



St Peter's Parish

e-newsletter

24th March 2020

www.stpeterealing.org.uk

The Vicar's Letter

You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith, and hope.

Thomas Merton

I was sent the above last week by Mike Tiley, just as our world seemed to be falling apart, and I have found great strength from it. The temptation at these times is to collapse into a heap in the corner just praying for it all to be over. I have felt that several times over the past week or two.

If we are to defeat this virus and the situation it is drawing us into we have to look at the positive and draw the changes and unusualnesses around us into a new creativity. Last weekend we had great struggles to try and bring you some form of Mass on Sunday. Eventually we got there and in so doing have discovered new ways of communicating. Churches are holding Zoom serves, WhatsApp prayer meetings, Skype visits, live streaming on Facebook. We are seeing a whole new bunch of people willing and able to help, doing shopping, having a chat on the phone, waving across the street. Potentially there are a lot of brilliant things that can come out of this dreadful situation, some big and some small but all to be celebrated.

We always draw things back to scripture and I have been reflecting on where we are in the season. Coming up to Passion Sunday as we turn towards the story of Jesus' passion; his betrayal and death. Yet as we do so as people of faith we are drawn into that story and constantly encouraged to see past it, past all the disappointments, betrayals and horrors to that morning that is to come, in that garden when hope is born again as Mary Magdalen realises who she meets and declares him, "Rabboni" (Jn 20.16). That is where we are to look and to live, in the resurrection hope that brings healing and love into our lives.

Sunday Worship

Many of you will have managed to track down our first attempt at filming and transmitting the parish mass. We hit a couple of snags along the way. Eventually, with the dogged determination of our Comms & Social Media Officer, Alexandra Pridgeon and Fr Adam we found a way to publish the service via Google Docs (see I even sound as if I know what I'm talking about!) so go to YouTube, search St Peter's Church Ealing and below one of the intros with yours truly you will find a link that will take you there. Having done all that we are now exploring what the latest restrictions means for this project. We will let you know asap.

Contact Information: The parish office is closed but the staff team and parish officers can be contacted through the Parish Office by email: admin@stpeterealing.org
Fr David can be contacted: david.neno@london.anglican.org; 020 8997 1620 or 07976 905294

St Peter's Pastoral Assistance Programme.

Many of you will have picked up we have organised a Pastoral Assistance Programme. Members have volunteered to shop or chat on the phone, collect prescriptions. Margaret Joachim is co-ordinating this and if you'd like to help, if you know someone who could do with some help or indeed if you yourself need help then get in touch. The phone number to use is 07595 911178

What would you like to see?

I'm keen too that we have things here that you might like. There aren't too many parish events to publicise but an article by you would be great. Share something with us you are passionate about or that made you laugh.

Alison Germany has requested music suggestions. If you have any, perhaps linked to YouTube for example, lets pass them around.

Signs of Hope.

It is important at these times to offer signs of hope. Last Sunday The Archbishops asked us to leave a lit candle in our windows at 7pm; a light shining out into the darkness. The West London Leaders Group wondered if we might not continue to do this. We will at the Vicarage and wondered if you might like to join us, there is a liturgy to go with it. If you'd like that I can circulate it.

The other suggestion is an interfaith action. On Thursday 26th March, at 8pm, the community is being encouraged to stand on their doorstep, balcony, back garden, windows, living room wherever they can and clap as a sign of appreciation for our health workers and NHS staff, pharmacists and all frontline workers who are giving themselves for us (www.clapforourcarers.co.uk). You might feel daft at first, but if we can get the message out there we might just be surprised at ourselves.

And finally...

A prayer shared by Susan Peatfield with the intercessors team we thought you might find helpful:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

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