NEWSLETTER

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This week Sunday 10th March 2024

Today Lent 4 Mothering Sunday Monday 11th March	9.00am 10.00am 10.00am	Low Mass Parish Mass. West Park Writers
Tuesday 12th March	1.30pm 6.30pm	Children's Church Choir
Wednesday 13th March	10.30am 11.30am 1.00pm 7.00pm	Mass at St. Werburgh's Mass at St Philip's School Meeting in the Parish Room Lent Group
Thursday 14th March Friday 15th March	7.00pm	Lectio Divina after mass

Saturday 16th March. 4.30pm. Stations of the Cross Burial of ashes

Sunday 17th March 9.00am Low Mass **Passiontide** 10.00am Parish Mass

By name we pray for

Stewart Wharton, Iris George, Doris Blurton, Joe, Joan Pugh, Joshua, Margaret, Dulcie Morley, Brian Harbord, Michael Carey, Stephen Bowdler, Marie, Eric and Dorothy Boston, Brian Peake Joshua, Doran, Kath Winter, Sophie,

RIP: Rosemary Walsham



If you've books suitable for 4-11yr olds or natures books, encyclopaedias etc bring them to church.

Or make a donation to purchase new books!

The Mothers' Union are collecting East

Eggs to take to Revive for the distribute to children that you would like to it would be very are as a 10th March then will take them to Revive in good time for their distribution.

Donations for Easter Flowers



If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the Flowers to decorate church at Easter, in memory of a loved one or to mark a special occasion, please put in an envelope with the names of those to be remembered written clearly on the envelope and give to Shirley Donovan or Sue Clewes.

Or post to Shirley Donovan. 7 Glendale Drive, Spondon. Derby. DE21 7DX.

Please gift aid if you are taxpayer, A memorial list will be placed in the Sanctuary during the Easter Festival. Any monies excess to cost will be used for church adornment throughout the year. I always strive to source the best flowers at the best price, your continuing support is greatly appreciated. **Shirley**

DECORATING CHURCH FOR EASTER

Decorating church for Easter will be on Saturday 30th March, starting at 9.30am Lots of help needed please, also lots of seasonal greenery, which can be brought to church on the Saturday morning.

Seasonal refreshments will be available.

Lots of jobs to do apart from flowers, so please come along and join us if you can. Please let me know if you can help, as this assists our planning.

Shirley
Mobile 07582347533
shirldonovan@btinternet.com

Holy Week Retreat

Most people would never think of making a retreat. For starter most people couldn't afford the cost nor the time of going away for a few days, but you don't have to do either.

Here at St Werburgh's each Holy Week the opportunity is provided for you to make a retreat if you want to.

- It costs nothing.
- You don't have to go away and it fits around your life.
- You definitely don't need any experience.
- And you definitely don't need to be holy!
- You just need a curious heart....

People go on retreat for lots of reasons... life change, illness, big decision to make, or just because you like the idea of time to pray... time for you... time for God.

Basically you meet each day with your retreat guide where, when and for however long works for you and they will enable you to do what you want... talk and issue through... try different ways of praying... read the bible, sit in silence... its different for each person and you set the pace......and that's it!

We gather as a retreat at the start and the finish but apart from that its up to you what services you want to attend... there's morning and evening prayer and Mass every day... but the point is the retreat fits around you.

Want to know more then see Canon J or Mtr Kate.

An opportunity open to all, whether working or retired, partnered, single or with a family.....



in Daily Life
In Daily Life
In Palm Sunday In Holy Saturday
In Holy Satu

More details on the website www.stwerburgh.com

Do you need to refresh your relationship with God? You can do it without leaving home.

Accompanied by a retreat guide journey through Holy Week with Jesus alongside fellow pilgrims towards resurrection.

This Holy Week, we invite you to go deeper. Come join our Holy Week Retreat

Come and speak to Canon J if you'd like to know more...



As we do every year, after we have finished on Good Friday lots of us stay for an hour to do the annual spring clean of church. There are lots of jobs so whether you 3 or 93 there's something to do - from cleaning brasses to cleaning the organ, ironing linen to dusting chandeliers and replacing lights....

As always lots of hot cross buns and lashings of tea and coffee..... sign up at the notice board!



Only one person indicated they were interested in film night indicate by Sunday 10th if you're coming as otherwise Lent Group can take place



This week's Gospel

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Canon J's Reflection

When I was growing up, I found it quite hard to believe there was anything loveable about me, particularly as a late teenager. I was extremely close to my sister (who is a bit older than me) and her partner through my adolescence, spending huge amounts of time with them and I now recognise they were in a very real way my actual mum and dad.

Then somewhat suddenly they emigrated to Australia, where through their talent and a lot of hard work, they built a very wonderful life. Much as I celebrate that, for me when they left it was like a bereavement, except nobody had died. I didn't really feel anywhere was home, I felt unseen and I had very little sense of self. Just at the age many kids turn their backs on church and faith, I turned to it, because I encountered there some pretty amazing people and also I stumbled across the work of the Christian writer Henri Nouwen, a beautiful broken man, whose extraordinary writing about his own brokenness and discovering a deeper relationship with Jesus in that, spoke to me deeply. So it was within my church community that I began to discover a sense as an adult that there was anything lovable about me.

That searching for home is a central feature of my vocation as a priest, as it was for Henri Nouwen. So Mothering Sunday is a complicated day for me, as it is for lots and lots of people and if it isn't complicated for you, then I totally celebrate and rejoice in that, but I guess my words are for those who feel loss, bereavement or confusion, those who feel uncared for or careless, those who feel longing and those who feel regret at this poignant time.

In adolescence I chose to make the real me invisible, a ghost and I know from years of having the privilege of accompanying folk that my experience was not unique. When we feel inadequate, when we feel unseen, when we perhaps have experienced loss at a deep level, we sometimes look for things to do or things to hold onto, in order to prove our worth, or to have some sense of personhood. We can look for ways to construct a persona that will be enough...........You are enough.

The American celebrity talk show host David Letterman had the words 'I hate myself' on his desk on the Late Show every night. For all his fame, he lived as a fragmented person, where only some constructed fragments of himself were worthy. That is not self love at all, to have to hide or to perform in order to keep it. That can make us afraid and we might start pretending, scapegoating, measuring, blaming, disappearing. It can be a great motivator for material success.

In his last words from the Cross Jesus addresses his mother and his besty... instructing them, in the circumstances compelling them, to find love in each other, in his brokenness Jesus says to both of them "In each other you belong." In a few minutes we're going to come to our altar together, where God's self is broken open and poured out, but its not a guilt trip, its not about us being sacrificed for God, and thinking that's a good thing.... Though for generations our church culture has perhaps been about that. Perhaps its about us bringing our broken bits, and that's ok and together perhaps, just perhaps, it can be a meal that gently tastes of freedom. When I give you the Bread of Life I say 'Receive what you are the Body of Christ' Christ in us, and as we take this meal together, fractured as we all are, I suggest to you that we stand in solidarity with all the disparate parts of community, the forgotten, the marginalised, the persecuted and the invisible. And perhaps we can look with love on all the disparate parts of our own selves.

The Gospel of Christ is the Good News that you are enough. We aren't a membership club of the perfect, around our altar we need not pretend we have it all sorted - God knows me fully bungled and botched as I am and loves me unconditionally, God knows you fully and loves each of you unconditionally. When I think I am alone or that its all up to me, when we cannot see the way ahead... let us know that we are enough ... my dear people each of you is enough and in that knowledge comes resurrection.