

The Parishes of St Saviour and The Ascension, Portsea

January 2021

Dear Friends,

With January comes the welcoming of a new year, albeit with a lot of uncertainty in our world: there is a lot of anxiety around because the future seems so uncertain. But as Christians we remind ourselves that our stability is not in this world. We know that our stability rests on God's promises. There will be trials and tribulations in this life but in this Christmas season (yes, it is still Christmastide for us until the feast of Candlemas at the beginning of February!) we hold on to the promises of God in the birth of Jesus. In the words from St John's Gospel - 'The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory'. In the coming of Jesus we are reminded that God can bring good out of evil, light out of darkness and hope in the midst of fear. All we need to do is to remain faithful, pray and not give up that hope.

With that knowledge, let me share with you some other things that will be taking place this month which are exciting, forward looking and full of hope. Firstly on New Year's Eve there will be a Watchnight Mass at The Ascension at 11pm, ending with Auld Lang Syne and the welcoming of the New Year, this is the first time for many years that this service has taken place at our churches so do come if you are able. On New Year's Day there will be Sung Mass at St Saviour at 10.30am, sadly without the customary coffee and the Vicarage.

During January and while we remain in 'Tier 4' we have reluctantly decided that there will be a single Parish Mass at 11am every Sunday, alternating between the two churches. Please see the monthly diary and make sure you put the dates and church into your diary. If you need transport please ask, or if you are really unable to travel to the other church please make your Communion at one of the weekday Masses.

This year we will keep the great solemnity of The Epiphany on Wednesday 6th January. There will be a Sung Mass at St Saviour at 11.30am which will include the blessing of chalk and the proclamation of the moveable feasts. We will also celebrate the Magi's offering of the gifts in the usual way by offering their gifts at the crib. You will be invited to make an Epiphany offering in the form of Gold (money towards the work of the church), Incense (money towards incense and worship) or Myrrh (money to help the poor and needy).

The Society of Mary Annual General Meeting will not take place as advertised in January as such meetings are currently forbidden, a revised date will be announced in due course. For the same reason our social events, lunch club and coffee after Mass will not be taking place until further notice.

On Sunday 24th January St Saviour keeps their Feast of Dedication, marking the 107th Anniversary of the Dedication of the church in 1914. Mass will include the usual procession and commemoration of past worshippers. The month ends with our Epiphany Procession on Sunday 31st January at 6pm at The Ascension, a Carol Service to mark the end of the Christmas season.

Those who attended the Carol Services at both churches will have seen and heard our Junior Choristers, they have worked exceedingly hard during the year and sang very well at Christmas despite the limited rehearsal time as a result of the November 'lockdown'. I'm delighted to say that two of the girls will be admitted as full members of the choir during Mass on Sunday 3rd January. We would very much like more boys or girls to join the choir, rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 5.15 to 5.50pm, and the children sing once a month at the Family Mass. If you know anyone of Primary School age who would be interested please encourage them to come along to a rehearsal.

Finally advance warning that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, falling this year on Wednesday 17th February. There will be just one Sung Mass this year, 11.30am at St Saviour.

With my love and prayers,



Fr Benjamin.

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Calendar for January 2021

Thursday 31 st	11.00pm	New Year's Eve – Watchnight Mass	The Ascension
Friday 1 st Jan.	10.30am	New Year's Day – Sung Mass	St Saviour
Saturday 2 nd			
Sunday 3 rd		THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	
	11.00am	Combined Family Mass with Investiture of Choristers	The Ascension
Monday 4 th	10.00am	Low Mass (BCP)	St Saviour
Tuesday 5 th			
Wednesday 6 th		THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	
	11.30am	Sung Mass and Epiphany Ceremonies	St Saviour
Thursday 7 th	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 8 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Saturday 9 th			
Sunday 10 th		THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	
	11.00am	Combined Parish Mass	St Saviour
Monday 11 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Tuesday 12 th			
Wednesday 13 th	11.30am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Thursday 14 th	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Walsingham Devotions & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 15 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Saturday 16 th			
Sunday 17 th		THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
	11.00am	Combined Parish Mass	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong	St Mark, North End
Monday 18 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Tuesday 19 th			
Wednesday 20 th	11.30am	Low Mass	<u>St Saviour</u>
Thursday 21 st	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 22 nd	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	St Saviour
Saturday 23 rd			
Sunday 24 th		ST SAVIOUR'S DEDICATION FESTIVAL (107TH)	
	11.00am	Combined Procession and High Mass	St Saviour
Monday 25 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Tuesday 26 th			
Wednesday 27 th	11.30am	Low Mass	<u>St Saviour</u>
Thursday 28 th	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 29 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 31 st		THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
	11.00am	Combined Parish Mass	St Saviour
	6.00pm	Epiphany Procession and Benediction	The Ascension