

## Latest info from William at Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear People of St Mary's and online visitors to our parish

The plan this week is to take a further step in our efforts to gather the parish for our online celebrations of Mass. By Thursday this week, Maundy Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April, we hope to launch live streaming, bringing the live celebration of the Mass to you in your homes, so that you can join me in these celebrations in 'real time'. Keep an eye on the website especially from 6pm Maundy Thursday to see if we've achieved this!

Here's the special arrangements we're putting in place for Holy Week celebrations this year as we adapt to the Coronavirus pandemic, in line with policy across the diocese:

### **Palm Sunday**

Mass at St Mary's will be recorded and online as for previous Sundays, from Saturday 6pm (4<sup>th</sup> April). Sorry it was a bit late last time. There will be a small number of palms which I will bless before Mass and put aside after mass in case any parishioners want to take one home when the current restrictions on public and social gatherings has been lifted. The palms this year are home grown and fabulous, and spread on the ground for the entrance of Jesus, as in the gospel.

### **Mass of the Lord's Supper**

I'll be celebrating this Mass in your church here at St Mary's. If all goes according to plan this will be our first ever live streamed mass from St Mary's. I will be celebrating this Mass at the revised time of 6.00pm (instead of our usual 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday) in case anybody wants to also live stream the Mass from the cathedral with Bishop Marcus at 7:00pm. See the link on the parish website called Mass live streamed from the Cathedral. For our own live streamed Mass here at St Mary's go to the usual place on the parish website, the section called Coronavirus and Current Arrangements. This will include focus on the Blessed Sacrament remaining on the Altar until 9.00pm for optional adoration from your homes ending with the Gospel of the Arrest.

### **Good Friday**

I will lead the Good Friday celebration of this solemn commemoration of the Lord's Passion in church at St Mary's at the traditional time of 3.00pm (the 'ninth hour' when Jesus died on the Cross). Again, if all goes according to plan this will be live streamed from the parish website as for the Maundy Thursday Mass. Bishop Marcus will be doing the same from the Cathedral at the same time. See the link on the parish website called Mass live streamed from the Cathedral. If you want to make the traditional Good Friday donation to the Holy Places you can make the payment to the Parish account giving as the reference "*your name* HP" (for Holy Places). Sort code for the parish: 40-27-15. Account number 95402867

## **Easter Vigil**

This year, in line with diocesan policy, *“at the Solemn Beginning of the Vigil or Lucernarium the preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted, the Paschal Candle is lit, the procession is omitted and the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) follows. The ‘Liturgy of the Word’ then takes place. For the ‘Baptismal Liturgy’ only the ‘Renewal of Baptismal Promises’ is maintained (cf. Missale Romanum). The Liturgy of the Eucharist then follows.”* (CDWDS Decree I & II)

Again, if all goes according to plan this will be live streamed from the parish website as for the Maundy Thursday Mass. This will be at the revised time of 6.00pm (instead of our usual 8.30pm) in case anybody wants to also live stream from the cathedral at 8.00pm

## **Easter Sunday**

Happy Easter! Live streamed from St Mary’s at 10.00am and at 5.00pm so you can join me in the celebration from your homes in ‘real time’. We’ll try to ensure it’s recorded as well, but join us for the live stream if possible. It would be good to get back into our usual Sunday routine on Easter Sunday, except online instead of in church. Bishop Marcus plans to celebrate Easter Day Mass in the Cathedral at 11:00am. See the link on the parish website called Mass live streamed from the Cathedral. If you want to make the traditional Easter Offering you can make the payment to the Parish account giving as the reference *“your name EASTER”*. Sort code for the parish: 40-27-15. Account number 95402867

For a summary of all this see this week’s bulletin from the website. And I will try to keep the website up to date with latest information for the parish in the Coronavirus and Current Arrangements section.

## **Parish Life goes on**

*For example...*

After the Coronavirus reached these shores, but before the physical closure of churches came into effect we were careful to make a list of all the members of the parish that might need particular support during this time, and to make sure that we were helping to look after them as a parish. Thank you to the SVP for helping me to make sure this list was as complete as it can be, and thank you especially to the SVP and to our Eucharistic Ministers who are keeping in touch with these parishioners by phone and supporting them and adapting to the new ways in which we help to care for them and minister to them. And thank you to all parishioners who have done this on an individual basis, keeping in contact with others in the parish who might need their contact and support.

William  
Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020