

24 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

Next Sunday is Pentecost. We pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit

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	24	10.30 am	Parish
Mon	25	10.00 am	Canon Michael Hazell, RIP
Tue	26	10.00 am	Richie and Hart Families, RIP
Wed	27	10.00 am	Sean Moran (Birthday)
Thurs	28	10.00 am	Easter List of Remembrance
Fri	29	10.00 am	Special Intention
Sat	30	10.00 am	Special Intention

THIS IS THE 7TH 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



GOD'S QUIET PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES

The poet, Rumi, submits that we live with a deep secret that sometimes we know, and then not.

That can be very helpful in understanding our faith. One of the reasons why we struggle with faith is that God's presence inside us and in our world is rarely dramatic, overwhelming, sensational, something impossible to ignore. God doesn't work like that. Rather God's presence, much to our frustration and loss of patience sometimes, is something that lies quiet and seemingly helpless inside us. It rarely makes a huge splash.

*God's presence
inside us and in
our world is
rarely dramatic*

Because we are not sufficiently aware of this, we tend to misunderstand the dynamics of faith and find ourselves habitually trying to ground our faith on precisely something that is loud and dramatic. We are forever looking for something beyond what God gives us. But we should know from the very way God was born into our world, that faith needs to ground itself on something that is quiet and undramatic. Jesus, as we know, was born into our world with no fanfare and no power, a baby lying helpless in the straw, another child among millions. Nothing spectacular to human eyes surrounded his birth. Then, during his ministry, he never performed miracles to prove his divinity; but only as acts of compassion or to reveal something about God. Jesus never used divine power in an attempt to prove that God exists, beyond doubt. His ministry, like his birth, wasn't an attempt to prove God's existence. It was intended rather to teach us what God is like and that God loves us unconditionally.

*Jesus teaches us
what God is
like...*

*God loves us
unconditionally*

Moreover, Jesus' teaching about God's presence in our lives also makes clear that this presence is mostly quiet and hidden, a plant growing silently as we sleep, yeast leavening dough in a manner hidden from our eyes, summer slowly turning a barren tree green, an insignificant mustard plant eventually surprising us with its growth, a man or woman forgiving an enemy. God, it seems, works in ways that are quiet and hidden from our eyes. The God that Jesus incarnates is neither dramatic nor splashy.

And there's an important faith-lesson in this. Simply put, God lies inside us, deep inside, but in a way that's almost non-existent, almost unfelt, largely unnoticed, and easily ignored. However, while that presence is never overpowering, it has within it a gentle, unremitting imperative, a compulsion towards something higher, which invites us to draw upon it. And, if we do draw upon it, it gushes up in us in an infinite stream that instructs us, nurtures us, and fills us with endless energy.

This is important for understanding faith. God lies inside us as an invitation that fully respects our freedom, never overpowers us; but also never goes away. It lies there precisely like a baby lying helpless in the straw, gently beckoning us, but helpless in itself to make us pick it up.

For example, C.S. Lewis, in explaining why he finally became, in his words, "the most reluctant convert in the history of Christendom", writes that, for years, he was able to effectively ignore a voice inside him, precisely, because it was almost non-existent, almost unfelt, and largely unnoticed. On the other hand, in retrospect, he realized it had always been there, a gentle, incessant nudge, beckoning him to draw from it, something he eventually recognized as a gentle, but unyielding, imperative, a "compulsion" which, if obeyed, leads to liberation.

Ruth Burrows, the British Carmelite, describes a similar experience in her autobiography, *Before the Living God*. Chronicling her late adolescent years, Burrows

describes both her religious flightiness and her lack of attraction to the religious life at that time in her life. Yet she eventually ends up not only being serious about religion but becoming a Carmelite nun. What happened? One day, in a chapel, almost against her will, triggered by a series of accidental circumstances, she opened herself to voice inside her that she had, until then, mainly ignored because it lay inside her precisely as a voice that was almost non-existent, almost unfelt, and largely unnoticed. But once touched, it gushed up as the deepest and most real thing inside her and set the direction of her life forever afterwards. Like C.S. Lewis, she too, once she had opened herself to it, felt it as an unyielding moral compulsion opening her to ultimate liberation.

Why doesn't God show himself to us more directly and more powerfully so as to make faith easier? That's a fair question for which, partly, there is no fully satisfying answer. But the answer we do have lies in understanding the manner in which God manifests himself in our lives and in our world. Unlike most everything else that's trying to get our attention, God never tries to overwhelm us. God, more than anyone else, respects our freedom. For this reason, God lies everywhere, inside us and around us, almost unfelt, largely unnoticed, and easily ignored, a quiet, gentle nudge; but, if drawn upon, the ultimate stream of love and energy.

Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Come, Holy Spirit, with your fire! Open us the voice inside.

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.

Bishop's Mass Every Thursday

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

Sunday's First Reading

Acts 1:12-14

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the apostles went back from The Mount of Olives, as it is called, to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a sabbath walk; and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying;

there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James.

All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

GETTING READY TO OPEN CHURCHES

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, initially for individual prayer.

The Government has stated that places of worship will probably not open until the beginning of July at the earliest. The Bishops of England and Wales has prepared information which will assist with the opening of church buildings for private prayer.

As soon as these guidelines are finalised, we will be in a position to act.

We need suitable volunteers to help

This process require 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*.

Not every church will be able to open at once, and not every church will be able to open according to the same timetable. Churches will only be allowed to open if the parish can demonstrate that it can put the necessary measures in place.

To open our church we will need volunteers - can you help?

Volunteers will help to keep the church sanitised and supervise visits in one-hour slots. The generosity of suitable volunteers will determine when the church can be opened, once our plan is approved.

Please email faversham@rcaos.org.uk if you can help.

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, fascias and soffits around Whitefriars. Our hope is that they will merely need minor attention and painting.

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.

SVP Our Lady of Mount Carmel Conference - Financial Appeal

Dear Parishioner,

I hope this message finds you well!

SVP Faversham have had the need to call on you for financial support because our funds are very low, and we are not able to support local people at the point of need as we are used to. The lockdown and constraints have meant that we are not able to carry out our usual fund-raising activities.

We believe that it is essential to continue to support local people in need and we are making an appeal to your generosity for that purpose.

Please, if you can support this appeal, then kindly make a bank transfer marked 'SVP Appeal' to:

SVP Our Lady of Mount Carmel- Faversham
NatWest - Account No. 46075364
Sort code: 60-60-04

This is a one-off appeal, but there is also an opportunity, for parishioners who are able, to set up a standing order so the SVP may continue to be responsive to local vulnerable people in need.

Thank you and God bless,

Oma Megbele

SVP Treasurer

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.



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](#).

"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.



Living Faith Booklets - Free Online

Those who wish can, access *Living Faith* 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>

**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 and those whose anniversaries are about this time including: Brian Deeprise, Arthur Deeson, Ross Davies, Eileen Moran, Rowan Coulton, George Cailleau and Bob Robinson 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, 26th 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, 29th 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 asking for a form.

THANK YOU!

Global Prayer for Creation

This Sunday we mark the culmination of *Laudato Si* week, marking the celebration of the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' Encyclical on the environment. As such we are all invited to take part in a day of global prayer.

At noon, wherever we are and whatever we're doing, we are asked to stop and pray as one global Catholic family all over the world. A wave of prayer for creation will start as the sun reaches its peak in the Pacific, then roll on through Africa and Europe before reaching the Americas.

The intention is that this global day of prayer will powerfully envelope the entire world in which everything and everyone are connected.

Communications Sunday

This Sunday, in addition to marking the end of *Laudato Si* week, we also celebrate the 54th World Communications Day, which Pope Francis has dedicated to the theme of *Storytelling*.

In his letter the Pope notes that every human story has an 'irrepressible' dignity and that humanity "deserves stories that are worthy of it'. He warns us too to avoid negative stories and fake news: "We may not even realise how greedy we have become for chatter and gossip, or how much violence and falsehood we are consuming".

Above all he reminds us that "The Bible is (thus) the great love story between God and humanity. At its centre stands Jesus, whose own story brings to fulfilment both God's love for us and our love for God. Henceforth, in every generation, men and women are called to recount and commit to memory the most significant episodes of this Story of stories, those that best communicate its meaning".

To read the full letter visit <https://bit.ly/2XllviE>

At this time Pope Francis is also encouraging us to pray for "those who work in the media and those who work to communicate today, so that people are not so isolated... who help us to bear this time of isolation". As May is the month of Mary, we call upon her intercession.



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

A Story to Tell? A Gift to Share?

During this extraordinary period of social distancing, self-isolation and lockdown, we are not able to print and distribute our weekly newsletter. However, we can continue to make it available online on our website.

Perhaps one advantage is that we are not limited by print space. Over the past weeks we are grateful to those who have shared their poetry and other gifts with us. We know that there are so many who have positive contributions to share with others. If you have something for inclusion in our newsletter that people may enjoy and will maybe raise their spirits, please do send us brief submissions and we will do our best to share your interest with others. Photographs are always welcome! Send your contribution by email to:

faversham@rcaos.org.uk

Parishioner in Isolation

*Thanks to Terry and Sue Mahoney
for this contribution.*

Just be careful because people are going crazy from being in Isolation.

Actually I've been talking about this with the microwave and toaster whilst drinking coffee and we all agreed that things were getting bad.

I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she always puts a different spin on everything - certainly not the fridge as he is acting cold and distant.

In the end the iron straightened me out and said everything will be fine - no situation is too pressing.

The vacuum was very unsympathetic... told me to just suck it up but the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all blow over.

The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked her opinion and didn't say anything but the door knob told me to get a grip. The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me... you guessed it... to pull myself together.

So... I went outside to talk to the trees... got arrested by Special Branch and said they knew the root of my problem... wash my hands more!!!! ...then the soap got into a right lather about it... so I gave up and went back into 'Isolation'.

COMMON PRAYER

for the 5th anniversary of

Laudato Si'

Loving God,

Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
You created us in your own image and made us
stewards of all your creation.

You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.

Help us to be conscious that our common home
belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to
all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to
preserve it.

May we help each person secure the food and
resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being
left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope
and fraternity so that we may experience a true
conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the
consequences of this global pandemic,

Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are
needed in search of the common good,

Now more than ever may we feel that we are all
interconnected and interdependent,

Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth
and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more
fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians, we
make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen



World Communications Day

The Catholic Church celebrates World Communications Day on 24 May when we pray for those who work in the media

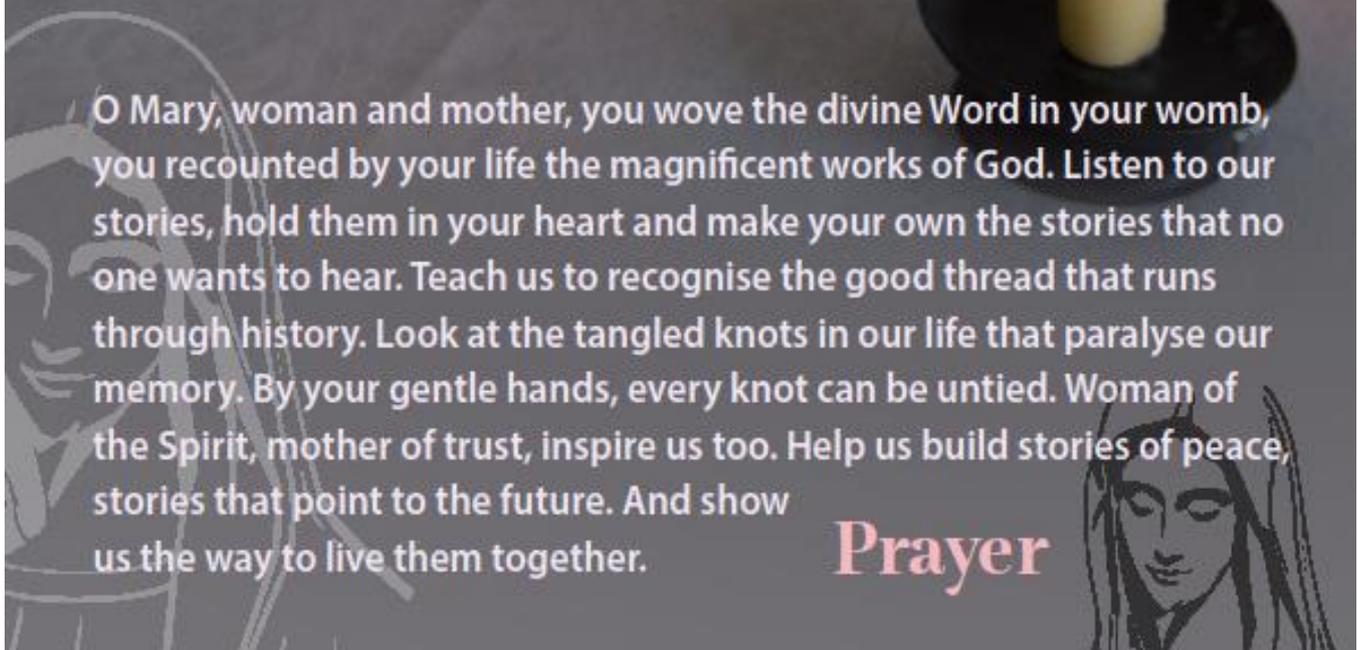
2020

[Pray for] those who work in the media who work to communicate today so that people are not so isolated... who help us to bear this time of isolation

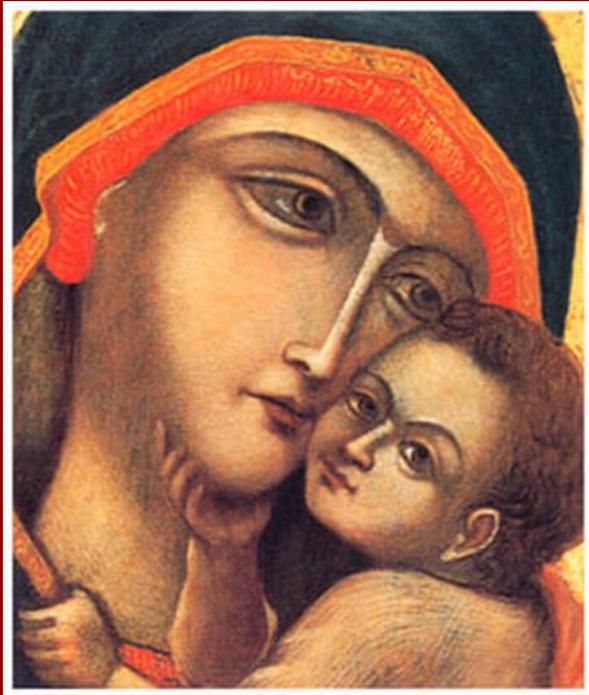
Pope Francis
during COVID-19
pandemic

O Mary, woman and mother, you wove the divine Word in your womb, you recounted by your life the magnificent works of God. Listen to our stories, hold them in your heart and make your own the stories that no one wants to hear. Teach us to recognise the good thread that runs through history. Look at the tangled knots in our life that paralyse our memory. By your gentle hands, every knot can be untied. Woman of the Spirit, mother of trust, inspire us too. Help us build stories of peace, stories that point to the future. And show us the way to live them together.

Prayer



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