

The Parishes of St Saviour and The Ascension, Portsea

July 2021

Dear Friends,

It was good to see many of you at our Annual Meetings last month, particularly at St Saviour when the Area Dean told us of the plans taking shape for the future of our parishes. It was however disappointing that many of those whose names are on our Electoral Rolls did not attend, nor sent their apologies. A number of people have also taken the opportunity to give me their thoughts on the plans, and I would encourage everyone to ask any questions you may have.

As the remaining lockdown restrictions are lifted and we continue our journey back to 'normality', so there are once again many pressures on our time – the old challenge of balancing work, family and church. How about you? How do you get on with balancing your work/retirement, family and church life? Is there any help to be found in the Bible? Whilst it does not give us a step by step answer, it does give us a few pointers. Deuteronomy chapter 6 tells us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Chapter 5 of Paul's letter to the Ephesians gives explicit, if a little confusing, details of the relationship between husband and wife and children and parents and brothers and sisters while in Matthew 28 we are told to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" While this is all very helpful for us to take into consideration and aspire to, it is not exactly clear how we should do all of this at the same time as being committed Christians in our modern demanding world!

One benefit of the lockdown was the time we had to devote to our spiritual lives, and I would encourage you to find time to continue that. All Clergy and Lay ministers are expected to pray the daily Offices of Morning and Evening prayer, and that is a good discipline for everyone, but if you don't have time for that then Night prayer or Compline is the shortest and includes the wonderful Office Hymn:

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray,
That with thy wonted favour thou,
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

In respect of family life, do we show our love for our family and friends or do we take them for granted? Personally I am not very good at remembering names but better at remembering facts about people. It is always so nice when someone cares enough to remember something you mentioned when you last met them, especially when it might be related to health or difficult circumstances. Why not try to listen a little bit better to family and friends and take time to notice if someone seems lonely and would love a proper chat over a cup of tea. So, back to my earlier question, how do we take what we learned from the Bible to help us balance our lives. It is up to you but hopefully you will join me in increasing our prayer life and taking an extra few minutes to really listen to friends and family, all whilst making sure we are not overdoing things.

A reminder that on **Sunday 4th July** there will be a combined Family Mass at The Ascension at 11am, followed by our Parish Barbeque. There will be no Mass at St Saviour on this Sunday. We will be observing Sea Sunday, when we give thanks for all those who work at sea. On **Sunday 25th July** there is a Cream Tea at St Saviour at 4.15pm, and on **Saturday 31st July** all are welcome to the Vicarage for the annual Salmon and Strawberry Lunch. Finally, following the cancellation of our Walsingham Pilgrimage due to the Covid restrictions, a special outing to London has been arranged for **Sunday 15th August** – please see the flyer for full details.

I do hope that you will be able to make these events a priority as we continue on the path to normality, as well as remembering to find time in your lives for all that God has planned for us.

With my love and prayers,



Fr Benjamin.

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Calendar for July 2021

Thursday 1 st	5.15pm	Junior Choir Practice	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass (BCP)	The Ascension
	7.00pm	Parochial Church Council	The Ascension
Friday 2 nd	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	St Saviour
Sunday 4 th	SEA SUNDAY		
	11.00am	Combined Family Mass and Holy Baptism followed by Parish Barbeque (No Mass at St Saviour)	The Ascension
Monday 5 th	10.00am	Low Mass 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	Rosary, Walsingham Devotions & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 9 th		No Mass	
Sunday 11 th	THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
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	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
Sunday 18 th	THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
	1.00pm	Holy Baptism	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	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass – S. Mary Magdalene	The Ascension
Friday 23 rd		No Mass	
Sunday 25 th	THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass and Holy Baptism	The Ascension
	4.15pm	Cream Tea with Musical Entertainment	St Saviour
	6.00pm	Solemn Evensong & Benediction	St Saviour
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	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Friday 30 th	6.00pm	Evensong & Low Mass	St Saviour
	7.00pm	Choir Practice	St Saviour
Saturday 31 st	1.00pm	Salmon & Strawberry Lunch at the Vicarage	
Sunday 1 st Aug.	THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Family Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Family Mass with Renewal of Marriage Vows	The Ascension
	1.00pm	Holy Baptism	The Ascension