



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH BOSCOMBE : OUTREACH 5,

April 19th 2020

Hello friends. Welcome to Outreach 5: our new way of connecting and staying together. So how are you? Coping? Wondering how long this global health crisis is going last? But in the midst of it all, we miss everyone so much - they do say that absence makes the heart grow fonder - and we continue to keep each one of you close in love and prayer. And in this second week of Easter ALLELUIA is still our song.



An Easter Message from Fr Hugh:

I am sure we can all agree that this has been a rather unusual start to the Easter season. Locked churches, absence of friends and family, solitary meals for many people, maybe even bereavement for some. And yet we are still invited to rejoice that the Lord has risen and that he is constantly with us, our friend and companion, helping us along the path of this Christian life.

It is surely significant that in nearly all the accounts of the risen Christ appearing to people he tells them not to be afraid. This is the message so often given in many different parts of the scriptures. This must be because God knows our tendency to feel fear in the face of strange or mysterious circumstances. These are what surround us at present and yet the risen Lord is encouraging us not to lose heart but to have a joyful trust in his powerful presence.

Another feature of the resurrection appearances is that Jesus tells his friends to go and tell others the good news. Clearly this is not physically possible for us in these days of social distancing but maybe this year we could make a special effort to hold other people in our prayer, knowing that we are being so held by others. And the great good news is that we are all being so held in God's presence by the risen Lord himself. Fr. Hugh Duffy SJ.

PRAYER IN LOCKDOWN

We pray that you and your loved ones feel the presence of the risen Christ:

Especially we pray for the sick in the Parish: Sally Lees, Frank Brooks, Carmel Rippington, Michael Crich, Joyce Smith, Angela Hagley, Win Merricks and Muriel Botorek.

Those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: Teresa Lane, Bro Michael 
Hayward SJ. Fr Robert Murray SJ

WELCOME HOME to Fr Darryl. Safely back from USA, after 3 cancelled flights

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We moving into the SECOND WEEK OF EASTER. In our unimaginably changed world where: empty churches are still in lockdown. Altars are quarantined. Priests are celebrating masses on the digital altars of the Internet. And Christ's body is on a stretcher or a ventilator.

There are no candles or bells. But the risen Christ is here with us: dressed in the blue scrubs of doctors and nurses, healing and caring for the sick. He is alive and present in the supermarket staff, replenishing the shelves. He is there, side by side, with the truck drivers delivering supplies to pharmacies and hospitals... with the Bodmin Bikers, bringing food and medicines to the elderly and vulnerable...In the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ.

“For Christ plays in ten thousand places, Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his
To the Father through the features of men’s faces.”



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY takes on a special significance this year, in this incredible situation caused by the global pandemic, COVID 19, in our human family, and in our world living in dire need of mercy.

In the gospel, we see Thomas. Poor, dear, brokenhearted Tomas. His pain is so deep that he cannot bear to believe that Jesus is alive. It is impossible: “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe” (John 20.25). But Jesus, as he always did, understood where Thomas was coming from. He saw beyond Thomas’ unbelief to his profound suffering, his desperate need for proof. So he gave that to Thomas: he showed him his hands and his side. He allowed Thomas to touch him. He showed him mercy.

Pope Francis beautifully characterises God’s mercy as “loving, surprising, tender and always already offered... the quality of a God who takes the initiative, who comes out to find us, and surprises us with his forgiveness... the God who beats you to it”.

“Mercy’, the Pope says, “is the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person. **Mercy is the true face of love. If, before a person in need, you do not feel compassion, if your heart is not moved, it means that there is something wrong”.**

So on this **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** let us ask God to grant us generous love for our brothers and sisters, and to give us the grace to grow in compassion. How might we best celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday? Here are two steps we could try: 🤍 🤍

1. Think of a small way to grow your practice of mercy. 2. Put your idea into action now

TRY LOVE IN LOCKDOWN

St. Ignatius of Loyola believed that love ought to express itself in deeds rather than words, but what do those deeds look like when we are asked to separate ourselves from one another?

One of the worst aspects of the Coronavirus pandemic seems to be that, at a time when the consolation of human contact is needed by so many more than ever, it is the very thing that we are asked to forego. What form can love take when deprived of its immediacy. How do I still respond compassionately and humanely to the needs of others around me, even though physically separated from them?

Maybe the most loving course of action for us at the moment is to **STAY AT HOME**, to protect our own health and to slow the spread of disease.

But compassionate accompaniment of others may take other forms. There may come times in life when our primary means of expressing love for others and our world is to pray for them. We can also telephone, text, write to them... particularly those who live alone.



We can **CLAP FOR OUR CARERS** every Thursday, and find creative ways to love others.

Whatever our situation, we might ask ourselves how best we can respond humanly and compassionately to the needs of those around us at the present time. What is certain is that no expression of love – however small or seemingly insignificant – is wasted.

“No single act of love for God will be lost, no generous effort is meaningless, no painful endurance is wasted. All of these encircle our world like a vital force. Sometimes it seems that our work is fruitless, but ... it is something much deeper, which escapes all measurement ... The Holy Spirit works as he wills, when he wills and where he wills”. St Ignatius of Loyola.

The Sisters continue to live stream from the Convent Chapel. Please join them.

HANDMAIDS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

From 13th of April until the 30th April Join us by *Live Stream* from our channel in *YouTube (Handmaids Boscombe)*

ADORATION
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm (in silence). Daily.
Guided Adoration on the 21st April 7:30pm-8:30pm*
*text available on www.aciengland.org

FAMILY PRAYER TIME
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 6pm

ROSARY
Tuesdays and Saturdays in PT, Thursdays in ENG 6pm

SUNDAY READINGS' REFLECTION
Available on Saturday at 7pm

Want to chat?
If you need someone to speak to call us on
01202 430927

PRAYER INTENTIONS
Send your prayer intentions by email
handmaidsbournemouth@gmail.com or call 01202 430927

www.aciengland.org 6, Parkwood Road, Boscombe BH5 2BH

And finally a very irreverent CHUCKLE. But maybe smiling and making others smile could



count as a work of mercy right now.

Bye.