

ST PETER'S PARKSTONE



FOCUSED ON GOD - SPEAKING OF JESUS - CARING ABOUT PEOPLE

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday 21st March- Lent 5

8.00am Holy Communion in church

10.00am Parish Eucharist in church and on YouTube

Monday 22nd March

10.00am Pray 4 the Week at home

Tuesday 23rd March

7.00pm "Lent Experience" on Zoom

Wednesday 24th March - *Walter Hilton, Paul Couturier, Oscar Romero*

10.00am St Peter's open for private prayer until 12 noon

Sunday 28th March- Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion in church

10.00am Parish Eucharist in church and on YouTube

Collect for the fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Rector's ramblings...

W/C 22nd March - this week's highlights (in addition to my daily rhythm of prayer and service preparation) as you may want to pray for the work of our parish...

Monday: (am) ministry team meeting / (pm) Easter planning. Tuesday: (am) meeting / 7pm 'The Lent Experience' on Zoom. Wednesday: video editing / 7pm PCC meeting. Thursday: administration catch-up. Friday: day off!

Please remember in your prayers this week:

Mission Prayer: Our prayer for this month is for all the young people who have been schooling from home. We pray that their return to school will help each and every child to catch up with their education, friends and so help their mental health. We give you thanks for all the effort put into home schooling by parents and teaching staff.

All those in need at this time, including Alice, Nancy, Erik, Carol, Carlo, Natalia, Josie, Erica, Pat, Deborah, Muriel, Margaret, Margaret, Claudine, Sarah, Helen, Rosemary, Jane.

Those who have died: Fiona Bulmer, Eileen Tyson, Alan Underhill.

Anniversaries of death: Margaret Southam, Ken Cook. John Harris, Jason Barber.

The Residents and Staff of Ashley Court, Alexandra House, Hillsdon Nursing Home and Regency Manor and also those at Homelake House.

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

We'd like to make sure St Peter's looks it's best for Easter. If you can help tidy and clean the church, please come along **this Saturday, 27th March at 10am**. You're welcome to bring along your own cleaning materials if you prefer.

Stations of the Cross will be on display in St Peter's on Wednesday 31st March between 10am-12 noon, and there will be some materials provided in church for you to explore the pictures in your own time.



Make a Mother's Day appeal 'Gifts of Togetherness'

Mothers' Union's vision is of a world where everyone prospers and they endeavour to help make this happen by empowering women. MAMD gifts are a way of supporting this work. This year we are unable to distribute leaflets or collect gifts in church but if you would like to donate or get more information please visit www.makeamothersday.org or call 020 7222 5533

A member of our congregation has a spare unused Church Pocket Book & Diary with Lectionary available to the first person who requests it by e-mailing office@stpetersparktone.org.uk

“Praying and Fasting for Climate Justice on the First Day of Each Month”

As there will be no midweek meetings for worship in St Peter’s until after Easter Sunday, please set aside midday on Thursday, 1st April, to be in spirit with The Climate Justice Prayer Group to pray for those around God’s world whose lives are being wrecked by bereavement, loss of homes and livelihood, all caused by the destructive effects of climate change: flooding, drought, uncontrollable fires, cyclones, tsunamis, and rising sea levels.

We’ll be remembering and continuing to pray for the people in Dhauliganga in North India, still coping with the devastation caused in February by climate change breaking a glacier which overwhelmed their region with massive mud slides. At least 170 people were killed and many are still missing under the mud flow.

Let’s continue to pray also for those whose homes and businesses in many Pacific islands, like The Maldives, are threatened by rising sea levels,.

Here, in the UK, continue to pray for families in Bedfordshire, Glamorgan and Herefordshire who had to be evacuated from the homes on Christmas Day when they were flooded by Storm Bella’s torrential rains. Also, we’ll pray for the 2000 people still trying to make their homes habitable after being evacuated on 19th/20th January from areas of Manchester and Bangor-on-Dee in North Wales when they were flooded by Storm Christoph.

Let’s remember also the people of Texas and the Southern States of the USA where a state of emergency was declared after being hit by deadly snow storms on 15th February killing 15 people and destroying electricity supplies for 250,000 people.

Bring to mind and pray for any people you may have heard about in the news whose lives have been badly affected by severe weather conditions.

Understandably, the Coronavirus pandemic has continued to dominate the news, so we may not hear about many around the world who are suffering from the effects of flooding and drought, especially in Africa.

Let’s pray also for our national and international leaders who have the power to make decisions which can reduce the human causes of climate change, especially those planning at this critical time for the Glasgow Climate Change Summit in November 2021. Pray, too, that you will be guided by God to do all you can to care for the wonderful gift of creation; and help to reduce the human causes of global warming.



National Day of Reflection: 23rd March

Organised by Marie Curie, and supported by the Church of England, the National Day of Reflection, on the first anniversary of the UK lockdown, looks to reflect on our collective loss, support those who've been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future.

Do take a look at the ideas on the Church of England website about how you can mark this day, including using the following prayers:

Reflect

Loving God,

You hold all our times in your hands, our past, our present, our future. Be close to us now as we remember all the difficulties and disappointments of the past year. Be especially close to all of us who are thinking of someone we loved and knew, but see no longer, whether family, friend, colleague or neighbour. Help us to trust that they are at peace with you, and comfort us with your presence.

Connect

Loving God,

You place us in families and communities, and we give you thanks for all those around us who serve us and help us in so many ways. Give wisdom to community leaders, to our schools, hospitals, care homes and other agencies who make a difference to our lives. Help each of us to have the courage to reach out with thanks and kindness to those around us and to speak words of faith as we share the good news of your love.

Hope

Loving God,

As we journey towards Easter, help us to live as people of hope, knowing that beyond the pain of the cross lies the joy of resurrection. Inspire us in our worship, through our churches and in our homes, that we may bring glory to you and joy to others. Be with those who are struggling in mind, body or spirit, and give courage to those who are facing uncertainty and change ahead. Help each of us to keep our eyes fixed on you, that we may reflect your light to all whom we meet.