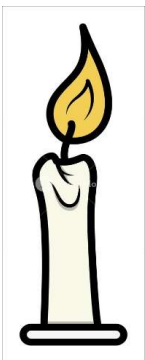


St Werburgh's Sunday Newsletter No.1 We may not be able to meet at church, but we are not separated! While our regular worship rhythm has been - temporarily - disrupted, we will keep in touch via this weekly newsletter, our website and Facebook.

Message from our Archbishops The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written to all Church of England clergy regarding the current situation. As this Sunday is Mothering Sunday, they asked us to mark it with a day of prayer and action:



*We have called, along with our fellow church leaders, for a day of prayer and action this coming Sunday - Mothering Sunday (22nd March). Mothering Sunday has always been both a day of celebration for many and a sensitive and emotional day for some. Wherever you are this Sunday please do join in this day of prayer and action and remember especially those who are sick or anxious, and all involved in our Health Service. **As one action, we are calling on everyone to place a lighted candle in their window at 7.00 p.m. as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished.***

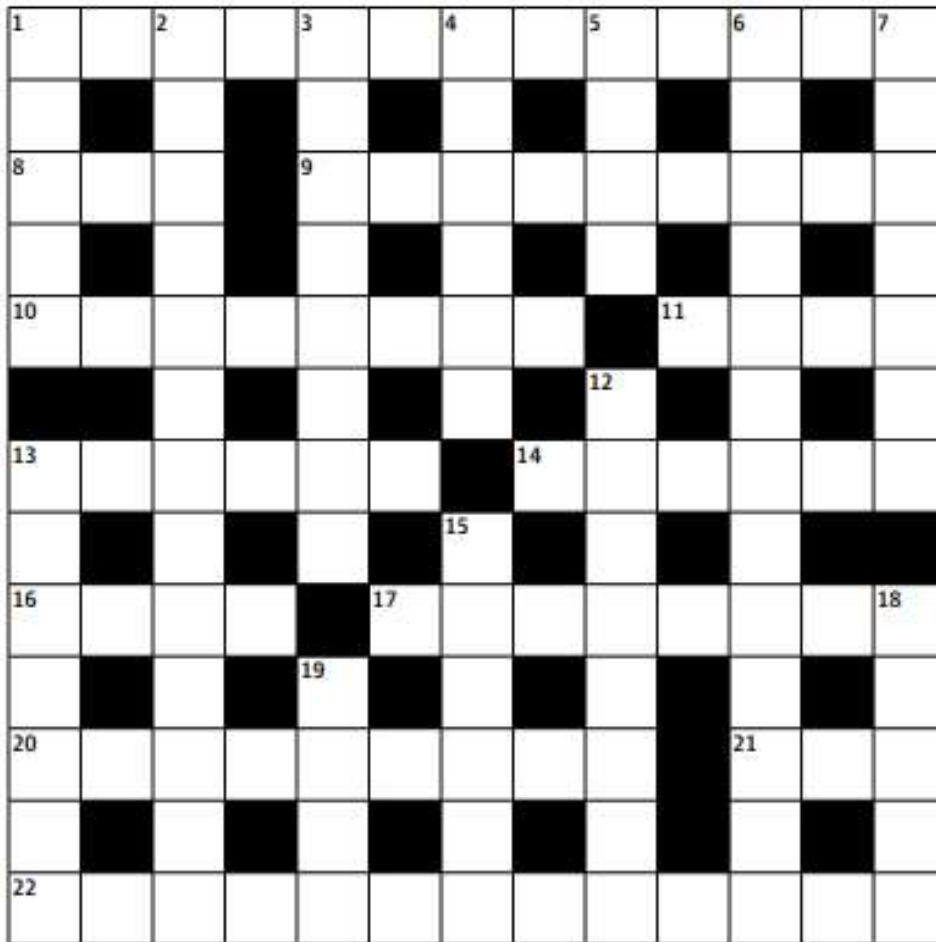
2 Corinthians 1: 3-7 The Message Bible

All praise to the God and Father of our Master, Jesus the Messiah! Father of all mercy! God of all healing counsel! He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. We have plenty of hard times that come from following the Messiah, but no more so than the good times of his healing comfort - we get a full measure of that, too. When we suffer for Jesus, it works out for your healing and salvation. If we are treated well, given a helping hand and encouraging word, that also works to your benefit, spurring you on, face forward, unflinching. Your hard times are also our hard times. When we see that you're just as willing to endure the hard times as to enjoy the good times, we know you're going to make it, no doubt about it.

John 19 : 25b-27 The Message Bible

Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood at the foot of the cross. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he standing loved near her. He said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that moment the disciple accepted her as his own mother.

Keeping you busy 😊



Across

- 1 Madly (in love)? (4,4,5)
- 8 Wet soft earth (3)
- 9 East Midlands city, home of the National Space Centre (9)
- 10 Go faster! (4,2,2)
- 11 Let out (4)
- 13 Mollycoddle (6)
- 14 Cheats (anag) – small porous bag (6)
- 16 Communal bedroom (abbr) (4)
- 17 Toys made of cloth, stuffed and painted (3,5)
- 20 Gilbert and Sullivan operetta (3,6)
- 21 Perceive (3)
- 22 She was Duchess of Windsor, 1937-1986 (6,7)

Down

- 1 Songs of praise (5)
- 2 Poet who wrote To His Coy Mistress (6,7)
- 3 Witness (8)
- 4 Magical potion (6)
- 5 Gardening tools (4)
- 6 Issue or accept a challenge – lent tee shirts (anag) (5,3,5)
- 7 Snake – old wind instrument (7)
- 12 Officers' mess on a warship (8)
- 13 North Cornish resort with an annual 'Obby 'Oss festival (7)
- 15 Pester persistently (6)
- 18 Back of a boat (5)
- 19 Someone from New Zealand? (4)

Did you know? You can hear The Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon every Sunday at 8:10am on BBC Radio 4 (92-95 FM, or, 103-105FM)

No public services until further notice

Church is open daily 10am to 8pm for private prayer.

Want to help?

We are collecting basic groceries and goods for those who need them. Please drop them into the church welcome area between 10am and 8pm. Or call Fr J on 07530984137

Need help?

If you need ANYTHING at all, we can help! We can phone you if you are lonely, get some shopping done for you, bring you books to read and so on! Contact Fr J on 07530984137

This week's Sermon (Fr Julian)

I read the readings for today, Mothering Sunday, as if I was reading them for the first time this week. The extraordinary events we are living through almost, for me at least, making the scriptures speak to me as if for the first time. For more than at any time in our lives we are being called to do the impossible and to do the impossible in the most practical of ways. We are being called to trust in God and to do that by looking beyond our own need, to look even beyond the needs of our family and to care for each other, neighbour and stranger alike.

St Paul speaking in our first reading to the people of Corinth could be talking to each of us in our homes this morning in Spondon. "God brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times, so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us."

Traditionally on this morning at Church the children hand out daffodils, we make sure everyone gets one, not just the mums but the nanas and the grandpas, the dads, the aunties and uncles and perhaps most especially the children give out flowers to those who would otherwise be left out, those people with perhaps no family to notice whether they got flowers or not.

Someone who works in a supermarket was telling me about a couple from their street who in order to get around the restriction on only buying 3 of any item had gone into the shop with two separate trollies. Some of the basics shelves were nearly empty and yet they took 6 of everything. Were they mindful I wonder of the elderly and frail person who couldn't go from shop to shop and didn't have the money to buy more expensive items, was it a case of not thinking or was it a case of knowingly choosing to ignore those in our community going through hard times?

You may have seen the story doing the rounds on Facebook of the nurse, who at the end of a forty hour shift this week couldn't actually feed her family, not because she didn't have the money, nor because there isn't enough food to go around, but because people before her had taken what they did not need, people who in the weeks and months ahead may well depend upon her skill and her commitment.

In our short Gospel story today Jesus looks down upon Mary his Mother and John his friend, even in his agony he gives John the instruction to make a place in his home for Mary. Christ is saying the same to us.

A fine definition of sin is when we take people who are subjects of God's love and make them objects of our greed and a good definition of prayer is when we look upon people whom we do not even know and make them the subjects of our hearts before God.

If you are self isolating, I thank God for your presence of mind and commitment to do what you can to prevent the spread of the virus. If you are a young family, homeschooling for these weeks, thank you for taking on the burden to ensure we save lives. If you are a health worker, support worker, paramedic or police officer, if you teach or assist in school,

if you are continuing to collect the rubbish, deliver the post, get food on the shelves, or look after kids at home, in fact whatever you do at this time you are doing God's work because we all depend upon each other.

Let us do so consciously, let us care for those who might otherwise go by unnoticed, let us not come from fear, nor greed. Let us not be indifferent, failing to socially distance or buying more than we need knowing that even if we get the virus we'll be OK. The person who is vulnerable needs us all to do our part together, they need us to wash our hands, they need us to check if they are ok, they need us to do a shop, they need us to treat them as if they were a member of our family. Their life depends on it.

You are all in my prayers at this time. Get in touch. There's information on the parish website on what help is available and what help you can provide for in the words of Lilo from the kid's film Lilo and Stitch "Nobody gets left behind or forgotten."

God bless you all with great love. Fr J

Being careful, caring for all @ St Werburgh's