

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

March 2021

Dear Friends,

With Easter relatively early this year, we will be a couple of weeks into Lent as you read this. The recent *ad clerum* from the Society Bishops included the following paragraph which I'm sure resonates with many of us this Lent: *'The coincidence of the coming forty days with, pray God, the final phase of the strict lockdown, gives this Lent the feel of the final lap of a long race of endurance, one in which we have already been sorely tested. While I would certainly encourage you to keep Lent as a time marked by prayer, self-examination, and the deeper study of the Word of God and other sacred writings, I think we can be forgiven for entering this year's penitential season with our hearts and minds fixed, above all, on the hope of the Resurrection. That is after all the primary purpose of every Lent: to prepare ourselves for the paschal feast. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and the reminder of our mortality: 'Dust thou art, and to dust thou shalt return.' It ends in the Lord's victory, in which we share by virtue of our baptism, over death, suffering and sin. May every day of this Lent be one of grace and blessing, so that our hope in the risen Lord may sustain and strengthen us as we journey towards Holy Week and Easter.'*

Two solemnities fall in Lent this year: St Joseph, husband of Our Lady is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March and there will be High Mass at St Saviour at 6.30 p.m. and The Annunciation of Our Lord is on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March and there will be High Mass at The Ascension, also at 6.30 p.m. I'm delighted that we will be joined by Fr Lawson and others from Holy Spirit for these two services, continuing the good relations between our churches.

Normally at this time of year we would be inviting you to join us in collecting Easter Eggs to share with those who are supported by SDA (Stop Domestic Abuse) and the Roberts Centre. This year we have discussed with both organisations what would be helpful for them and they have asked for either donations of Eggs, or seeds and small pots and garden tools. Please bring any donations to church over the next couple of weeks.

We are fortunate that the Government have allowed churches to remain open for worship during the current lockdown and so our doors remain open for all who are able to attend. We will continue to hold a single Parish Mass at 11 a.m. every Sunday, alternating between the two churches until the lockdown is lifted and those sheltering at home are able to return to church. Please note however that on Easter Day there will be the usual 9.30 a.m. at St Saviour and 11 a.m. at The Ascension. Thank you for your willingness to travel to the 'other' church and if you need transport please ask, or if you are really unable to travel please make your Communion at one of the weekday Masses, which continue as usual.

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. The Holy Week services are listed on the calendar overleaf, so please make them a priority. Bishop Norman will be holding a 'Virtual' Chrism Mass which will be broadcast live from the Parish Church at Walsingham at noon on Holy Wednesday, the service will be shown on the big screen at St Saviour and will include Holy Communion.

We are deeply grateful for your financial support of our parishes. Sadly our income from fundraising, social events and hall hire has been severely affected by the pandemic and therefore we are particularly reliant on your donations at the present time, if you are able to consider increasing your giving, even if just in the short term, that would be much appreciated. Hopefully we will be able to recommence our social and fundraising events after Easter and make plans for the biggest of Fayres!

Finally on a personal note, Elizabeth and I are most grateful for all the messages, cards and gifts we have received in celebration of our marriage. Hopefully many of you were able to view the live broadcast or see the various photographs, but do ask if you have not been able to do so.

With my love and prayers,



Fr Benjamin.

*Parish Priest: Fr Benjamin Weitzmann*

Tel: 02392 439711

[fatherweitzmann@gmail.com](mailto:fatherweitzmann@gmail.com)

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

## Calendar for March 2021

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Low Mass – S. David, Patron of Wales	St Saviour
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.30am	Low Mass (BCP)	St Saviour
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>		
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Combined Family Mass</b>	<b>The Ascension</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross & Low Mass (Walsingham Cell)	The Ascension
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (MOTHERING SUNDAY)</b>		
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Combined Parish Mass</b>	<b>St Saviour</b>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Low Mass – S. Patrick, Patron of Ireland	St Saviour
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>High Mass – S. Joseph, Husband of Our Lady</b>	<b>St Saviour</b>
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>PASSION SUNDAY</b>		
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Combined Parish Mass</b>	<b>The Ascension</b>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>High Mass – The Annunciation of the Lord</b>	<b>The Ascension</b>
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
	7.00pm	St Saviour's Choir Practice	
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>		
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Blessing of Palms, Procession &amp; Parish Mass</b>	<b>St Saviour</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Music of the Passion</b>	<b>The Ascension</b>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Low Mass & Address	St Saviour
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross & Compline	The Ascension
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Low Mass & Address	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross & Compline	St Saviour
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	<u>12.00pm</u>	Richborough Chrism Mass – Live from Walsingham	St Saviour
	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>The Office of Tenebrae (sung)</b>	<b>The Ascension</b>
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr.	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>		
	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Solemn Mass of the Last Supper &amp; Watch</b>	<b>St Saviour</b>
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>		
	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of Our Lord</b>	<b>St Saviour</b>
	6.00pm	Maria Desolata & Compline	The Ascension
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>		
	10.00am	Church Cleaning and Decoration	Both
	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter</b>	<b>The Ascension</b>
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EASTER DAY</b>		
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Procession and Parish Mass</b>	<b>St Saviour</b>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Procession and Family Mass</b>	<b>The Ascension</b>