

The Parishes of St Saviour and The Ascension, Portsea

May 2021

Dear Friends,

No doubt many of you watched the funeral of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on the television or listened to it on the radio. A funeral, whoever has died, is always a poignant moment filled with emotion, memories, and longing. As we watched Her Majesty sitting alone in St George's Chapel I was reminded of the many families I have seen over the last 12 months forced to do the same – quietly sitting apart from loved ones for fear of spreading or catching Covid-19 whilst longing for a hug, to hold a hand, a gentle touch of reassurance. I was pleased though that the cameras did not focus on the Queen too much as this was a moment when she was a wife and not the queen – if that can ever be separated.

Life, however, doesn't stand still as the Queen would acknowledge. Her Majesty's strong faith knows and trusts in the resurrection: that on the last day heaven and earth will be joined together in Christ as his Kingdom reigns over all. As we journey through these days of Easter we are reminded of this each week and the awesome power of God in raising Jesus to new life. The promise is to us and to all people to be with Christ in paradise, and as such we can live these days of parting confident of our eternal reunion.

For our Parishes, things are also rising to new life. Meetings, baptisms and weddings are resuming. Our weekly Lunch Club at St Saviour resumes this month on Wednesday 19th so please sign up for a lovely homemade lunch each week – remember that there are 'take away' and delivery options available if you can't come in person. Our Social Diary for 2021 has been published so please make sure you take a copy and put the dates into your diary. St Saviour in particular has a strong tradition of welcome through social events which we need to re-establish, as well as the urgent need for fundraising. There is also a calendar for the Society of Mary, so please pick up your copy of that as well.

We have now returned to the usual pattern for the Parish Mass on Sundays of 9.30am at St Saviour and 11am at The Ascension and it has been good to see attendance increase slightly. 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 at each church 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. Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for both churches will be available from the beginning of May for you to look through in advance of the meeting. There are vacancies on the Parochial Church Council at both churches - perhaps you might like to offer yourself in service of the parish by standing to be a member of the PCC?

Before that Ascension Day falls on Thursday 17th May. This is our Feast of Title at The Ascension; there will be High Mass at 7.30pm followed by refreshments. We welcome our new Archdeacon, Mthr. Jenny Rowley to give the Homily. Please make this occasion a particular priority.

It has been good to see the congregation and choir increase at the Family Mass on the first Sunday of each month at The Ascension. From now on we will also hold a Family Mass at St Saviour on the first Sunday. This service is slightly shorter and less formal than our normal service and therefore offers a good opportunity to invite young families and those who are less familiar with church – I know that a similar service was held at St Saviour once a month back in the 1980s and 90s.

I look forward to seeing you back in church!

With my love and prayers,



Fr Benjamin.

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Calendar for May 2021

Sunday 2 nd May	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
	9.30am	Family Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Family Mass	The Ascension
	6.30pm	Solemn Evensong & Benediction	Holy Spirit, Southsea
Monday 3 rd	10.00am	Low Mass - SS. Philip & James	St Saviour
Wednesday 5 th	11.30am	Low Mass (BCP)	St Saviour
Thursday 6 th	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 7 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 9 th	THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (ROGATION SUNDAY)		
	9.30am	Parish Mass with Blessing of the Garden	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass with Blessing of the Garden	The Ascension
Monday 10 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 12 th	11.30am	Low Mass	St Saviour
	6.30pm	Solemn First Evensong and Benediction	The Ascension
Thursday 13 th	ASCENSION DAY		
	<u>7.30pm</u>	Procession and High Mass	The Ascension
		<i>Preacher: The Archdeacon of Portsdown</i>	
Friday 14 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass – S. Matthias	St Saviour
Sunday 16 th	THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong	St Mark, Portsea
Monday 17 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 19 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Lunch Club	St Saviour
Thursday 20 th	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass – Monthly Requiem	The Ascension
Friday 21 st	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 23 rd	DAY OF PENTECOST (WHIT SUNDAY)		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
Monday 24 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 26 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Lunch Club	St Saviour
Thursday 27 th	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass – O.L.J.C. Eternal Priest	The Ascension
Friday 28 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	St Saviour
Sunday 30 th	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY		
	9.30am	Combined Parish Mass followed by A.P.C.M.	St Saviour
	6.00pm	Solemn Evensong & Benediction	The Ascension
Monday 31 st	10.00am	Low Mass – The Visitation of Our Lady	St Saviour