



HELP IN TROUBLED TIMES



Dear Friends...

Just a few days ago, on 10th March the Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote to us suspending the use of the chalice at Communion, as well as physical contact in the Peace and at Blessings. Events have escalated quickly and we now find ourselves unable to worship together in our normal way, many of us confined to our homes and feeling naturally uneasy and maybe at a loss. However, the Archbishops in their latest letter have been clear that this is not the Church of England 'shutting up shop' but that we will have to become 'a different sort of church' as we seek to serve the needs of our communities.

So, how are we to be this different sort of church? Well, this publication is a start for us here at All Saints and builds on more words from the Archbishops:

"Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day.

**"a
different
sort of
church"**

We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support... Then by our service, and by our love, Jesus Christ will be made known, and the hope of the gospel – a hope that can counter fear and isolation - will spread across our land."

So I ask you to read through this publication and use what is helpful to you. By doing so, we can keep together spiritually, perhaps praying together at the same times of day, and continuing our journey through Lent. I hope this will provide some comfort and support for people who are beginning to feel isolated and lonely.

But we must remember that God is with us whatever we go through, Jesus walks with us in all our suffering and he brings hope and triumph in his Resurrection. So may these resources be helpful to you and please, keep in touch with each other and with me.

And finally, we have been asked to observe a day of prayer and action this coming Sunday - Mothering Sunday (22nd March). Mothering Sunday has always been both a day of celebration for many and a sensitive and emotional day for some. Wherever you are this Sunday please do join in this day of prayer and action and remember especially those who are sick or anxious, and all involved in our Health Service. Please place a lighted candle in your window at 7.00 p.m. as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished.

With love and every blessing

Fr Martin



THE APP

- 40 days of reflections for adults or kids
- FREE on IOS or Android

Keep your Lenten Journey going and be fed as you go.

The Church will be open each day for private prayer and so people can light a candle if they wish. The times will be:

10am to 11am

PRAYING TOGETHER



One of the most important and readily accessible things we can do is to pray, and we don't have to come to church to do this! We all have our own prayer lives and relationship with God, but this can be difficult, especially in trying times. Thankfully the church has historically had set daily prayer and this is available in various forms.

As you may know, a small group of us have been meeting to say Morning Prayer for a number of years and we use the Divine Office. If you would like to join in you can say Morning and Evening Prayer with us by going to: <http://www.universalis.com> and clicking on the link in the left hand column.

**“O Lord, hear me
when I cry to
you.”**

We shall be saying the Morning Prayer at 8am and Evening Prayer at 5pm in our own homes and one of the wonderful things is to know we are not doing this alone, but with many people around the world.

The Universalis App is also available for IOS or Android phones.

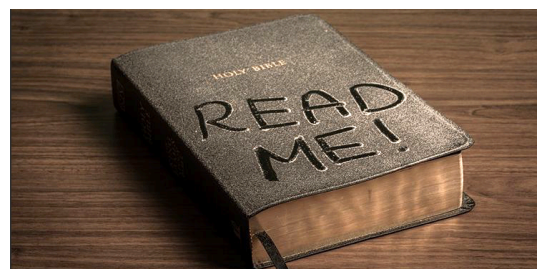


The **Community of the Tree of Life** in Leicester are also going to be live-streaming three 'micro-offices' each weekday, starting on Monday 23rd March. You can join virtually as a member of the Tree of Life Community to pray morning, lunchtime and compline. Each micro-office will last about 7 minutes.

To try this go to <https://leicestertreeoflife.org>

Read your Bible

Keeping in touch with what God is saying to us in the Scriptures is vitally important and so I encourage you to find a way to read something every day to keep you fuelled for what lies ahead. Here are the readings for the forthcoming Sundays in Lent:



LENT 4 - Mothering Sunday - I Samuel 16: 1 - 13; Ephesians 5: 8 - 14
John 9: 1 - 41

LENT 5 Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14; Romans 8: 6 - 11
John 11: 1 - 45

PALM SUNDAY Matthew 21: 1 - 11 (*for the Palms Ceremony*)
Isaiah 50: 4 - 9a; Philippians 2: 5 - 11
Matthew 26: 14 - 27:66

Keeping in touch

One of the most important things we can do during these weeks and months is to keep in touch with each other and support our brothers and sisters however we can. So please remember to ring each other or keep in touch by email or text - the days can be long, particularly if you are on your own and a bit of contact can make the world of a difference.



If you have any specific prayer requests, please do send them to me - you can ring, text or email me, whichever is most convenient for you.

If you need support of a more practical nature again, please get in touch.

A thought...

Someone contacted me and pointed out that Covid-19 is, despite the lack of things on shop shelves due to panic-buying, perhaps making us realise how many things we have already. She has a friend who is in total lock-down in Barcelona who said '*we have so many things to do at home and lots of resources books to read, films to watch messages to send. She has a small sunny garden where she can practice her yoga which is her choice for relaxation*

So perhaps we can help each other to rediscover some of the things we haven't enjoyed for some time because we've been "'busy'.

Media Channels

You can, of course, also join in with services on radio and TV. The BBC's Daily Service and Sunday Worship are a good start. Also daily prayer and #LiveLent audio content can be accessed via smart speakers (e.g. Amazon Echo/Google Home).