

The Parishes of St Saviour and The Ascension, Portsea

March 2020

Dear Friends,

On Ash Wednesday, falling this year on Wednesday 26th February we begin the solemn season of Lent. There will be Sung Mass, 11.30am at St Saviour and High Mass, 7pm at The Ascension. Both with imposition of ashes. Please make every effort to be at one of these. Regular attendance at Mass, both on Sunday and days of obligation is the fundamental duty and responsibility of all Christians. Duty is a word that is increasingly alien to many people in society, but if we see the Sunday Mass as just a social event that we attend only if we have nothing better to do then how can we possibly hope to spread the faith to others? Or indeed how can we expect newcomers to return if they come to church and find a half empty church or no one to welcome them?

Our recommended Lent book is Fr. Robert Dolling's 'Ten Years in a Portsmouth Slum'. Fr Dolling's experiences of Portsmouth in the last years of the nineteenth century are a lesson in the ability of the Anglo-Catholic faith to change lives and bring people to know Our Lord. That is the faith that we represent, and although the Portsmouth of today is undoubtedly vastly different to that known by Fr Dolling, or even to that of thirty years ago, many of the challenges we face are the same. Our Lent course this year will look at our Catholic identity in the Church of England. Sessions will be held at St Saviour, after Wednesday lunch on the 18th March and 1st April and at The Ascension after Mass on Thursday 26th March.

Two solemnities fall in Lent this year: St Joseph, husband of Our Lady is on Thursday 19th March and there will be High Mass at 6.30pm at The Ascension and The Annunciation of Our Lord is on Wednesday 25th March and there will be a Sung Mass at St Saviour at 11.30am.

It has been good to see our new Junior Choir singing at the monthly Family Mass at The Ascension. If you know of any children aged 5-11 who would be interested in joining please encourage them to come along to choir practices, which are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 5.30 – 6.30pm. There will also be adult choir practice on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month after the evening Mass at St Saviour.

Our next Messy Church will be on Saturday 21st March from 3-5pm at The Ascension. Our theme will be Mothering Sunday. We plan to hold Messy Church five times each year and I hope that people from both churches might be willing to help out, with the intention that it might also take place at St Saviour in the future.

I'm pleased that a Coptic Orthodox congregation will be worshipping at The Ascension. They previously worshipped at St Peter's, Southsea which is closing. The Orthodox Liturgy will take place each Sunday at 6am so they will finish in good time for the Parish Mass at 11am. One exception will be Low Sunday (which is the Orthodox Easter Day); when there will be a combined Mass at St Saviour as they will have a longer service.

The theme of 'journeying' is a recurring one for Christians, as we seek to live our lives as Christ would wish us to. This is most clearly expressed in the layout of our churches, with the font placed by the door to welcome us into the faith, and the Altar at the east end where we prepare to meet Christ. Lent takes us on a journey of discovery and leads us to Holy Week, the most important week of the Christian year. My letter next month will cover this in more detail, but the principal services will be as follows:

4th April, 11am Chrism Mass at Winchester Cathedral. 5th April, 10.30am Procession and High Mass at The Ascension, 6pm Readings and Music of the Passion at St Saviour. 7th April, 8pm Tenebrae at St Saviour. 9th April, 8pm Mass of the Last Supper at The Ascension. 9th April, 2pm Liturgy of the Day at The Ascension, 6pm Maria Desolata at St Saviour. 10th April, 8pm Vigil and First Mass of Easter at St Saviour.

May I encourage you to use this season to take some time with God to reflect on and resolve to do the purposes he has for each one of us.

With my love and prayers,



Fr Benjamin.

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Calendar for March 2020

Sunday 1 st	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT		
	9.30am	Litany & Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Family & Parade Mass	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Solemn Evensong & Benediction	Holy Spirit, Southsea
Monday 2 nd	10.00am	Low Mass followed by Coffee Morning	St Saviour
Wednesday 4 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Lunch Club	St Saviour
Thursday 5 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 6 th	6.30pm	Low Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 8 th	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
Monday 9 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Tuesday 10 th	7.30pm	Deanery Synod	St Philip's, Cosham
Wednesday 11 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Lunch Club	St Saviour
Thursday 12 th	6.00pm	Rosary and Walsingham Devotions	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 13 th	6.30pm	Low Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 15 th	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong	St Mark's, North End
Monday 16 th	10.00am	Low Mass (BCP)	St Saviour
Wednesday 18 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Lunch	St Saviour
	1.00pm	Lent Course – Session One	St Saviour
Thursday 19 th	5.30pm	Junior Choir	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Sung Mass for St Joseph's Day	The Ascension
Friday 20 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	St Saviour
Saturday 21 st	3.00pm	Messy Church	The Ascension
Sunday 22 nd	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (MOTHERING SUNDAY)		
	9.30am	Parish Mass with Blessing of Flowers	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass with Blessing of Flowers	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Vespers of Our Lady & Benediction	Holy Spirit, Southsea
Monday 23 rd	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 25 th	11.30am	Sung Mass for The Annunciation followed by Lunch	St Saviour
Thursday 26 th	6.30pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
	7.00pm	Lent Course – Session Two	The Ascension
Friday 27 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
	7.00pm	Quiz Night with Bring & Share Supper	St Saviour
Sunday 29 th	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (PASSION SUNDAY)		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
	3.30pm	Beetle Drive with Bring & Share Afternoon Tea	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Solemn Evensong & Benediction	The Ascension
Monday 30 th	10.00am	Requiem Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Mass at Meadow House	