

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

April 2021

Dear Friends,

Tuesday 23rd March marked the anniversary of the restrictions that have been in place – in one form or another – for a whole year. Tragically over 125,000 people have died to the virus and that's not counting people who have died due to procedures being cancelled, missed appointments, or through increased anxiety or mental health problems. It will not have been a year that anyone wishes to repeat. Many of us have now been vaccinated and some may well have had their second dose, so perhaps we are feeling a little less anxious than when we began the year. Of course that is not to say we are out of the woods yet, but hopefully it means that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Lent each year in its own way takes us through that tunnel - a journey of discovery that leads us to Holy Week, the most important week of the Christian year. In Holy Week we come together to journey with Christ through his Passion. The services are laid out in the monthly calendar on the reverse of this sheet, but the three most important are those on Maundy Thursday when we remember Jesus the servant washing his disciples' feet and then the journey to the Garden of Gethsemane. On Good Friday when we walk with him in his Passion, and on Holy Saturday when we light a fire outside the church and celebrate the resurrection as the light of Christ is brought into the church. 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. Holy Week is a hard and emotional journey, but it is one that we walk with Christ and one another. It is a journey that will bring us into a new and closer relationship with God and each other; and that ultimately leads us to the light of Easter.

I hope to see many of you in church during Holy Week and on Easter Day, though I appreciate that there are some people still shielding at home who I hope will join with us in spirit. Now that the 'stay at home' order has been lifted we will, from Easter Day, return to the usual pattern for the Parish Mass on Sundays of 9.30am at St Saviour and 11am at The Ascension. These are challenging times for the church and it is essential that we look to rebuild our Sunday attendance now that the vaccination programme is well underway. As such we have decided to hold a 'back to church' Sunday and encourage our whole church family to be present at St Saviour on Trinity Sunday, 30th May at 9.30am and at The Ascension a week later on Corpus Christi Sunday, 6th June at 11am. These will be important occasions as we look to the future of our two wonderful churches. The Vestry and Annual Parochial Church Meetings will be held on these Sundays after the Mass in order to maximise engagement. Before that Ascension Day falls on Thursday 17th May and our preacher at High Mass will be our new Archdeacon, Mthr. Jenny Rowley, so please put that date into your diary. The planned outing to Walsingham has also been confirmed and will be going ahead from the 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> July.

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. All being well we should be able to recommence our social and fundraising events at the start of June and plans are in place for Fayres in the early autumn.

Much work and preparation goes into the Holy Week and Easter Services, and I am most grateful to those who support our churches through their various talents. On Holy Saturday at 10am we will meet to clean and decorate our churches for the festival. There are as many jobs as there are people to do them, so do please come and lend a hand if you are able.

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 April 2021*

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr.	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 5.15pm Junior Choir Practice 8.00pm <b>Solemn Mass of the Last Supper &amp; Watch</b>	The Ascension <b>St Saviour</b>
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 2.00pm <b>Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of Our Lord</b> 6.00pm Maria Desolata & Compline	<b>St Saviour</b> The Ascension
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> 10.00am Church Cleaning and Decoration 8.00pm <b>The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter</b>	Both <b>The Ascension</b>
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EASTER DAY</b> 9.30am <b>Procession and Parish Mass</b> 11.00am <b>Procession and Family Mass</b> 6.30pm Festal Evensong & Benediction	<b>St Saviour</b> <b>The Ascension</b> Holy Spirit, Southsea
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EASTER MONDAY</b> 10.00am <b>Sung Mass</b>	<b>St Saviour</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am Low Mass (BCP)	St Saviour
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm Stations of the Resurrection & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)</b> 9.30am <b>Parish Mass</b> 11.00am <b>Parish Mass</b>	<b>St Saviour</b> <b>The Ascension</b>
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am Low Mass	St Saviour
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm Junior Choir Practice 6.00pm Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension The Ascension
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9.30am <b>Parish Mass</b> 11.00am <b>Parish Mass</b>	<b>St Saviour</b> <b>The Ascension</b>
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	11.30am Low Mass	St Saviour
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	5.15pm Junior Choir Practice 6.00pm Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension The Ascension
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30pm <b>Sung Mass – S. George, Patron of England</b>	<b>St Saviour</b>
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9.30am <b>Parish Mass</b> 11.00am <b>Parish Mass</b> 6.00pm <b>Solemn Evensong &amp; Benediction</b>	<b>St Saviour</b> <b>The Ascension</b> <b>St Saviour</b>
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am Low Mass	St Saviour
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm Junior Choir Practice 6.00pm Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension The Ascension
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm Evensong & Low Mass 7.00pm Choir Practice	St Saviour St Saviour
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 9.30am <b>Parish Mass</b> 11.00am <b>Family Mass</b>	<b>St Saviour</b> <b>The Ascension</b>