, whether to Abingdon, or Ireland, or even to Rome. Most of these places have a solitary celebrant – with hardly anyone else in sight, even if the celebrant is the Pope. Anyone who would like to join Fr David's Zoom Mass in Wantage – 10am – is most welcome to contact him on 07554427063 or dosullivan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for an e-link.

Ringling around a bit, I am heartened by how well, and how thoroughly, people are looking after one another. The challenge is always to try to identify the person left out, the person locked into loneliness, anxiety, domestic abuse, poverty. For some, the 'lock-down' has been very difficult indeed. It doesn't take much imagination to work out how very difficult some people's circumstances are. We must all redouble our efforts at being good neighbours.

Take care and God bless

www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

East Hendred Catholic Parish



**Second Sunday of
Easter (A)**

19th April 2020

**Divine Mercy
Sunday**

Antiphon

Quasimodo geniti infantes

Like new-born infants, you must long for the pure spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

1 Pet 2:2

Collect

God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, and by whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47 (RSV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.⁴³ And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Psalm 118

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

² Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures for ever."

³ Let the house of Aaron say,
"His steadfast love endures for ever."

⁴ Let those who fear the LORD say,
"His steadfast love endures for ever."

¹³ I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,
but the LORD helped me.

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ Hark, glad songs of victory
in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,

¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is exalted,
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"

²² The stone which the builders rejected
has become the head of the corner.

²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day which the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9 (RSV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice,¹ though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. ⁹ As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.

Sequence

Victimae Paschali Laudes

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
has sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say
what you did see upon the way.
The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as He rose!

The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.
Christ, my hope, has risen:
He goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen
from the dead we know.
Victorious King, your mercy show!
Amen. Alleluia.

Gospel Acclamation

O filii et filiae

R/ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said: You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet *be-lieve*.

R/ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 20:19-31 (RSV)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.' Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Reflection

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THE FINAL verse of this morning's Gospel – 'Now Jesus did many other signs...which are not written in this book' – rather suggests that Chapter 20 is the original ending of John's Gospel. In fact, as we saw on Friday, and shall see again, there is a Chapter 21, with two further incidents. One is the Risen Lord, breakfasting with his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, after a gigantic catch of fish. The other is the incident when, three times, the Risen Lord invites Peter to express his love for him, a three-fold affirmation which puts right the three-fold denial when Jesus was on trial.

In today's Gospel, Chapter 20, we see the disciples in the Upper Room, behind locked doors. It is the evening of Easter Day and the Risen Christ comes into their midst and greets them with the Sign of Peace. He shows them his hands and his feet so that they can see from the marks of the nails that it really is he. He breathes on them and, with the gift of the Holy Spirit, ordains them to carry out his apostolic work. They are not quite all there. Obviously they are one down, with the traitor Iscariot no longer in their midst, but they are missing a second one of the Twelve, Thomas, called the Twin. He is clearly of the introvert disposition, finding it easier to do his mourning in isolation. When he hears that the others have had an encounter with the Risen Christ he is incredulous and demands proof. He needs himself to touch the hands and the feet of the man who was crucified and who had died.

Eight days later – the following Sunday (so this evening, in a manner of speaking), they are again in the Upper Room and this

time Thomas is with them. He receives the assurances he needs and the Lord is able to say to the apostles – and indeed, through the Gospel, to us: ‘Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.’ Obviously, later disciples who are not witnesses to the physical Resurrection of Christ need to be encouraged to believe without seeing. Pope St Leo the Great, the fifth century Pope, helps us understand. He writes:

In a mysterious way [Christ] began to be more present to them in his godhead once he had become more distant in his humanity...The faith of the believers was being drawn to touch, not with the hand of the flesh but with the understanding of the Spirit, the only-begotten Son, the equal of his Father.

(Sermo LXXIV De Ascensione Domini II:4)

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Renewal of Baptismal Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers

Let us pray to God the Father, who raised Jesus to life and exalted him to his own right hand.

Lord, protect your people through the glory of Christ.

Father, through the victory of the cross you have lifted up Jesus from the earth; - may he draw us all to himself.

Lord, protect &c.

Through the exaltation of Christ, send your Spirit into the Church; - make her a sign of unity for the whole human family.

Lord, protect &c.

Anoint with your blessing, O Lord, a struggling world, - may we know relief and healing amidst deprivation and plague;

Lord, protect &c.

Be with our brothers and sisters who at this time suffer, whether at home or in hospital;

- may those who care for the sick and protect the vulnerable know your healing presence.

Lord, protect &c.

Help our own parish to bear witness with great confidence to the Resurrection of Christ;

- may we strengthen the weak and comfort the down-hearted.

Lord, protect &c.

Bring the faithful departed into the nearer presence of the Risen Christ; - may they move from darkness to light.

Lord, protect &c.

O God, who know that our life in this present age is subject to suffering and need: hear the desires of those who cry to you, and receive the prayers of those who believe in you. Through Christ our Lord.

Our Father...

Communion Antiphon

Mitte manum tuam

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

cf Jn 20:27

Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori (18th cent.)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Prayer after Spiritual Communion

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that our reception of this paschal Sacrament may have a continuing effect in our minds and hearts. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer for the Parish Community

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.
Amen. *cf 2 Corinthians 13:14*

Scripture Reading (Easter Week 2)

Monday	Acts 4:23-31	John 3:1-8
Tuesday	Acts 4:32-37	John 3:7-15
Wednesday	Acts 5:17-26	John 3:16-21
Thursday	Acts 5:27-33	John 3:31-36
Friday	Acts 5:34-42	John 6:1-15
Saturday	Acts 6:1-7	John 6:16-21

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

Acts 2:14, 22-33

1 Peter 1:17-21

Luke 24:13-35

Ant.
6.
R E-gí-na cæli * læ-tá-re, alle-lú-ia: Qui a
quem me-ru-ísti portá-re, alle-lú-ia: Re-surréx-it,
si-cut dix-it, alle-lú-ia: Ora pro no-bis De-um,
alle-lú-ia.



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NOTICES FOR THE WEEK

PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Angus Clark, Karen Greig, Kitty Teasdale, Mary Mc Nichol, Andrew Gunn, Elizabeth Gunn, Des McNichol.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Those who have died recently and those with anniversaries at this time: Thomas Dearlove, Basil Francis Eyston, Sarah Hunt, Fr Jose Antonio, Louisa Goddard, Joseph Goddard, George Richard Barr, Fran.

HOLY FATHER'S APRIL PRAYER INTENTION

Freedom from Addiction: we pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

OUR CHURCHES

Our Churches remain locked by order of the Bishop and those who have keys are asked not to enter, except by agreement with Fr Andrew, until the emergency measures are lifted. There are periodic inspections to ensure that all is well.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

in case of emergency, please contact Fr Andrew on 01235 835038. if you need a priest in person, Fr David O'Sullivan from Wantage is happy for you to have his phone number, 07554427063