

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul**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	28	10.30 am	Parish
Mon	29	9.30 am	Special Intention
Tue	30	9.30 am	Special Intention
Wed	01	9.30 am	Special Intention
Thurs	02	9.30 am	Special Intention
Fri	03	9.30 am	Special Intention
Sat	04	9.30 am	Special Intention

13TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIMEAlthough we cannot yet gather together for prayer,
please join us in our daily rhythm of prayer at home.
See our website and Facebook for prayer resources.

- 9.15 am Morning Prayer
- 9.30 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

**Peter and Paul
Singled out for service**

What singled Peter out from the other disciples was his God-given insight into the identity of Jesus. It was because of his unique insight that Jesus gives Peter a unique role among his followers. His profession of faith is to be the rock, the firm foundation, on which Jesus will build his Church. It is an extraordinarily significant role for Jesus to give to any of his disciples. Peter's role is further spelt out by Jesus giving him the keys of the kingdom of heaven. The image of the keys suggests authority. The nature of that authority is expressed in terms of binding and loosing. This is probably a reference to a teaching authority. Peter is being entrusted with the task of authoritatively interpreting the teaching of Jesus with and for other members of the Church. Yet, this same Peter would try to deflect Jesus from taking the way of the cross, and when Jesus did take that way, Peter would deny any association with him. Jesus is portrayed by Matthew's gospel as giving a significant role to someone who remains very flawed.

If Sunday's gospel associates teaching with Peter, the reading from 2 Timothy associates preaching with Paul. In that reading Paul refers to the Lord who "gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be preached for all the pagans to hear." Paul was the great preacher of the gospel to the pagans throughout the Roman Empire. He preached it for the last time further west, in the city of Rome, where, like Peter, he was martyred for his faith in Christ. The extract from the second letter to Timothy may well have been written during the time of his Roman imprisonment. It is a very stirring text, "I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith." The images of the fight and the race suggest that "keeping the faith" was a struggle for Paul; it did not come easy to him, just as keeping the faith did not come easy to Peter either.

Keeping the faith does not always come easy to any of us. Paul's letters show that he was very aware that keeping the faith was not due primarily to his own efforts; it was the Lord who enabled him to keep the faith. As he says, "the Lord stood by me and gave me power." It is the Lord who empowers all of us to keep the faith; his faithfulness to us enables us to be faithful to him; his faithful love encourages us to keep returning to him even after failure. The faithful witness of Peter and Paul speak to us ultimately of the Lord's faithfulness to us all.

2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was *rescued from the lion's mouth*. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 16:13-19

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a

happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

Sunday Mass with Archbishop John



[Click here](#)

Sunday Mass from our Cathedral

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 the link opposite.

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 links](#)

Anthony Roberts, RIP

In your kindness, when you pray please remember Anthony Roberts who died on 19th June 2020. Please also pray for his sisters Marjorie and Felicity. We remember Tony with fondness, now reunited with his wife Angela who died in 2018. Angela is the aunt of Kate Swinfield.

Pray for Beth Durkin and her family

We have been praying for Beth Durkin who is living with cancer. Beth is the mother of two beautiful daughters, Rhiannon and Olivia and the wife of Marc Durkin. Marc is the son of valued parishioners Paul and Linda Durkin. Beth's condition is grave. Please do continue to pray for all the family during this incredibly difficult time. Read more about Beth's story and an opportunity to donate towards treatment [here](#).



OUR CHURCH IS NOW OPEN FOR INDIVIDUAL VISITS

A GRADUAL PROCESS

We welcomed with joy the announcement that our churches may open for individual visits and prayer. Not every church is able to open immediately. The sensible requirements of a thorough Risk Assessment must be in place and approved by the archdiocese beforehand. Our church is now open for specific periods during the week for individual prayer.

Sundays 3.00 – 5.00 pm
Wednesdays 10.30 - 12.30 am
Saturdays 3.00 - 5.00 pm

PUBLIC MASS IN OUR CHURCH

From 4th July some churches will be able to celebrate public Mass. We are working towards this, but are not yet ready for this next step. Please read the Message from the Archbishops below. We may need to encourage people to “register” for a Mass (either Sunday or weekday). Updates will be posted online.

BE SAFE - BE SENSIBLE - BE CO-OPERATIVE

Our volunteer stewards will help us all to be safe when we visit the church. Please do follow their guidance. Currently, there are seats for a maximum of 21 individuals in the church. We ask you to respect that our visits to the church at the above times will be for individual prayer and not for group prayer, led prayer, socialising or “catching up”.

Do not enter the church if you have any Covid-19 symptoms

We need more volunteers. Email or phone Fr. Brendan if you can help.

VOLUNTEERS

We offer profound gratitude to those members of our parish who have already volunteered to assist in stewarding and those who have come to pray. We have a sufficient number of volunteers to move forward at a basic level. The times of opening are below. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at these times.

SHRINE TO ST. JUDE

The Shrine to St.. Jude will remain closed until we have more volunteers who will be able to make the re-opening of the shrine possible. The shrine is held with great affection by parishioners and our many visiting pilgrims, so we hope we can find a way to open it soon through the generosity of parishioners.

A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England

25th June 2020

[Note: some text has been highlighted by the parish priest. Please understand as we find our way forward. We are working as quickly as possible to enable public Mass to resume in the safest and most efficient way possible]

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

On Tuesday we heard the announcement that, from the 4th July this year, places of worship will be able to reopen for prayer and services. We welcome this news with great joy. Since the lockdown began, members of all faiths have faced restrictions on how they have been able to celebrate important religious festivals. Our own experience of Easter was unlike any other we have known. Now, in our churches, and with our people, we can look forward again to celebrating the central mysteries of our faith in the Holy Eucharist.

The recent reopening of our churches for individual private prayer was an important milestone on our journey towards resuming communal worship. Our churches that have opened have put in place all the measures needed to ensure the risks of virus transmission are minimised. This includes effective hand sanitisation, social distancing, and cleaning. We remain committed to making sure these systems of hygiene and infection control meet Government and public health standards.

We want to thank everyone within the Catholic community for sustaining the life of faith in such creative ways, not least in the family home. We thank our priests for celebrating Mass faithfully for their people,

and for the innovative ways in which they have enabled participation through live-streaming and other means. We are grateful for the pastoral care shown by our clergy to those for whom this time of lockdown has been especially difficult, and, in particular, towards those who have been bereaved. We recognise too the chaplaincy services that have played a vital role in supporting those most in need. Gaining from the experience of all that we have been through, and bringing those lessons into the future, we must now look forward.

With the easing of restrictions on worship with congregations, we tread carefully along the path that lies ahead. Our lives have been changed by the experience of the pandemic and it is clear that we cannot simply return to how things were before lockdown. We remain centred on the Lord Jesus and His command at the Last Supper to *“do this in memory of me.”* We must now rebuild what it means to be Eucharistic communities, holding fast to all that we hold dear, while at the same time exploring creative ways to meet changed circumstances.

It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. A significant number of churches may remain closed as they are unable to meet the requirements for opening for individual prayer. Fulfilling these requirements is a precondition for any church opening after the 4th July for the celebration of Mass with a congregation.

Please be aware that there will be a limit on the number of people who can attend Mass in our churches. This will be determined locally in accordance with social distancing requirements. We therefore need to reflect carefully on how and when we might be able to attend Mass. We cannot return immediately to our customary practices. This next step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going ‘back to normal.’

We ask every Catholic to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Our priests may need to consider whether it is possible to celebrate additional Masses at the weekends. Given there is no Sunday obligation, **we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday.** This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people.

Moving forward, there will still be many people who cannot attend Mass in person. We therefore ask parishes, wherever possible, to continue live-streaming Sunday Mass, both for those who remain shielding and vulnerable, and also for those unable to leave home because of advanced age or illness.

When we return to Mass there will be some differences in how the celebration takes place. For the time being, there will be no congregational singing and Mass will be shorter than usual. None of this detracts from the centrality of our encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist. **We ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance that will be issued and the instructions in each church.**

“As I have loved you,” said the Lord Jesus, *“so you must love each other.”* (Jn 13:34) The lockdown has brought forth remarkable acts of charity, of loving kindness, from Catholics across our communities as they have cared for the needy and vulnerable. We have seen love in action through charitable works, and through the service of many front-line keyworkers who are members of our Church. Now we can begin to return to the source of that charity, Christ himself, present for us sacramentally, body, blood, soul and divinity, in Holy Communion. As we prepare to gather again to worship, let us, respectful of each other, come together in thanksgiving to God for the immense gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Yours devotedly in Christ

✠ Vincent Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster

✠ Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool

✠ Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham

✠ John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark

*This letter is addressed to the Catholic Community in England;
the opening of the Catholic Churches in Wales is devolved to the Welsh Assembly
who are still evaluating their position on opening Places of Worship.*

Pope Francis warns poor have become part of landscape

Pope Francis says that the coronavirus pandemic has shown how much the poor are disconnected from society. Poverty is often hidden away, he says, but trying to help others can help us rediscover ourselves.

This coronavirus crisis is affecting us all, rich and poor alike, and putting a spotlight on hypocrisy. I am worried by the hypocrisy of certain political personalities who speak of facing up to the crisis, of the problem of hunger in the world, but who in the meantime manufacture weapons.

This is a time to be converted from this kind of functional hypocrisy. It's a time for integrity. Either we are coherent with our beliefs or we lose everything.

Every crisis contains both danger and opportunity. Today I believe we have to slow down our rate of production and consumption and to learn to understand and contemplate the natural world. We need to reconnect with our real surroundings. This is the opportunity for conversion.

I see early signs of an economy that is more human. But let us not lose our memory once all this is past, let us not file it away and go back to where we were. This is the time to take the decisive step, to move from using and misusing nature to contemplating it. We have lost the contemplative dimension; we have to get it back.

And speaking of contemplation, I'd like to dwell on one point.

This is the moment to see the poor. Jesus says we will have the poor with us always, and it's true. They are a reality we cannot deny. But the poor are hidden, because poverty is bashful.

In Rome recently, in the midst of the quarantine, a policeman said to a man: "You can't be on the street, go home." The response was: "I have no home. I live in the street."

There is such a large number of people who are on the margins. And we don't see them, because poverty is bashful. They have become part of the landscape; they are things.

Mother Teresa saw them and had the courage to embark on a journey of conversion. To "see" the poor means to restore their humanity. They are not things, not garbage; they are people.

We can't settle for a welfare policy such as we have for rescued animals. which is how the poor are often treated.

I'm going to dare to offer some advice. This is the time



to go to the underground. I'm thinking of Dostoyevsky's short novel, *Notes from Underground*.

The employees of that prison hospital had become so inured they treated their poor prisoners like things. And seeing the way they treated one who had just died, the one on the bed alongside tells them: "Enough! He too had a mother!"

We need to tell ourselves this often: that poor person had a mother who raised him lovingly. Later in life we don't know what happened. But it helps to think of that love he once received through his mother's hope.

We disempower the poor. We don't give them the right to dream of their mothers. They don't know what affection is; many live on drugs. And to see them can help us to discover the piety, which points towards God and towards our neighbour.

Go down into the underground, and pass from the hyper-virtual, fleshless world to the suffering flesh of the poor. This is the conversion we have to undergo. And if we don't start there, then there will be no conversion.

The Pope's contribution has been provided by the Vatican and is part of a longer interview he gave to his biographer Austen Ivereigh.

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Pope Francis

There's a hidden blessing in every obstacle that you are facing

You may have a lot of questions right now. Maybe you've been facing a lot of problems, and you think that you already lose hope. You are so lost, and you feel so helpless inside. You've been fighting the battle all alone, and you already feel so weak. Whatever is going on in your mind, always remember that there's a blessing waiting for you.

God will use the obstacle in front of you to help you grow into a better person. You may not see it now because maybe you are full of so many worries inside. But know that one day you will thank God for allowing you to go through that kind of situation. There's a beautiful blessing behind the pain. You will see God's goodness behind the bad things that you experienced. Always remember that He works in ways we cannot see. One day, your tears will turn into joyful singing.

It is written in Romans 8:28, "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." As long as God is with you, He will work in your life. Even if all you can see right now is darkness. God can turn it into a beautiful masterpiece.



Sometimes, the most valuable blessings we receive in life are the things that we can't see. Those are precious gifts that only God can give you. The strength that you have right now while you are going through some difficulties. The grace that God provided for you every day. Those are great blessings. You can't see it most of the time because you are so occupied with the negative things around you. But the reality is, God has been pouring blessings for you even if you have so many struggles.

The obstacles in front of you will become a testimony one day. Through the things that you experienced, you will be able to testify to the whole world that God is good after all. You will realize that He never leaves your side. He is with you all along.

You will never be the same person after the storm. You will learn to depend more on God. Your relationship with Him will be stronger. If you allow God to teach you how to deal with the problems you've been facing right now, you will realize that God has been preparing a wonderful blessing for you all this time.

Krizajo Tanduyan

I am a Christian

When I say, "I am a Christian," I am not shouting that "I am clean living." I'm whispering, "I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need his strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon his name.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not holier than thou. I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!



Our Parish is served by a Community of Carmelite Friars



CAFOD 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](#).



Thank You to Parish Zoomers!

Each Tuesday and Friday we have an opportunity to gather online via Zoom. Thank you to parishioners who have been able to join us.

The Tuesday Virtual TeaTime normally stimulates a lively chat about a huge variety of topics, and it is always good to see smiling faces. If you haven't been able to join us yet, we look forward to welcoming you. People do not need to stay for the whole hour; you can just call in for five minutes if you prefer.

Our Friday gathering is also a very warm, open and inspiring exchange of reflections on selected Scripture passages. You don't need to be an expert on the bible to come along. So, try one or other or both sometime!

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, Mary Henderson, Jackie Hitchcock, James Kilcoyne, Deacon John Letley, Janet MacKay, Ruth Mackay, Barnaby Marchant, Terry Newbery, Gail O'Connor, Joan O'Sullivan, Geraldine Paine, Julian Philips, Sadie Taylor, Helen Wilkinson, Denis Wood and Ginny Woodroofe.

Please also remember in your prayers all those who have died recently, especially Anthony Roberts, Val Newman, Ellen Waters, John Grant, Kevin Aylett, Martin Gough, Rhiannon Newbery and those whose anniversaries are about this time including: Meme Makepeace, Gertie Smith, Mary Nasskan, Pat Farrell, Simon Machin, Martin Liddle, Theresa Schmeill, Arthur Mitchelmore-Hawkins, Daisy Aylett, Mark Richards and Gertrude Screeton.

May they and all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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, 30th June 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, 3rd July 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

INTER-CHURCH 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!

PARISH SVP NEEDS YOUR HELP! - Two ways to respond to the SVP Appeal -

The local community needs our support now more than ever
and this means we're running short of funds.

One of our members, Guy Felton, is doing a sponsored walk of 5 miles a day and intends on walking the equivalent of Faversham to Lands End. That's an incredible 340 miles.

Please donate what you can to help the SVP help others during these difficult times.

Through his sponsored walk, Guy is trying to raise £500 to support local people struggling with poverty, illness and loneliness.

To sponsor Guy and donate online [click here](#)



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 fundraising 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 Fundraising Update

Dear Parishioners,

Your response to our Appeal has been astonishing, and we are so grateful to you for your generosity. These donations really do enable us to make a difference for vulnerable children and adults in Faversham and surrounding areas.

Donations banked to date £940 and there is another £100 to be added that came in recently.

Guy's JustGiving walking challenge total so far is £750.

Thank you. God bless,

SVP members

Need the SVP? Tel. 07563 702033