

5 July 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

The Carmelite Community is praying daily for you 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	05	10.30 am	Parish
Mon	06	9.30 am	Benjamin & Anthony Errington
Tue	07	9.30 am	Special Intention
Wed	08	9.30 am	Special Intention
Thurs	09	9.30 am	Special Intention
Fri	10	9.30 am	Special Intention
Sat	11	9.30 am	Milo Fahy, RIP

14TH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Although 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



ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON WRITES

Mass for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-Line Workers and those working in Social Care
2nd July 2020

What extraordinary times we have lived through these past few months, unlike anything else we have witnessed in our lifetime. Covid-19 brought the day to day life of our country to a standstill. Our streets became silent and our roads virtually empty. Quite rightly, we were instructed to remain indoors. But an army of medical, emergency, and care staff, of keyworkers and essential service providers, marched out to defend us from an infectious and deadly enemy.

At the start of lockdown the essential advice was 'stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.' We needed to allow our health service to prepare for the worst. Yet, in reality, everyone in the NHS protected us, working with emergency services and key workers, and with care staff who continued to look after our elderly and infirm loved ones.

Restrictions are now beginning to be relaxed; but we are far from back to normal and must remain cautious. We each carry a personal and communal responsibility for staying alert, for controlling the virus, and for saving lives, especially those of the most vulnerable.

What an enormous debt of gratitude we owe to everyone in the NHS, in the emergency services, and in social care, at all levels. To each one of them we want to say an immense and sincere 'thank you.' You have put yourselves at risk by serving selflessly, for the good of others and the good of our nation.

Our gratitude has been expressed in some powerfully poignant ways: households out clapping on our streets; messages of support; posters and signs of appreciation. But our thanks ring hollow if we fail to value our NHS, emergency, and social care staff in ways that are tangible and enduring. Making sure they are properly funded and re-

sourced, and treated with dignity and respect, these are the real ways we can say 'thank you.' We are so grateful for everyone's contribution, not forgetting those from other countries who help ensure our hospi-

Our thanks ring hollow if we fail to value our NHS, emergency, and social care staff in ways that are tangible and enduring.

tals, clinics, surgeries and care facilities are fit for purpose.

The Gospel tells us that the Lord Jesus sent out His disciples asking them to speak words of peace, to cure the sick, and to proclaim the nearness of God's kingdom. Something similar has been happening during the pandemic. Through the care of the sick and suffering, in the backs of ambulances, beside hospital beds, in nursing and care homes, the values of God's kingdom have been brought to life. Love has been made real in the most critical circumstances and in the most compassionate ways.

Just think of medical staff who nurse the dangerously ill, exhausting themselves trying to 'cure the sick.' Think of all the support staff who make front-line care possible. Think of so much generous self-sacrifice, given without hesitation to complete strangers. Thousands upon thousands of NHS staff offer words, gestures, and faces of peaceful reassurance, as they adjust a ventilator, serve a meal, or clean a ward. The kingdom of God is brought close through people who love others, whether by means of their skills and expertise, their sensitive comforting, or their dedicated care.

So much of ordinary life has been taken over by PPE - Personal Protective Equipment - and by social distancing. How important to remember that God is not distant, but comes close to us in His Son Jesus Christ. There are no barriers to God's love, even when we experience the sting of the cross in our own lives or the lives of those we love.

In St Paul's words nothing - nothing in life and nothing in death - nothing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord. This truth sheds light into our darkest moments. This truth brings hope, even in our tragedies. In sickness and

suffering, Christ is with us. In grief and loss, Christ is with us. In the fatigue of serving others, Christ is with us. Whatever happens, Christ will never abandon us. He is with us. He is for us. He is on our side.

No one has known the love of God in Christ as intimately as His Mother Mary. She carried Him in her womb. She watched Him grow from childhood. She saw fulfilled the promises made to her about Him. She stood by Him at the crucifixion. Mary knows the obstacles that can test our faith. But she gives perfect witness that nothing can separate us from the love of God made real in Christ.

From deep within, Our Lady knows the power of divine love, a love that defeated death, a love that rose again. With maternal care she understands the trials we face, though which we can triumph by the power of Him who loves us, who loves you.

As a Mother of Sorrows, Mary prays for us, sharing our pain and distress. As a Mother of Consolation, a Mother of Unfailing Help, we ask her heavenly intercession: for those who are sick; for those who have died; for those who grieve; for our NHS, emergency and social care workers; for all who serve our brothers and sisters who suffer illness, infirmity, or disability.

Dear friends, nothing can separate us from the love of God made visible in Christ our Lord. Our faith is founded on this love, a love that will not let us go. In Christ every sorrow leads to joy. In Christ the cross leads to the resurrection. In Christ we have a hope that all will be well.

May the love of Christ be made visible through each one of us in service of health and well-being for every human life. Amen

✠ John Wilson

Archbishop of Southwark

*There are no barriers to God's love,
even when we experience the sting of the cross
in our own lives or the lives of those we love.*

Sunday Mass with Archbishop John



Please note new time of 8.30 am [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 **8.30 am**. You can participate by clicking the link opposite. **Please note the change in time.**

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](#)

Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the

Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

THREE INVITATIONS

Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.

This is the first of three invitations from Jesus, in today's wonderful Gospel. It's directed toward all those who live their religion as a heavy burden. Not a few Christians live beaten down by their conscience. They aren't great sinners. They simply have been taught to have their sin always before them and they don't know the joy of God's continuous forgiveness. If they meet Jesus, they will find themselves relieved. There are also Christians who are weary of living their religion as a worn-out tradition. If they personally meet Jesus, they will learn to be alive, trusting in God as Father. They will discover an inner joy that they don't know yet. They will follow Jesus, not out of obligation, but out of attraction.

Shoulder my yoke; it is easy, and my burden is light.

That is the second invitation. Living in the presence of Jesus doesn't weigh anyone down. On the contrary, he frees up what's best in us, since he proposes that we live our lives making them more human, worthy, whole. It's not easy to find a more passionate way of living. Jesus frees us from fear and pressure, he doesn't bring them in; he makes our liberty grow, not our slavery; he

awakens in us trust, never sadness; he draws us to love, not toward laws and precepts. He invites us to live by doing good.

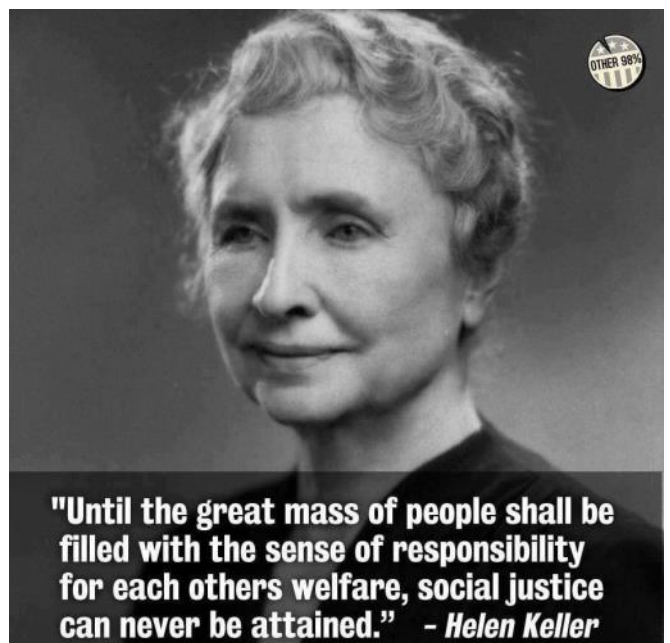
Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

That is the third invitation. We need to learn from Jesus how to live like him. Jesus doesn't complicate our life. He makes it clearer and simpler, more humble, more whole. He offers rest. He never puts onto his followers something that he hasn't lived himself. He invites us to follow him on the same path that he has walked. That's why he can understand our difficulties and our struggles, he can forgive our stupidities and our faults, always encouraging us to get up again. We need to focus our efforts to promote a more vital contact with Jesus in our communities that are so in need of courage, rest, and peace. Sadly it is precisely their way of understanding and living religion that leads so many, almost inevitably, to not know the experience of trusting in Jesus. Think about so many people who, both within and outside of the Church, live without knowing at what door to knock. Surely Jesus would be good news for them.

Antonio Pagola



Our parish offers our prayer and congratulations to Archbishop John Wilson whose birthday is on 4th July. He is pictured here with Pope Francis after receiving the pallium on 29 June 2019



"Until the great mass of people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each others welfare, social justice can never be attained." - Helen Keller

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](#).

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.

Remember Noah and pray for his family



In your kindness, when you pray please remember 14 year old Noah Donohoe who died recently in Belfast. Noah was the grandson of parishioner Pat Burton's brother. We hold all of Noah's family in our hearts prayerfully as they live with this devastating news and grieve his loss. Mass was offered here for Noah and his family last Monday.

Mary Henderson, RIP



In your kindness, when you pray please remember Mary Henderson who died last Sunday, 28th June. Our hearts are truly saddened by this news, and they go out to her devoted husband Mike, her son Tom and her grandson Adam, together with her sisters and many friends. Mary was an active member of our parish and a great contributor to the life of this historic town of Faversham. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Mary's funeral will be on Monday 20th July.



Our Parish is served by a Community of Carmelite Friars

OUR CHURCH IS NOW OPEN FOR INDIVIDUAL VISITS

A GRADUAL PROCESS

Our church is now open for individual visits and prayer. The requirements of a thorough Risk Assessment are in place and have been approved by the archdiocese. 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

With the experience of the past couple of weeks and how people are using these opportunities, we will review these times over the next few weeks.

VOLUNTEERS

We are very grateful to parishioners who have already volunteered to assist in stewarding and those who have come to pray.

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.

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 or socialising.

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

PUBLIC MASS IN OUR PARISH

This weekend some but not all churches will be able to celebrate public Mass. We are working towards having public Mass together soon, but do not have everything ready yet for this next step. We hope to be able to celebrate public Masses **from 19th July** (to be confirmed next week and once we have received the necessary permission). This would have been the date of our Parish Day and our annual celebration together of the patronal feast of our parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This seems a fitting date on which to begin public Mass again.

As we return to Mass together we will notice some differences, as we follow as best we can the Government's and Church's guidelines in order to reduce any risk of the spread of the virus.

With social distancing, there will obviously be limited space. We will be asked to sanitise our hands on entering and leaving, and we will be asked to use designated seats.

As immediately before the lockdown, Holy Communion will only be offered on the hand and there will be no physical Sign of Peace. Holy water stoups will be dry. Toilet facilities will not be available.

Masses will be shorter than usual (including the homilies!) and there will be no singing.

It is realistic to assume that not everyone will return to Mass at once, but we do need to consider how to manage sensibly and safely the numbers we anticipate. With a limit for each Mass, we will encourage parishioners to "register" for a Mass, so that people are not disappointed if Masses are full. Further, we will all need to be flexible, respectful of others' needs and may need to spread ourselves out over the whole week.

Additionally, to comply with the Government's 'Track & Trace' policy, each of us will need to give our name, contact details and which Mass we attend. This information will be held securely in the Parish Office for 21 days after each Mass.

We will need additional volunteers to help with stewarding at each Mass and sanitising afterwards.

Unfortunately, as it is not our building and no risk assessment has been completed for the Greenstreet Chapel, there will be no Mass at this time in Teynham.

With all of this, we know that our parishioners are understanding, sensible and aware of the necessity for these measures. Thank you for your continuing patience as we do our best to get things right for the benefit of all.

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

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its décor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp --
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
'I would love to hear Your take.
'How'd all these sinners get up here?
'God must've made a mistake.'

'And why is everyone so quiet,
'So somber -- give me a clue.'

'Hush, child,' He said,
'They're all in shock!

'No one thought they'd see you.'



Author Unknown

(Though possibly written by either the worst sinner or the most thankful person in heaven, or both!)

JUDGE NOT! Remember...Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian
any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.



Summer Delight

Images from Veronica and Steve Tombs' garden



Whitefriars Garden, Church and Shrine of St Jude

Recently a short 5 minute reflective video was uploaded to YouTube.

You can view it [here](#)



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, 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 Mary Henderson, Anthony Roberts, Val Newman, Ellen Waters, John Grant, Kevin Aylett, Martin Gough, Rhiannon Newbery and those whose anniversaries are about this time including: John Regan, Ron Galligan, Pat Chapman, Augusta Lewis, Eire Meek, Annaliese Speller, Joan Woodward and Michael Carpenter.

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, 7th July 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, 10th 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 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

Need the SVP? Tel. 07563 702033

We hold each other prayerfully in our hearts

