

The Parishes of St Saviour and The Ascension, Portsea

October 2020

Dear Friends,

The theme of joy was prominent in my recent addresses at the Annual Parochial Church Meetings. It was a great disappointment that more people were not present to listen, or indeed that so few even sent their apologies for absence. The Eucharistic preface at each Mass states that *'it is our duty and our joy'*. Whilst the two go side by side, I remain concerned that for some there is a danger of duty replacing joyfulness, which can hardly be conducive to making a welcoming atmosphere.

A few weeks ago, Pope Francis issued a letter entitled *'Let us return to the Eucharist with joy'*. We are told in direct terms that we have a social and moral responsibility to observe the norms established by secular authorities during a time of pandemic (the first concern must always be for the common good) but: *'as soon as circumstances permit, however, it is necessary and urgent to return to the normality of Christian life, which has the church building as its home and the celebration of the Liturgy, especially the Eucharist, as 'the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed'*".

We are too close to events to attempt a proper analysis, but the Letter begins the process: *"aware that God never abandons the humanity he has created, and that even the hardest trials can bear the fruits of grace, we have accepted our distance from the Lord's altar as a time of Eucharistic fasting, useful for us to rediscover its vital importance, beauty and immeasurable preciousness. As soon as is possible, however, we must return to the Eucharist with a renewed amazement and with an increased desire to meet the Lord"*. Through this time of separation, it is to be hoped that we will have come to a renewed understanding that: *"we cannot be without the Christian community, the family of the Lord: we need to meet our brothers and sisters who share the sonship of God, the fraternity of Christ."*. Although the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in abeyance, it seems right that we should now restore the full programme of Sunday and weekday Masses in our parishes, with the proviso that circumstances and regulations may change at short notice if the virus reasserts itself.

On the first Sunday in October we will keep **Harvest Festival**, with the return of the Junior Choir at The Ascension. A tradition that pre-dates the Harvest Festival service by many hundreds of years is that of the **Harvest Supper**, traditionally a big meal to which all who had helped in the harvest were invited. Our Harvest Supper takes place at The Ascension on the evening of **Saturday 3rd October** and I hope to see many of you there. (Tables will be spread out to allow for social distancing). Please sign the sheets if you are able to attend. As well as being a vital source of fundraising, these social events also give me a better chance to get to know everyone as I have to rush from one church to the other on Sundays. A reminder also that the **Wednesday Lunch Club** at St Saviour has recommenced. All are welcome to enjoy a two course home cooked meal for a reasonable donation of £5.00. A take away or delivery service is available if you are unable to come out.

Bishop Norman will be visiting us on **Saturday 10th October** for the **October Devotion**, Mass will be at noon, followed by Lunch. The service will also include the Confirmation of Luke Williams (brother of our organist Elizabeth Griffiths). This will be the first time +Norman has visited us since my installation as Parish Priest so it would be good to see everybody there. Please sign the sheets if you are able to attend.

Finally an advance reminder that November begins with two days of obligation. Sunday 1st November is **All Saints' Day**, and there will be masses in both churches at the usual times. Monday 2nd is **All Souls' Day**, which will be observed with a **Requiem Mass** at 10am at St Saviour. Please put both days into your diary, and *'let us return to the Eucharist with joy'*.

With my love and prayers,



Fr Benjamin.

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Calendar for October 2020

Thursday 1 st	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 2 nd	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	St Saviour
Saturday 3 rd	7.00pm	Harvest Supper & Entertainment	The Ascension
Sunday 4 th	HARVEST FESTIVAL		
	9.30am	Family Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Family Mass	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Solemn Evensong & Benediction	Holy Spirit, Southsea
Monday 5 th	10.00am	Low Mass (BCP) followed by Coffee Morning	St Saviour
Wednesday 7 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Lunch Club	St Saviour
Thursday 8 th	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Walsingham Devotions & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 9 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Saturday 10 th	12noon	October Devotion & Confirmation	The Ascension
Sunday 11 th	28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong for Dedication (50 th Anniversary)	St Mark, North End
Monday 12 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 14 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Lunch Club	St Saviour
Thursday 15 th	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 16 th	–	No Mass or Evensong	St Saviour
Saturday 17 th			
Sunday 18 th	29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
Monday 19 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 21 st	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Lunch Club	St Saviour
Thursday 22 nd	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 23 rd	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	St Saviour
Saturday 24 th	2.00pm	Solemnisation of Matrimony	The Ascension
Sunday 25 th	30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass with Holy Baptism	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Solemn Evensong & Benediction	The Ascension
Monday 26 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 28 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Lunch Club	St Saviour
Thursday 29 th		No Junior Choir (Half Term)	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 30 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass (of Requiem)	St Saviour