



## The 4th Sunday of Lent



Holy Angels, Ash GU12 6LU  
[www.holyangelsash.org](http://www.holyangelsash.org)

Holy Family, Farnham GU9 0LH  
[www.holyfamilyfarnham.co.uk](http://www.holyfamilyfarnham.co.uk)

### **Pastoral Message from Fr Robin on the Suspension of the public celebration of mass. See page 2 for newsletter**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wanted to speak to you about the situation we find ourselves in at this present time at Holy Angels and Holy Family.

Firstly I want to assure you all of my prayers at this time, and encourage us all to pray for each other. Especially do pray for those of our communities who are especially vulnerable and those not coping well with this present situation for any reason.

Do also be as generous as you can be in supporting others in practical ways during this difficult time.

As you may know the Bishops' Conference have announced that from Friday 20th March there are to be no public celebration of the Mass or other liturgies until further notice.

DURING THIS PERIOD THERE IS NO OBLIGATION TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS. However, please take time, on Sundays & Holy Days, to join in the mass by watching the livestream (see below for Channel link), praying the Rosary or the Divine Office and commending to the Lord the situation in which we all find ourselves. Joining in with the live streaming of mass is a way for us to continue to gather together as a community while we are physically separated.

I will continue to offer mass privately in the church at the same times as normal:

9.30am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.  
7.30pm on Thursdays,  
5.30pm on Saturdays.

The only exception is on Sundays when I will offer one mass at 10.00am

You are asked not to come to these masses for your own safety and well being as well as for everybody else's.

However all these masses will be streamed live via youtube. Our Channel link is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8u80vqqhk-fsjF9JWcqyLA/>

Although our churches are not normally open except for masses we will be opening the churches for personal and private prayer. Holy Angels will normally be open from 10.00am until 5.00pm Tuesday to Saturday, and 11am - 5pm on Sundays. Deacon John is looking at opening Holy Family for us as well; please keep an eye on the website for further details of this.

You are encouraged to come and make use of the church for prayer, but to be careful to observe the guidelines on social distancing and hygiene. Although we are unable to receive communion sacramentally as a community at the moment, the Lord is present in the Blessed Sacrament. Come and pray with Him.

When you are praying along with the masses online, as I hope you will do, you will have an opportunity to make a spiritual act of communion - asking the Lord to unite himself to you even though you are not able to receive him sacramentally at the present time.

It is easy to find many prayers online or in catholic prayerbooks to do this. But the Bishop's Conference have also produced a short service for this which you may find helpful which is on the parishes websites as a pdf link.

Please make many spiritual communions either during mass or outside mass. This will be an opportunity to stay close to the Lord in that particular way.

During this time the guidelines for social isolation mean we cannot normally visit those who are especially vulnerable and self isolating. In addition there will be special arrangements for baptisms, weddings and funerals, where these cannot be delayed. Some pastoral contact may be made via Skype and other means.

This will be a difficult time for many so we are especially grateful to those of you who are able to support us financially through standing orders. Those of you who normally support the church via the offertory plate and are able to carry on with your support can contact the office to see how we can manage this.

The parish office is operating differently as Cally is currently working from home, but Fr Robin is being diligent in answering the phone!

Of course not all our parishioners will be on email so please do share the current arrangements with those you know and do what you can to help each other, especially those who are vulnerable and isolated.

Please keep in touch with us and Deacon John and I will both do our best to support you all during this difficult time. We miss seeing you all already,

Yours in Christ

Fr Robin and Deacon John  
01252 321422

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Father Robin Farrow Tel: 01252 321422

Deacon – John Edwards Tel: 01252 405453 (home number)

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## Offertory

<b>Holy Angels</b>	
<b>15th March</b>	<b>£217.75</b>
<b>Holy Family</b>	
<b>15th March</b>	<b>£67.00</b>

## Lent: a time to deepen our relationship with God

In his Message for Lent, Pope Francis invites us to “be saved over and over again” in a deepening relationship with God. The Pope speaks of the importance of prayer, and making a commitment to a better world. We have uploaded a copy of the whole Lent message to Parish websites (within newsletters tab for March 2020).

**At this difficult time for our nation and communities, how might you be able keep this Lent as a time to draw closer to God and do you bit for a better world?** Now that Lenten Retreats and quiet days are unlikely to be going ahead, there are still plenty of opportunities to do this, such as making use of livestreaming of Masses, reading your Bible and praying and keeping an eye on your neighbours and the vulnerable members of the community. Have a look at this link, for a list of other resources, including the stations of the Cross <https://catholicherald.co.uk/video-masses-prayer-apps-and-virtual-retreats-spiritual-resources-for-this-time/>

And remember, only buy what you need so that there is plenty to go around!

## Reconciliation Opportunities in Lent

In light of current events, the usual times for making confession, together with the planned days for making confession during Lent **have had to be cancelled**. Please contact Fr Robin via the office if you feel you need to make your confession at this time and we will endeavour to assist.

## Cancellation of groups

**First Holy Communion Class:** the class due to take place on Saturday 28th March has been cancelled;

**The Lenten Courses** have been cancelled;

**Evangelising Catholics Bookclub** - postponed;

**Holy Week** - we are still awaiting final instructions from Bp Richard but the assumption at the moment is that the Holy Week services will be celebrated by Fr Robin and livestreamed. There will therefore not be any music groups and therefore no music group practices.

**Film Night** - cancelled

## CAFOD

**The Challenge:** *Making our actions positive.* Try to buy sustainably caught fish and organic meat and produce.

**Food bank** With some people stockpiling products, we need to be more concerned to donate and help others.

## Justice and Peace

**Pope St John Paul II, Redemptoris Missio 1990:** The kingdom of God is meant for all mankind, and all people are called to become members of it. To emphasise this fact, Jesus drew especially near to those on the margins of society, and showed them special favour in announcing the Good News. At the beginning of his ministry he proclaimed that he was "anointed...to preach good news to the poor" (Lk 4:18)

## Organist at Holy Family

Please do consider if you might be able to take over from Rose, our organist at Holy Family, who is going to University in September. If you have about grade 5 piano skills, Rose would be very happy to train you to play the organ, subject to current restrictions. Please contact the office if this might be you!

In the meantime, we would like to thank Rose very much for playing the organ for Holy Family so faithfully and well.

## The Triangle Bookshop

Please note that the servery is having to close as from 20th March. However, **the bookshop is remaining open at the present time, for limited hours** – so if you are coming into town specifically to visit us, just ring us on 01252 519172 and check that we are open first, or send an email.