



WEEKLY LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

Sunday May 17th 2020 – 6th Sunday of Easter

WELCOME to the latest weekly letter as we continue our journey through Eastertide together, celebrating the Easter message of death being swallowed up in life, a message that our hurting world desperately needs to hear. Today, our Gospel Reading contains a commandment and a promise – a command that we should love one another, and Jesus' promise to send us his Holy Spirit to help us in our living and loving. In doing so Jesus prepares us for the time of his



Ascension and the coming of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost when the promises of Easter are finally fulfilled. Let's keep the 'Alleluias' loud and clear for these last two weeks of Eastertide!

Don't forget to keep in touch if there is any way in which I can help you – chaplain@scilly.church / 423911.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP

As on every Sunday, the Church is providing online worship resources at national, diocesan and local level. You can access the National Service from 9.00 a.m. each Sunday on www.churchofengland.org

You can worship with Bishop Philip and Ruth via the diocesan website (www.trurodiocese.org.uk) from 8.00 a.m. on Sunday morning, or join them for an informal live service on Facebook Live at 9.30 a.m.



Last, but certainly not least (!), don't forget that our Parish Morning Service will be taking place via Zoom on Sunday at 11.00 a.m. As last Sunday, the code is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/477892334?pwd=aWVpWXVidksralpVZm1yUjN6VDg0dz09>. Just click on this on a phone or tablet, or

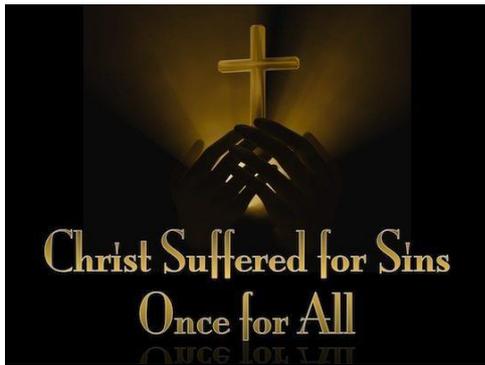
ctrl+click on a desktop or laptop, and you should be there. You will be able to join from 10.30 a.m. and chat to others before we start properly at 11.00 a.m. It was very encouraging to see even more of you last Sunday, and I hope that we may be able to welcome a few additional members this time round. **Please note that there are times during the service when I am unable to admit you, so it would be helpful if you could join us by 10.55 a.m. if possible.** If you need to join later, you may need to wait for a few minutes until there is a suitable moment for me to admit you. Do feel free to invite your friends or family to join us, wherever they are.

ASCENSION DAY

A reminder that this coming Thursday is Ascension Day – one of the few weekdays of the year that contains an important festival. We usually mark it with a special service in Church, so this year we will meet by Zoom instead. **The code will be the same as for our Sunday worship** (see above) and the service will begin at 7.30 p.m. and end in good time for our usual 'Clap for Carers' at 8.00 p.m. I hope that many of you may be able to join me in keeping this important day in the Christian Year on **Thursday at 7.30 p.m.**



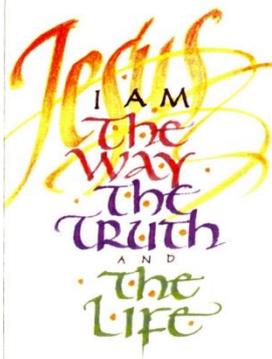
THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS



You can find the Sunday readings and prayers on one of the other attachments or enclosures that I have sent to you. As well as reading the Gospel with Jesus' commandment and promise from **John 14**, you may like to ponder the reading from **1 Peter 3**. As well as speaking (in the words above) about the significance of Christ's death, the writer also gives us an intriguing hint as to the mystery between Good Friday and Easter Day, when Jesus went to 'make a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey'. Here is the promise that what is past can be redeemed, that even the darkness of sin and the grave cannot separate us for the message of good news in Jesus.

THINKING IT THROUGH

As usual I'm attaching/enclosing two thought provoking articles reflecting on the current crisis. Both of them consider what we have learnt from the present pandemic, and both are by cathedral deans. Any more and we would be in danger of having a 'forest of deans'! Some of you will remember David Ison,



the Dean of St. Paul's, who led worship in several of our churches a couple of years ago. The other writer is Nicholas Henshall, the Dean of Chelmsford, and a friend of mine from theological college days – can they really be 35 years ago?! I'm also attaching/including my sermon from last Sunday on Jesus' promise to prepare a home for us, for those who may want to read it.

A FORM OF PRAYER DURING THE PRESENT PANDEMIC

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

May the Lord bless us,
and preserve us from all evil
and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Please be assured of my love and prayers.

Perran

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