

MINSTER BULLETIN w/c 10.05.2020**FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER**

WEEKLY BULLETIN This weekly bulletin replaces Minster News for the time being. Please do share it with anyone you know who might not have access to the internet. If don't already receive this bulletin by email and would like to, please contact: connect@croydonminster.org and we can add you to our email mailing list.

LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS As the anticipated relaxing of the lockdown begins (we await the Prime Minister's full statement on Sunday 10th May) the House of Bishops of the Church of England has indicated that gradually the lockdown of churches will be relaxed. This will happen in stages and will not be immediate. The building remains closed and public worship is still suspended.

The Lord is Risen – Alleluia!

LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS As the anticipated relaxing of the lockdown begins, the House of Bishops of the Church of England has indicated that gradually (glacially?!) the lockdown of churches will be relaxed. This will happen in stages and will not be immediate. First of all clergy will be allowed back in churches to pray and offer worship. That will begin at the Minster on Ascension Day (21st May) and the Eucharist on Sundays and Principal Feast days will be live-streamed from church. Daily Masses will continue to be streamed from Fr Andrew's home for the time being. When permitted churches will re-open for personal prayer before we get to the resumption of public worship (with strict distancing measures). We anticipate it being sometime before singing can happen in church, and that also means that the choir will not be singing for some time to come. *Fr Andrew*

ALL WORSHIP IS NOW STREAMED ON YOUTUBE TOO. For those people who are not on Facebook you can now participate in worship through YouTube. Services are streamed live and, as with Facebook, can be viewed later too on: <https://www.youtube.com/user/croydonminster>

THIS TIME TOMORROW This is an initiative that helps congregations to get to know one another that bit better and also to remind us all that our Christian lives are 'seven whole days, not one in seven' as the hymn puts it. It's a really simple concept that someone is asked 'Where will you be this time tomorrow? What do you do there? What are your challenges and joys? How can we pray for you?' Fr Joe gives some more background at

<https://www.facebook.com/croydonminster/videos/542001756480624/>

and the first guinea pig is Fr Andrew

<https://www.facebook.com/croydonminster/videos/248626609882545/>

More TTTs will follow, and not just from the clergy!

VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY SERVICE The Minster was to have hosted the London Borough of Croydon's VE Day service this Sunday. Given that is not possible Fr Andrew led a service over Zoom with the Mayor of Croydon the Deputy Lieutenant for Croydon, local scouts, and the chaplain from Croydon University Hospital. The service, which includes an inspiring address by the Deputy Lieutenant, is now on: <https://youtu.be/5A-5sHVZpSo>

PHONE NUMBER TO JOIN WORSHIP 'Daily Hope' offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. If there are people you know who are not online but might value this 'service' please do pass the number on to them.

STATIONS OF THE RESURRECTION We are in the process of producing our own set of Stations of the Resurrection, but in the meantime you may appreciate this devotion. It mirrors the Stations of the Cross but in Eastertide focuses us on the resurrection appearances of the Crucified and Risen Lord: https://www.churchunion.co.uk/uploads/Stations_of_the_Resurrection_v2_2.pdf

MONTH OF MAY The month of May is traditionally the 'Month of Mary'. As part of that you might like to visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6AmaVaY8-I> for some insights into the beautiful prayer of the Rosary. *Fr Andrew*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31 v 1-5,15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

PRAYERS Please pray for:

Intentions

All those feeling particularly isolated and lonely at the moment;
Our brothers and sisters in Christ at the Minster;
All who are most acutely affected by the Coronavirus through health, financial insecurity or fear;
those who work in the NHS;
For Food Banks, their volunteers & that no one goes in need;
The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and the members of the Walsingham Cell here at the Minster
and with our neighbours at St Michael's, West Croydon, and St Alban's, South Norwood and for the
new Chaplain; For Israel.

Those who are unwell in body, mind or spirit

Brian Barclay; Kate Broadaway; Margaret Dickens; Charlie Ellacott; Annet Fernandez; Betty Fry; John Gaston; Doreen Gordon; Laurence Gough; Pat Hulme; Blaiza Kedetche; Rosemary Mayers; Jenny Muschamp; Jean Pikett; Denis Rigden; Josie & Andy Rogers; Mary Lou Sorenson; Marjorie

Stemerding; Eleanor.

Our neighbours:

St Michael & All Angels with St James & the Salvation Army

ONLINE FORUMS & GROUPS We would like to offer the opportunity for you to join in groups during this period of time (and which may well continue afterwards if people find them of value). These could be Bible study groups, prayer groups and groups exploring different aspects of Christian life and teaching. Please let us know via connect@croydonminster.org if you would like to be part of a group and if daytime or evening suits you better. Groups would use video conferencing technology such as Zoom. We think the optimum number for a group is about 8 people, and if groups grow larger then we will create new ones.

WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUP Fr Alan has been continuing his Lent group which meets (virtually using the '8x8' platform) on Wednesdays at 7.30pm and he has a couple of spaces. If you are interested please contact Fr Alan direct on fab@whitgift.co.uk

NEW PRAYER RESOURCE Please find the link below for a Prayer Booklet produced by the Church of England. This has been put together specifically for use during the coronavirus outbreak. It is so important to strengthen and develop our patterns of prayer – particularly in times of anxiety and fear. I have found the prayers in it helpful and when I have not been able to find the words, they have been an anchor in my prayer life. Fr Joe

https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/Prayer%20Book%20Digital%20Single%20Pages%20%20April_0.pdf

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE The current lockdown is placing many and different pressures on people. For some it may be the fear of living in the same place as a violent or abusive person and being on the receiving end actual harm. Or it may be that the lockdown is contributing to increased levels of stress and anger that might manifest themselves violently and people may feel close to boiling over violently. If you recognise or are experiencing any of these sorts of issues, or know of someone in that situation, help is available. No one should have to suffer these things. You may want to call someone you trust, be that one of the clergy or another person, and that would be confidential and safe. You can also find helplines and contact details at <https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/promoting-safer-church/domestic-abuse-and-covid-19> Fr Andrew

A TIME TO PRAY Posted on the church website is a whole host of online liturgy and prayer resources compiled by Fr Joe. <https://www.croydonminster.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Coronavirus-Liturgy-Prayer-Resources.pdf>

PARISH MAGAZINE The Parish Magazine is available to read online at: <https://www.croydonminster.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Magazine-April-May-2020.pdf> Copy for the June/July edition should be submitted to Liz Watkins.

THE BRIDGE is available online via the Diocese of Southwark website: <https://southwark.anglican.org/news/the-bridge/2020/>

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING The deadline date for carrying out APCMs has been

extended until the end of October. Further details will follow regarding when ours will be held.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL (ER) The annual revision of the church ER will now take place in October. Anyone wishing to join the ER can request a form from Denise Mead at: croydoninster@gmail.com

STAY CONNECTED

You can contact us at enquiries@croydonminster.org or by phone on 020 8688 8104.