



St Saviour's, Abbots Langley & Our Lady Mother of the Saviour, Chipperfield

Served by the Society of the Divine Saviour – The Salvatorians

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CLERGY'S MESSAGE: The Spirit of Truth

We are never alone. As we begin another week within lockdown due to Covid-19 and we move toward the end of the Easter Season, it is encouraging to know that we are never alone. The Gospel reading for this weekend is from John 14:15-21. It reminds us of Jesus' promise that he will ask the Father to give us the Spirit of Truth.

There is a story that when Jesus returned to heaven after his death and resurrection, the Archangel Gabriel was surprised to see him back so soon. Thirty-three years is not a long time, especially when you think about the importance and proportions of the task he had been given to do. 'Back so soon' Gabriel said to Jesus. 'Well, I would have stayed longer but they crucified me' Jesus replied. 'Oh, so they crucified you' said Gabriel. 'That means you failed.' 'Not necessarily' said Jesus. 'You see I called together a little group of disciples. They will carry on my work.' 'And what if they should fail?' asked Gabriel. 'I have no other plans' Jesus answered. Jesus had preached the Gospel only to Israel. But now he commissioned the apostles to preach the Gospel to all the nations. It was a daunting task. But he promised that he will send the Holy Spirit. He also assured them that he would be with them always: 'I will be with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Ascension of Jesus is his liberation from all restrictions of time and space. It does not represent his removal from the earth, but his constant presence everywhere on earth. During his earthly ministry he could only be in one place at a time. But now that he is united with the Father, he is present wherever God is present; and that is everywhere. That is the full meaning of the Ascension of the Lord. He is always with us.

BACK TO NORMAL?

The Bishops have been making representations to Government regarding the needs of the Catholic faithful, with respect both to the opening of churches and to accessing the Sacraments. As soon as there

is news of any change in arrangements, we will communicate this via the website and in the Newsletter. Until then, please understand that we are not able to reopen the Cathedral or to hear Confessions. Your patience is greatly appreciated; thank you.

SUPPORT AT THIS TIME

Please do let the Chaplains know if you, or someone you know, is in need of support at this difficult time. They are willing to speak to those who are lonely and isolated or troubled. There may also be ways in which they can help those who are in material need, or who need help with shopping and collecting prescriptions. Please call Clergy House Reception between the hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm on weekdays in these cases.

Prayer for spiritual communion My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Food Collection: In response to the growing needs in the community during this lockdown period, we are asking all the parishioners to donate if they can.

All donations can be dropped to the Fathers house. If you ring the bell and leave your donation at the door it will be collected.

Food parcels/boxes will then be made and distributed; part will be sent to Watford Foodbank.

If you are aware of any family or individuals that you know may be struggling and would benefit from this please make the priests aware.

Thank you very much for your support and we pray for all to stay safe.

God bless!

Gift aid boxes available – please see Fr Richard or Fr Dejudonné.

Recently Deceased: Jane (Jean) Philips (passed away 19/04/2020, burial North Watford Cemetery 20/05/2020 11am), Peter King (passed away 01/05/2020, burial North Watford Cemetery 21/05/2020 12noon), Mary Veronica Crawford (passed away 01/05/2020, West Herts Crematorium 29/05/2020 1.20pm).

May they rest in peace!

Half an hour before the service, every Deceased will go from St Saviour's to the place of rest.

WE OFFICIALLY WELCOME FATHER DIEUDONNE (DIDO) ZENG & ZENG WHO IS NOW APPOINTED ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST TO ST SAVIOUR'S, ABBOTS LANGLEY AND OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE SAVIOUR, CHIPPERFIELD