**Catholic Parishes of Abbots Langley & Chipperfield**



**The Presbytery**

**96, The Crescent**

**ABBOTS LANGLEY**

**WD5 0DS**

**01923-266177**

***abbotslangley@rcdow.org.uk***

Wednesday 1st April 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings from St. Saviour’s and Our Lady Mother of the Saviour’s Churches,

As I look out from the altar into the empty pews during Mass I can still visualize all of you sitting in your regular seats. I can see your smiling faces and hear you as you pray along during Mass. You are missed very much here at the Parish. It is comforting for me to know that we are still connected with one another even though we are physically separated.

During this time of lockdown and illness, I would like you to be assured of your Parish clergy’s prayers. We pray that Our God will allow this virus to pass and for us to be together to worship very soon.

While religious conferences and meetings have been postponed until further notice because of the coronavirus pandemic, the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter cannot be, with the exception of the Chrism Mass, said the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

*“Easter is at the heart of the entire liturgical year and is not simply one feast among others. The Easter triduum is celebrated over the arc of three days, which is preceded by Lent and crowned by Pentecost and, therefore, cannot be transferred to another time,”* said the “Decree in the Time of COVID-19.”

Due to the imposition of restrictions around the assembly and movement of people, Bishops and Priests will celebrate the rites of Holy Week without the presence of the people. This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday; the Sunday before Easter that begins the Holy Week. It is the day that we remember and celebrate the day Jesus entered into Jerusalem as Saviour and King. As Jesus rode a donkey into the town of Jerusalem a large crowd gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across the road, giving Jesus royal treatment. The hundreds of people shouted *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*

The forty days of Lent are a time of preparation for the three days of the Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ. The Easter Triduum is the culmination of the entire liturgical year. The Easter Triduum (three days) begins with Holy Thursday. It marks the end of the forty days of Lent and the beginning of the three-day celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday.

When we celebrate The Last Supper we receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist, the Body, Blood Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. We will enter into the deep meaning of the Holy Priesthood.

We will be invited to pour ourselves out like the water in the basins used to wash feet on Holy Thursday.

Through the stark and solemn Liturgy of the Friday we call "Good", we will stand at the Altar of the Cross where heaven is rejoined to earth and earth to heaven, along with the Mother of the Lord.

Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the "Feast of feasts," the "Solemnity of solemnities," just as the Eucharist is the "Sacrament of sacraments"

Let us enter fully into the Sacred Triduum. The Great Three Days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter call us to be transformed by love. Of course, this year’s celebration will take place without your physical presence; we are so blessed that we are able to live stream daily and weekend Masses from St Saviour’s Facebook account or if you don’t have Facebook you can simply go to our website <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/abbotslangley/> in the Facebook section and you will be able to watch Masses live and recorded. You will also see messages from your Priests and Parish Council. I hope that you will find them helpful in maintaining your connection to the parish and helpful to your faith journey. In the meantime, we continue to pray for one another, for our Church, our School, and our Country.

The Mass sheets for Easter and some prepared prayers will be emailed to those who have provided their email address to the Parish previously. Those who do not have an email address will receive a copy of them through their letter boxes. I hope that they will bring you peace and hope that we will be reunited soon - pray it often. This is your spiritual home and we are praying with you.

We do have blessed palms which we will endeavour to deliver to each house hold on the Parish census. We are unable to allow collections due to the Government restrictions on only leaving your homes for essential and medical supplies.

During this difficult time, although we know it may be a struggle for some families, we hope that you are able to continue supporting our Parish financially. Ordinarily, our weekly collections are enough to pay our bills however, as you can imagine, with no parishioners in the pews our income has suffered dramatically. All we ask is that if you are able to, please continue to help us either with a standing order or your gift aid envelope which can be posted to the Parish office. You will be able to make any donation you can however small as everything will be of help and we thank you in advance.

May God continue to bless all of us in this time of uncertainty. May he help us to wait patiently for Him to act knowing that he will bring glory and victory in the place of suffering and pain. Stay safe, be well, and keep close to Our Lord. Our thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you.

May God Bless you!

Yours in the Divine Saviour,

Richard Mway & Dieudonne Zeng