

We are praying for all parishioners and friends at this time.

VIRTUAL PARISH OFFICE

The physical Parish Office is closed until further notice

Emails to the Parish Email address will still be received and answered.

Parish Email:

faversham@rcaos.org.uk

We continue to have phone contact through the usual number

Parish Phone:

01795 532449

We will keep parishioners regularly updated via our

Parish Website

www.whitefriarsfaversham.org

Parish Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/OLMCFaversham

Mass Intentions for the week

The love of Christ celebrated in the Eucharist remains at the heart of who we are as a Christian community. Please unite with us in prayer at home.

Sun	26	10.30 am	Parish
Mon	27	10.00 am	Special Intention
Tue	28	10.00 am	Special Intention
Wed	29	10.00 am	Special Intention
Thurs	30	10.00 am	Easter List of Remembrance
Fri	01	10.00 am	Gordon Churchyard, RIP
Sat	02	10.00 am	Special Intention

UNITED IN PRAYER FROM HOME

Although we cannot gather together for prayer, please join us in our daily rhythm of prayer at home. See our website and Facebook for prayer resources.

- 9.40 am Morning Prayer
- 10.00 am Weekday Mass
- 10.30 am Sunday Mass
- 12.45 am Midday Prayer
- 6.00 pm Evening Prayer
- 8.00 pm Prayer in union with Pope Francis



Living Beyond Our Crucifixions

Every dream eventually gets crucified.

How? By time, circumstance, jealousy, and that curious, perverse dictate, somehow innate within the order of things, the one insuring that there is always someone or something that cannot leave well enough alone, but, for reasons of its own, must hunt down and strike what is good. The good will always be envied, hated, pursued, smudged, killed. That's true even of dreams. Something there is that needs a crucifixion. Every body of Christ inevitably suffers the same fate as Jesus. There's no smooth ride for what's whole, good, true or beautiful.

But that's only half the equation, the bad half. What's also true, what the resurrection teaches, is that, while nothing that is of God can avoid crucifixion, no body of Christ ever stays in the tomb for long either. God always rolls back the stone and, soon enough, new life bursts forth and we see why that original life had to be crucified. ("Wasn't it necessary that the Christ should so have to suffer and die?") Resurrection follows crucifixion. Every crucified body will rise again.

But where do we meet the resurrection? Where does the resurrected Christ meet us?

Where do we meet the resurrected Christ?

Scripture is subtle, but clear. Where can we expect to meet the resurrected Christ after a crucifixion? The gospel tell us that, on the morning of the resurrection, the women-followers of Jesus, the midwives of hope, set out for the tomb of Jesus, carrying spices, intending to anoint and embalm a dead body. Well-intentioned, but misguided, what they find is not a dead body, but by an empty tomb and an angel challenging them with these words: "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? Go instead into Galilee and you will find him there!"

Go instead into Galilee.

What a curious expression! What is Galilee? Why go back? In the post-resurrection accounts of the gospels, Galilee is not simply a physical geography. It is, first of all, a place in the heart. Galilee is the dream, the road of discipleship that they had once walked with Jesus, and that place and time when their hearts had most burned with hope and enthusiasm. And now, just when they feel that this all is dead, that their faith is only fantasy, they are told to go back to the place where it all began: "Go back to Galilee. He will meet you there!"



And they do go back, to Galilee, to that special place in their hearts, to the dream, to their discipleship. Sure enough, Jesus appears to them there. He doesn't appear exactly as they remember him, nor as often as they would like him to, but he does appear as more than a ghost or a mere idea. The Christ that appears to them after the resurrection no longer fits their original expectation, but he is physical enough to eat fish in their presence, real enough to be touched as a human being, and powerful enough to change their lives forever.

Ultimately that is what the resurrection challenges us to do, to go back to Galilee, to return to the dream, the hope, and the discipleship that had once inflamed us but that now is crucified.

This too is what it means to "be on the road to Emmaus." In Luke's gospel (Lk 24:13), we are told that on the day of the resurrection two disciples were walking away from Jerusalem towards Emmaus, their faces

Resurrection challenges us to return to the dream that had once inflamed us.

downcast. That single line contains an entire spirituality.

For Luke, Jerusalem, like Galilee for the other gospel writers, means the dream, the hope, the kingdom, the centre from which all is to begin and where ultimately all is to culminate. And the disciples

are "walking away" from this, away from the dream, towards Emmaus. Emmaus was a Roman Spa—a Las Vegas and Monte Carlo of human consolation. Their dream has been crucified and the disciples, discouraged and hope-emptied, are walking away from it, towards human consolation, muttering: "But we had hoped!" They never get to Emmaus. Jesus appears to them on the road, reshapes their hope in the light of the crucifixion, and turns them back towards Jerusalem.

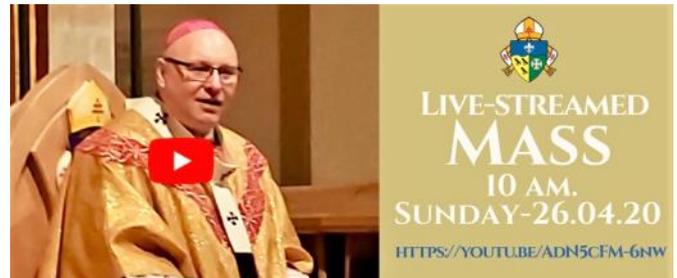
One of the essential messages of Easter is this: whenever we are discouraged in our faith, whenever our hopes seem to be crucified, we need to go back to Galilee and Jerusalem, that is, to the dream, to the road of discipleship that we had embarked upon before everything

went wrong. The temptation, of course, is, whenever we feel this way, whenever the kingdom doesn't seem to work, the temptation is to abandon discipleship for human consolation, to set out instead for Emmaus, for the consolation of Las Vegas and Monte Carlo.

But, as we already know, we never quite get to Emmaus. In one guise or another, Christ always meets us on the road, burns holes in our hearts, explains the latest crucifixion to us, and sends us back—to Galilee and to our abandoned discipleship.

Once there, it all makes sense again.

Ron Rolheiser



Sunday Mass with Archbishop John

Our Archbishop, John Wilson, will celebrate a live-streamed Mass at St. George's Cathedral this Sunday at 10.00 am. Parishioners who participated at Archbishop John's Mass last Sunday found it very rewarding. We are fortunate to have an archbishop who preaches clearly and with depth. You can join the Mass online here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdN5cFM-6nw>

Bishops' live-streamed Mass Thursdays

The Catholic bishops recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love.

Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time.

In order to show a spiritual solidarity, at 7 pm each Thursday, a Catholic bishop will celebrate Mass in his cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk>

Thanks from Fr. Richard

Fr. Richard thanks parishioners who sent messages and gifts for his 84th Birthday last Sunday. One of his tasks during his 85th year is to complete his research into and an article on a beautiful icon of the Virgin Mary in Cyprus. You can see it and Fr. Richard's brief description on the final page of this newsletter.

Living Faith Booklets - Free Online

Those who wish can, access *Living Faith* online at

http://www.livingfaith.com/account_dev.php

Also, a similar and popular publication, *Magnificat*, is offering its issues free online during the crisis.

<https://us.magnificat.net/free>

"Like" our Parish Facebook Page

Join the increasing number who are using our Parish Facebook Page, where we are posting daily updates/links. We invite you to comment.



SVP Continues to Serve

We offer renewed thanks to members of our Parish SVP Conference who continue to reach out to those in most need. If you wish to offer help to others, please contact the SVP, using their phone number below.

Community Hub Response

West Faversham Community Centre is the designated Local Hub for the Community Response to Covid-19 for the non-clinically vulnerable in the community. Volunteers - under 70 years and with no underlying health issues - are needed. Particularly needed are volunteer drivers with their own vehicle. If you are able to help, please call the SVP number below.

Build a Better Marriage

Husbands and wives! During the lockdown period an online *Build a Better Marriage* opportunity is being held on May 2nd 2020 running from 10.00 am -1.00 pm.

The course offered means that you can attend the course from your own living room and there is no group sharing!

A recent *Build a Better Marriage* course held on April 4th 2020 received the following comments from married couples who logged on:

"The topics were chosen well and we could really relate to them. The personal stories you shared were very insightful and helped us to reflect on our own relationships more deeply... It was relaxed and you put us at ease, being friendly and personable."

"We thoroughly enjoyed attending the course and have certainly been practising a few of the things we learnt already. It puts a smile on our faces when we do because we know that we are certainly richer from participating in the course."

For further information contact Carole
Tel: 07983 524727
email: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

Need the SVP? Tel. 07563 702033

PLEASE PRAY FOR the sick and housebound: Audrey Bampton, Angela Band, Shelagh Bradley, Margaret Bridgen, Millie Castelino, Wendy Coley, Bob Costa, Baby Olivia Durkin and her mum Beth Durkin, Michael Earls, Carol Gostling, Jeanne Harvey, Jackie Hitchcock, James Kilcoyne, Ruth Mackay, Barnaby Marchant, Gail O'Connor, Joan O'Sullivan, Julian Philips, Sadie Taylor and Denis Wood.

Please also remember in your prayers all those who have died recently, especially Martin Gough, Rhiannon Newbery, Joy Wight, Thomas Byrne, Margaret Mary Heath, Mike Moran, Kathleen (Kate) Thompson, Gerard Cookson and Clara Roberts and those whose anniversaries are about this time including: Mary Martin, Bernard Jeffrey, Philip Ardizzone, Marie Maxwell, Hilda Galligan, Constance Vials, Margaret Hex, Frank Wortham, Gladys Robinson, Margaret Johnstone, Kenneth Lambe, Alfred Fielding, Anthony de Vesei Gibson, Pete Parfew and David Isaac, and all whose names are recorded on our Easter List of Remembrance. **May all the departed rest in peace.**

Parish Gathers Online

Many are already using Zoom to interact virtually. This is an easy way to chat and keep in touch. Participants will need a video camera, microphone and headset or speakers on their device (PC/iPad/ Tablet etc.). Download the Zoom App for free here: <https://zoom.us/support/download>



As a start, we have set up two 30-minute online meetings, which any parishioner is welcome to join.

Tuesday, 28th April at 4.00 pm

- VIRTUAL TEATIME -

An opportunity to catch up with other parishioners, have a chat and share a cuppa together.

To join others, simply click:

<https://zoom.us/j/93400015511>

Friday, 1st May at 4.00 pm

- SCRIPTURE REFLECTION -

An opportunity to reflect together on selected scripture passages and to pray.

To join others, simply click:

<https://zoom.us/j/91599451743>

Every Saturday at 9.00 am

- HOPE PRAYER -

Details at <http://www.hopefaversham.org.uk>

PARISH FINANCES

We fully appreciate these difficult times.

- WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES -

We ask parishioners who are able to put your normal contribution into an envelope and keep it safe until later.

- STANDING ORDERS -

Some parishioners have asked about making their regular contribution by Standing Order. If you would like to do this, please send an email to faversham@rcaos.org.uk and we will send you a form.

THANK YOU!

Our Parish is served by a Community of Carmelite Friars

The Virgin Mary with Carmelites

(c.1270-1280)



The icon entitled *The Virgin Mary with Carmelites* is preserved in the Archbishop Makarios Museum in Nicosia and has just been restored. It is very large (203 cm x 156 cm or 6'8" by 5'1") and unique among Carmelite icons, having Mary on a throne with Jesus in her left hand and her cloak extending over a group of Carmelites on her right. The Carmelites are in the striped cloaks which were worn until 1287 and this is our only representation of them made whilst they were being worn. The first three small scenes in the left hand column portray a miracle worked by Our Lady in Toulouse in 1264 when she rescued the Carmelite community there who had been locked in their new house by a mob. The chapel with its statue then became a centre for pilgrimages and the remaining small pictures represent cures which had been reported by visiting devotees. The icon dates to c1270-1280 and probably was intended for the chapel in Toulouse but for some reason it was never dispatched. Its location afterwards in Cyprus is unknown until, after the capture of the island by the Ottomans in 1570, there is a legend that it was transferred for safe keeping from the cathedral in Nicosia to the church of St Kassianos.



Easter Remembrance

- Our Loved Ones -

*During the Easter season
we will pray each day
and celebrate a Mass each week
for those names recorded on our
Parish's Easter List of Remembrance.*

*If you would like
to make a dedication,
send the names of your
loved ones who have died to
faversham@rcaos.org.uk*

St Joseph the Worker 1st May

