

17 May 2020

Served by the Carmelite Friars

# Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Faversham with Teynham

Whitefriars, 35 Tanners Street, Faversham ME13 7JW  
Tel. 01795 532449 faversham@rcaos.org.uk  
Website : www.whitefriarsfaversham.org

**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	17	10.30 am	Parish
Mon	18	10.00 am	Special Intention
Tue	19	10.00 am	Special Intention
Wed	20	10.00 am	Special Intention
Thurs	21	10.00 am	Easter List of Remembrance
Fri	22	10.00 am	Special Intention
Sat	23	10.00 am	Special Intention

### THIS IS THE 6TH WEEK OF EASTER

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



## THE MYSTERY OF GIVING AND RECEIVING SPIRIT

There are different ways to be present or absent to each other.

For example, when Jesus is saying farewell to his disciples he tries to explain to them some of the deep paradoxes inside the mystery of presence and absence.

He tells them that it is better for them that he goes away because, unless he does, he will be unable to send them his spirit. He assures them too that the heaviness and grief they will feel at his leaving is really the pain of giving birth and that this heartache will eventually turn warm and nurturing and bring them a joy that no one can ever take from them.

That is the language of Ascension and Pentecost, not just as it pertains to Jesus leaving this earth and sending his spirit, but it is also as it pertains to the mystery of giving and receiving spirit in all our goodbyes.

Among other things, it points to that perplexing experience we have where we can only fully understand and appreciate others after they go away, just as others can only fully understand us and let themselves be fully blessed by us after we go away. Like Jesus, we can only really send our spirits after we go away.

We experience this everywhere in life. A grown child has to leave home before her parents can fully understand and appreciate her for who she really is. There comes a day in a young person's life when she stands before her parents and, in whatever way, says the words: "It is better for you that I go away! Unless I go you will never really know who I am. You will have some heartache now, but that pain will eventually become warm because I will come back to you in a deeper way." Parents say the same thing to their children when they are dying.

We only really grasp the essence of another after he or she has gone away. When someone leaves us physically, we are given the chance to receive his or her presence in a deeper way.

And the pain and heartache we feel in the farewell are birth-pangs, the stretching that comes with giving new birth. When someone we love has to leave us (to go on a trip, to begin a new life, or to depart from us through

*We can only fully understand and appreciate others after they go away*

death) initially that will feel painful, sometimes excruciatingly so. But when that leaving is necessitated by duty or by life itself then, no matter how hard it is, even if it is death itself that takes away our loved one, eventually he or she will come back to us in a deeper way, in a presence that is warm, nurturing and immune to the fragility of normal relationships.

Many of us, I suspect, have experienced this in the death of someone whom we loved deeply. For me, this happened at the death of my parents. My mother and father died three months apart, when I was twenty-three years old. They were young, too young to die in my view, but death took them anyway, against my will and against theirs. Initially, their death was experienced as very painful, as bitter. My siblings and I wanted their presence in the same way as we had always had it, physical, tangible, bodily, real.

Eventually the pain of their leaving left us and we sensed that our parents were still with us, with all that was best in them, our mum and dad still, except that now their presence was deeper and less fragile than it had been when they were physically with us. They were with us now, real and nurturing, in a way that nobody and nothing can ever take away.

Our presence to each other physically - in touch, sight, and speech - is no doubt the deepest wonder of all in life, sometimes the only thing we can appreciate as real. But wonderful as that is, it is always limited and fragile. It depends upon being physically connected in some way and it is fragile in that separation (physical or emotional) can easily take someone away from us. With everyone we love and who loves us (parents, spouse, children, friends, acquaintances, colleagues), we are always just one trip, misunderstanding, accident or heart attack away from losing their physical presence.

This was the exact heartache and fear that the disciples felt as Jesus was saying goodbye to them and that is the heartache and fear we all feel in our relationships. We can easily lose each other.

But there is a presence that cannot be taken away, that does not suffer from this fragility, that is, the spirit that comes back to us whenever, because of the some inner dictates of love and life, our loved ones have to leave us or we have to leave our loved ones. A spirit returns and it is deep and permanent and leaves a warm, joyous, and real presence that nobody can ever take from us.

*Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

*The Spirit of truth is with you... in you... I will come back to you*

## Sunday Mass with Archbishop John



[Click here](#)

Our Archbishop, John Wilson, will celebrate a live-streamed Mass at St. George's Cathedral this Sunday at **10.00 am**. You can participate by clicking above.

## Bishops' Mass Every Thursday

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 7.00 pm each Thursday, a Catholic bishop will celebrate Mass in his cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join.

[Click here for direct links](#)

## Read & Ponder

### This Sunday's Gospel

John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.  
I shall ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate  
to be with you for ever,  
that Spirit of truth  
whom the world can never receive  
since it neither sees nor knows him;  
but you know him,  
because he is with you, he is in you.



I will not leave you orphans;  
I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;  
but you will see me,  
because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father  
and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them  
will be one who loves me;  
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,  
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'



## Getting Ready to Open Churches

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has responded to the government's document released on 11th May, titled ['Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy'](#).

### Catholic Bishops' Statement

'The timing and the manner of the opening of churches touches profound sensitivities and spiritual needs. The Government's document and statements fail to recognise this.

The Government's position, established today, includes these steps aimed at opening churches as soon as possible: the establishment of a task force for places of worship, to work closely with 'stakeholders' in ensuring that premises are COVID-19 secure; and heeding the experience of other countries in which churches are already open for worship.

In dialogue with the Government, the Catholic Church will continue its engagement in this process and has already submitted a detailed plan, in full accordance with public health guidelines, for churches to be opened for private prayer.

The Church is ready to play its full part in the task force, understanding that this includes the possible earlier use of churches for private prayer, as a first safe step towards their use for public worship.'

### Interview with Cardinal Nichols on BBC Radio 4

On Thursday 14th May Cardinal Nichols was interviewed by Jamie Webb on the BBC Radio 4 'Today' programme, in which they discussed how churches can be safely re-opened for private prayer as the UK government eases its lockdown restrictions to combat the spread of COVID-19. You can read or listen to the interview [here](#).

### Preparing the way - a gradual process

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is continuing to work with our Government to enable our churches to be opened as soon as possible for private, individual prayer.

The Government stated recently that places of worship would probably not open until early July. This, however, was with a view to them being able to resume some form of collective worship.

Following recent discussions, a Task Force for faith groups has been established by the Government and this met on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> May. It included Cardinal Nichols who has shared with the Government the desire of Catholics to be able to enter their churches to pray. The Bishops' Conference has also prepared information which will assist with the opening of church buildings for private prayer. As soon as these guidelines are finalised through the Task Force, we will be in a position to act.

## Thank you for your patience and understanding

This process will take time, risk assessment and careful planning, so that everyone can remain safe. When the time is right and our own parish plan has been approved, it will have to be well supervised and will need a team of volunteers to manage the process who are not in any Covid 19 vulnerable category.

When it is appropriate and possible, we will need to manage this calmly and sensibly. Not every church will be able to open at once, and not every church will be able to open in the same way according to the same timetable. Each parish and church will need to move at the pace that is safe and appropriate. Churches will only be allowed to open if the parish can demonstrate that it can put the necessary measures in place

We will continue to keep parishioners informed with up to date bulletins, via our website and Facebook page.

### John Grant, RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Grant who died on 18th April, aged 85 at Tower Bridge Nursing Home, London. John is a former parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, having lived some years ago in South Road, Faversham. John's funeral will be on 27th May. Please pray also for his sister, Mary, and all members of his family.

### Ellen Waters, RIP

In your kindness, when you pray please remember Ellen Waters who died on 5th May. Please also pray for her husband Denis and their family as they grieve her loss. Her funeral will be on 1st June.

### Restoration & Repair Works Update

On 1st June, scaffolding will be erected around both the church and Whitefriars buildings. This will enable the next major works to be done. We thank Marie Mann for overseeing the repointing works that need to be completed during the good weather. We will also be repairing and, where necessary, replacing severely rotten windows. We will also inspect properly the guttering, facias and soffits around Whitefriars. Our hope is that they will merely need minor attention and painting, but we will not know until a closer look is possible.

We offer renewed thanks to all who have contributed in so many ways to the Restoration and Repair Appeal. Because of the more-than-expected state of affairs, we will be doing our very best to find additional funding to complete the essential works over the summer period.

Please continue to keep this project in your prayers. Pray also that our efforts to secure funding will be successful.

### "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 join us.





## CORONAVIRUS APPEAL

COVID-19 has already hit many of the wealthier nations, affecting both health and economy, however, those in less fortunate circumstances and in poorer countries are facing a humanitarian disaster.

There is a risk of families facing starvation with not enough to eat or without access to clean water. Those living with HIV or other underlying health conditions will be particularly vulnerable to coronavirus whilst another major concern is the virus reaching refugees camps where the struggle for reasonable healthcare is already a matter for concern. CAFOD are therefore expanding and adapting their programme to prevent the spread and reduce the risk of coronavirus in communities. Every step taken now to get food and clean water to families, will help prevent deaths and reduce suffering.

Those who would like to donate to the CAFOD Coronavirus appeal can do so [here](#).

### 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.

### Living Faith Booklets - Free Online

Those who wish can, access *Living Faith* at [http://www.livingfaith.com/account\\_dev.php](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>

**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, Helen Wilkinson and Denis Wood.

**Please also remember** in your prayers all those who have died recently, especially Ellen Waters, John Grant, Kevin Aylett, 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: Helen Keavney, Sheila Drouot and Patrick Byrne and all whose names are recorded on our Easter List of Remembrance.  
**May they and all the faithful departed rest in peace.**

**Our Parish is served by a Community of Carmelite Friars**

## Gather 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>



We have set up two online meetings, which any parishioner is welcome to join.

**Tuesday, 19th May 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 here](#)

**Friday, 22nd May at 4.00 pm**

### - SCRIPTURE REFLECTION -

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

To join others, simply

[click here](#)

**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 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](mailto:faversham@rcaos.org.uk) asking for a form.

**THANK YOU!**

## Virtual Chelsea Flower Show & Psalm 23 Bible Study Garden

For the first time since WWII, the Royal Horticultural Society has had to close the Chelsea Flower Show. You can still take part online if you wish to do so between 18 -23 May 2020:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/virtual-chelsea>

Throughout the week, the RHS's website will host free gardening content from around the world. And it's hoped that Bible Society, who had planned to take part with their Psalm 23 Garden, will be able to contribute. This beautiful creation was to be a celebration and exploration of perhaps one of the most well-known and loved psalms. The relevant website still offers a number of informative videos, including a theologian's interpretation of Psalm 23 and the garden designer's wish to create a restorative and peaceful design to reflect the text. Visitors to the website can also find out how they can create a beautiful outdoor space in the church or grounds (once lockdown has eased) and hear stories from people whose lives have been changed as a result of Psalm 23. It is well worth a visit for some gentle inspiration.

### Churches Together in Faversham Charity

The Charity of the Year agreed by CTIF is Open Doors, which supports persecuted Christians. As a result of the limited number of Lenten Lunches we were able to have this year, the amount raised was less than normal years. However, Open Doors has written to thank all supporters for their generosity:

*Dear Friends at Churches Together in Faversham,*

*Thank you so much for your kind gift of £540.61 to support the persecuted church around the world who are continuing to share Jesus no matter the cost. You are helping our brothers and sisters to hold on to hope in the midst of difficult and dangerous circumstances.*

*One persecuted believer in Cameroon says, "We thank our brothers and sisters in Christ for helping us get back on our feet. It gives us hope to carry on."*

*Your support is particularly appreciated at this time of unprecedented challenge. Please pray for our teams around the world as they respond to the unfolding impact of the coronavirus. You can find the latest updates about how our team is responding on our website.*

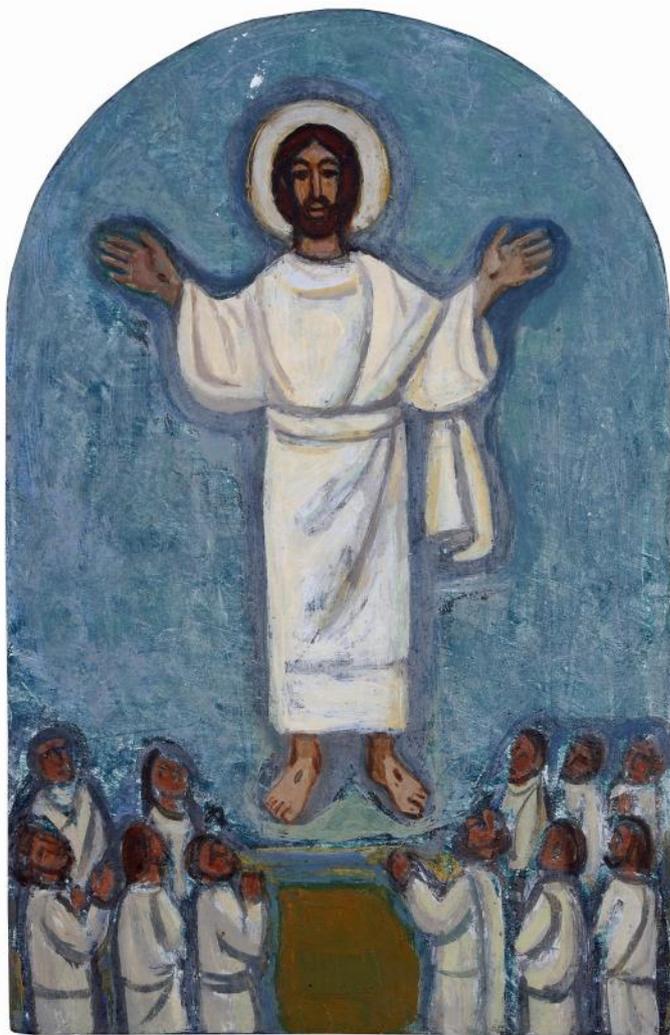
*May you know the hope we have in Christ as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*

*Your sister in Christ,*

*Henrietta Blyth*

*CEO, Open Doors UK and Ireland.*

We renew our thanks to our own generous parish team who prepared and served the 2nd Friday Lent Lunch, under the very able leadership of Theresa Anderson.



*Ascension of the Lord, Adam Kossowski  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Faversham*

### Ascension Thursday - 21st May

**Matthew 28:16-20**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



### 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*



## Wisdom from Canada

Thank you to Julie Davies for reminding us that often our Christian faith may lead us to be countercultural.



## How to give a Christian Flavour

Thanks again to Julie Davies for this one. We can never sit down to a meal and eat it the same way again!



## Creative adaptation!

This one has been doing the rounds for a while, but in case you haven't seen it, thanks to Kathy Hammond.



## *Flos Carmeli*

*Ancient hymn to Our Lady  
attributed to the Carmelite St. Simon Stock*

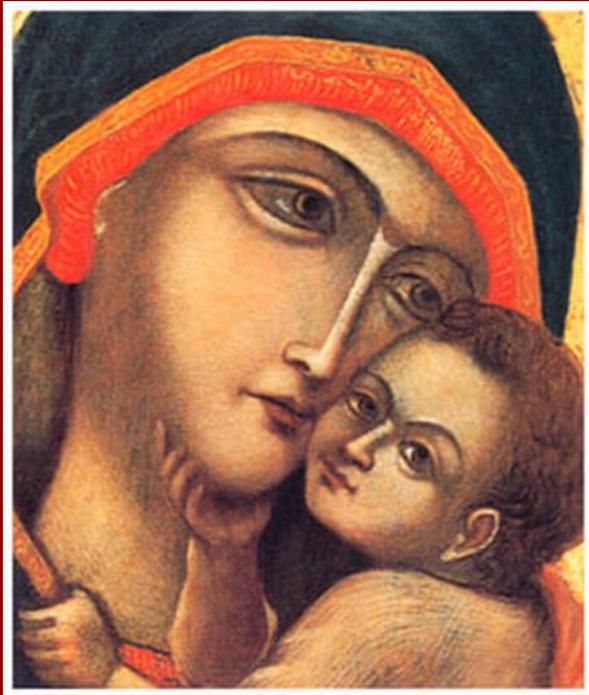
**Flower of Carmel,  
tall vine, blossom-laden;  
splendour of heaven,  
child-bearing, yet maiden;  
none equals thee.**

**Mother so tender,  
whom no man didst know,  
on Carmel's children  
thy favours bestow;  
Star of the Sea!**

### Prayer

By a special privilege, Lord,  
you have adorned the Carmelite Order  
and our Parish with the name of your Mother,  
the most glorious Virgin Mary.  
Grant, as we faithfully remember this honour,  
that in these days  
we may receive her protection  
and in the days to come  
may be brought to everlasting happiness.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

# May is the month of Mary



## **Regina Coeli**

*13th Century Marian antiphon*

O Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.  
For He whom thou didst merit to bear, alleluia.  
Has risen, as he said, alleluia.  
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia.

O God, who gave joy to the world through  
the resurrection of you son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
grant we pray, that through the intercession  
of the Virgin Mary, his mother,  
we may come to the joys of everlasting life.  
Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen

Mary, overshadowed by the Spirit of God, is the Virgin of the new heart, who gave a human face to the word made flesh. She is the Virgin of wise and contemplative listening who kept and pondered in her heart the events and the words of the Lord. She is the faithful disciple of wisdom, who sought Jesus - God's Wisdom - and allowed herself to be formed and moulded by his Spirit, so that in faith she might be conformed to his ways and choices. Thus enlightened, Mary is presented to us as one able to read 'The great wonders' which God has accomplished in her for the salvation of the humble and of the poor.

*Constitutions of the Carmelite Order, 1995*

## **A Prayer to Our Lady in times of Pandemic**

O Mary,  
you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who, at his cross, participated in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother,  
you know what we need, and we are confident you will intercede for us, as at Cana in Galilee.  
Call upon your son Jesus, the Divine Physician,  
for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others  
and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure.

Show us, O Mother of Divine Love, how to conform our lives to God's will  
and to follow the way of Jesus, who knows our sufferings and carried our sorrows,  
so that, through the Cross, we may come to the glory of the Resurrection.

Amen