

The Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Wilfrid, Selsey

The Presbytery, 12 Church Road, Selsey, West Sussex, PO20 0LS
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PARISH PRIEST: Father John Healy

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

25th/26th April 2020

Mass is Suspended until Further Notice

Saturday	5.30pm	No Mass	
Sunday	10.00am	No Mass	
Monday		Weekday in Eastertide	No Mass
Tuesday		Weekday in Eastertide	No Mass
Wednesday		St Catherine of Siena	No Mass
Thursday		Weekday in Eastertide	No Mass
Friday		Weekday in Eastertide	No Mass
Saturday		St Athanasius	

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

	5.30pm	No Mass	
Sunday	10.00am	No Mass	

Sacrament of Reconciliation: *None this Saturday*

20th CENTURY MARTYRS: Over Eastertide this year Christians of all denominations have been marking two important anniversaries: the 75th anniversary of the execution on 9th April 1945 of Dietrich Bonhoeffer; the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero on 24th March 1980. Both are among those honoured as modern martyrs with a statue on a plinth over the West Door of Westminster Abbey.

The United Methodist Church has formally recognised **Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer** as a “modern-day martyr” - the nearest thing that many denominations come to canonising someone a Saint. He was a Pastor in the Lutheran Church, a Christian Educator, a theologian, and the author of many books, the best known being “*The Cost of Discipleship*.” He lived to the full the faith that he taught, becoming “a thorn in the side” of the Nazi Regime denouncing, particularly, Hitler's Euthanasia Program and the genocidal persecution of the Jews. Eventually arrested, imprisoned, tried and condemned to death by hanging: his death warrant was signed by Hitler himself.

Archbishop Oscar Romero was formally Canonised by the Catholic Church in 2018. His clerical “career path” was notable but not exceptional. At a time when many Catholics in Central and South America were becoming radicalised by their experience of poverty, Oscar Romero was steadfast in his loyalty to the traditional teachings of the Church. Shortly after being appointed to San Salvador as its Archbishop every thing changed after a close friend and a Jesuit priest was assassinated with two other priests . Like Pastor Bonhoeffer he stood up to the regime in his own country and became a staunch defender of the poor and persecuted. Sunday after Sunday he preached against the tyranny of the ruling classes. While celebrating Mass one Sunday in a local hospital he was killed by the assassin's bullet.

The life and death of all martyrs are, in some degree, imitating the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross: thereafter, all saints enjoy in the God's Kingdom the fruits of the Lord's Resurrection.

MISSING THE SACRAMENTS! A month after the “lock-down” was imposed upon the nation many Catholics may be increasingly feeling the absence of Mass and the Sacraments from their spiritual lives. It might be reassuring to remember what the Bishops of England and Wales wrote in their letter to Catholics on 18th March: *“In these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (para. 2181). This pandemic is the ‘serious reason’ why this obligation does not apply at this time.”* At Easter particularly we may be missing Mass, Holy Communion and, for many, the opportunity to receive absolution in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

More and more people are “tuning in” to Mass when it is being “live-streamed” from Churches and Cathedrals as a second-best to participating in person. As for receiving absolution in the absence of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Bishops remind us that whatever our faults and failings may be they are not beyond the love and mercy of God. An expression of true sorrow and an act of contrition will suffice for the time-being. The Bishops suggest an Act of Contrition such as: *“My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.”*

MAY “MAGNIFICAT” There are copies now available of the May edition of the booklet that contains the texts for daily Mass as well as daily prayers and much more besides: it can also be a valuable companion to a live-streamed Mass. Copies can be found on a shelf just inside the door of the porch to the Presbytery (No 12 Church Road).

WEEKLY MASS FOR ALL AFFECTED BY COVID-19: This Thursday evening the weekly Mass at 7.00pm from a Catholic Cathedral will be live-streamed from our own Cathedral at Arundel and Bishop Richard Moth will be the Celebrant. The Mass each week will be offered for everyone affected by the pandemic, particularly those who are sick and their families, for NHS front-line workers and those working in care homes, those working in social care, and so many more whom we depend upon; and, finally, those who have died and their family and friends. Next Thursday, Bishop Marcus Stock will be celebrating Mass from Leeds Cathedral: for details, visit the Bishops' Conference webpage – cbcew.org.uk – or the webpage for the individual Cathedrals.

BISHOP'S PODCAST: The weekly Podcast from Bishop Richard appears on the diocesan website – www.abdiocese.org.uk – at the end of each week and includes his reflections on the Mass for the weekend and is a part of the diocesan eNews Bulletin. Both have plenty of thoughtful and helpful ideas to sustain everyone through the current lock-down.

WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES: The diocesan website also has a page with all sorts of helpful aids to remaining sane, many of them with links embedded in the text to useful websites. The page has just been updated with even more suggestions.

GREEN FOR GO, GO FOR HELP! The poster on the notice board in the Porch is now pinned to the external notice board. It has been produced by The Ecumenical Mental Health Project in Surrey and Sussex and lists contact details for a wide variety of organisations offering support and help: many of them could be very helpful at the present moment.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Angela Barnado, Joanne Donoghue, Max Foresheew, Magda Gallanti, Angela Goff, Nell Hassett, David Mortby, Brian Rogers, Cyril Wass and all in the parish who are sick.

Please speak to Fr. John if you would like the parish to pray for you, or for someone in your family.

ANNIVERSARIES: Martin Niblett, Brian Haynes, Tracey Evered, Winifred Bridger, Nikki Watman, Canon Nigel Larn. May they rest in peace!