

03.04.2020

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you very much for your prayers, good wishes and support in these unusual circumstances. Please be assured of our prayers for you especially as we say Masses and Rosary every day.

As the church remains closed for the public, please join us in a **spiritual way** in our Holy Week celebrations. In normal circumstances we start on Palm Sunday. This is a day when we bless palms leaves or crosses and then during Mass listen to and meditate upon the Passion of the Lord.

On Monday we used to have our Parish Reconciliation Service. Since the Church is closed and we have to keep social distancing an individual confession is practically restricted to emergency situations. But please make the act of contrition or sorrow and ask God's forgiveness for any sin committed.

On Maundy Thursday we remember institution of the sacrament of the Eucharist and Priesthood. The Mass of the Lord Supper begins Holy Triduum. The rite of the washing of feet reminds us that we need to put into practice the commandment to love God and one another as Jesus taught us.

Good Friday is a day when Jesus died for us and for our salvation on the Cross. On that day we venerate the Cross during Good Friday Liturgy, and follow the Stations of the Cross. This is a day of fasting and abstinence.

The central point of Holy Saturday is the Liturgy of Pascal Vigil. It starts after sunset with blessing of fire. From that fire a new Pascal Candle is lighted and then the candles people hold during procession to the church. The Exulted (Easter Proclamation) is sung and we listen to a number of Readings reminding us the main events from the history of salvation. The joyful singing of Gloria begins the Celebration of Easter.

As we are not able to celebrate all these things in usual way, let us make this week holy in a spiritual way in the unity with all our brothers and sisters.

We do not provide livestreaming from our church however you can look at <https://www.churchservices.tv/> to see Mass and Holy Week celebrations in other churches. Daily liturgical resources for those at home, including Live-streaming of mass are also available on the CBCEW website. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

Those who use Instagram, especially young people are invited to join services from the Chapel at Walsingham House at Abbotswick at www.bcys.net

You are always present in our prayers.

Fr Edward