

# *The Parishes of St Saviour and The Ascension, Portsea*

August 2019

Dear Friends,

The past few years have seen nation and communities divided over the issue of Great Britain's place in the European Union and there is a great need for healing and for trust in our political systems to be rebuilt. In recent weeks we have continued to witness vicious verbal assaults on both sides with lies and exaggerations; we have seen communities and families divided through fear, selfishness, and misinformation; we have seen the growth of national pride — for better and for worse. Communities that were once cohesive and worked together for the common good have turned on each other and now mistrust each other and are in very great need of support and prayer. But is that all that we, the Church, can offer? I do not believe so, although it is a good place to start!

The Church, I believe, is in a unique position to help rebuild and reintegrate our communities because of the divisions it has experienced in recent years. It has found ways to honour and respect those of divergent views by accepting, first and foremost, that we are all children of God and as such are all equally loved by God and ought to be loved by one another. Think of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission established in South Africa with the fall of Apartheid: here space was created for real healing to begin by openly acknowledging the pain and evil committed under that regime. Forgiveness, healing, and unity can only be achieved when the hurt is truly recognised by both sides and a willingness to move forward is accepted.

Forgiveness is perhaps Christianity's greatest virtue and gift to the world: we have been set the example by God himself in Jesus Christ who showed the transformative power of forgiveness by releasing sinners to new life through penitence, absolution, and faith. Perhaps it is time for the Church in our day to speak out in love to our nation and community and call for forgiveness? The Portsmouth Diocesan strategy **live | pray | serve** is a timely reminder of our Christian duty as we seek to equip people to **live** as disciples of Christ; to **pray**, individually and together as worshipping communities; and to **serve** our local neighbourhoods and society together. Jesus said: "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us". Forgiveness and healing starts with us.

A reminder that on Thursday evenings at The Ascension and Friday evenings at St Saviour, Evensong will be sung at 6 p.m. followed by Low Mass at 6.30 p.m rather than 7 p.m. Hopefully this change will allow more people to attend. On **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August** there will be a combined Parish Mass at St Saviour at 11am, followed by Parish Barbeque. There will be no Mass at The Ascension on this Sunday.

If you are going away on holiday over the summer, please remember to find a church and attend Sunday Mass, a full list of churches affiliated to The Society may be found on the website [www.sswsh.com/map.php](http://www.sswsh.com/map.php) so please check before you go. Whilst thinking of the internet, do check out our parish websites if you have not done so; the addresses are at the bottom of this sheet, and please like and follow our pages on Facebook.

With my love and prayers,



Fr Benjamin.

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[www.ascensionportsmouth.org.uk](http://www.ascensionportsmouth.org.uk)

[www.stsaviourportsmouth.org.uk](http://www.stsaviourportsmouth.org.uk)

## *Calendar for August 2019*

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass (BCP)	St Saviour
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1.00pm	Salmon and Strawberry Lunch at the Vicarage	
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (TRINITY VII)</b>		
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Mass</b>	<b>St Saviour</b>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Family Mass</b> followed by Picnic	<b>The Ascension</b>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Low Mass followed by Coffee Morning	St Saviour
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>			
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Walsingham Devotions & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	12.00noon	Richborough Festival Mass at St Albans	
	2.00pm	Solemnisation of Matrimony	The Ascension
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (TRINITY VIII)</b>		
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Mass</b>	<b>St Saviour</b>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Parish Mass with Holy Baptism</b>	<b>The Ascension</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>			
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY</b>		
	<b><u>7.30pm</u></b>	<b>High Mass</b>	<b>The Ascension</b>
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>		No Mass	
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (TRINITY IX)</b>		
	9.30am	No Mass	
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Combined Parish Mass</b> followed by Barbeque	<b>St Saviour</b>
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Mass at Meadow House	
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>			
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	11.30am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (TRINITY X)</b>		
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Mass</b>	<b>St Saviour</b>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Parish Mass and Holy Baptism</b>	<b>The Ascension</b>
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>		No Mass (Late Summer Bank Holiday)	
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>			
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>		No Mass	
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>		No Mass	
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>			
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept.	<b>22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (TRINITY XI)</b>		
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Parish Mass</b>	<b>St Saviour</b>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Family Mass</b>	<b>The Ascension</b>

