ST MARK'S PARISH CHURCH REIGATE

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DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

CROYDON EPISCOPAL AREA

ARCHDEACONRY OF REIGATE

Following the advice and guidance provided by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York services of public worship are to be suspended until further notice.

SUNDAY 29 MARCH (LENT 5 – PASSION SUNDAY) These are the two readings set for this Sunday

THE FIRST READING Romans 8: 6 to 11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason, the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

THE GOSPEL READING

John 11: 1 to 45

A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary staved at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up guickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So, the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So, they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

INTERCESSIONS

Please pray for those in particular need: Sharon Willans, Geraldine Wright, Jean Hovey, Alison Stagg, Yvonne Powell, Esther Lyons

For those living in The Tudors

For Christ Church, South Nutfield

For anniversaries falling at this time: Sydney Bufton, John Gascoigne-Pees, Roy Henderson, Ann (Angela) Whitwell, Phyllis Prance, Lorna Bennell

THE HOLY LAND

Chris and I will be leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land **next year**. The dates are **5 to 14 January 2021**. The cost, which includes flights, coach travel, a local guide, entrance fees and all gratuities, and staying in comfortable 3^* and 4^* hotels on a **full-board** basis is £1,995 per person. Brochures and forms are available. If you have any questions, please ask.

Fr Martin

PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Annual Meeting (APCM) has now been postponed until the autumn, so there is no imminent closure of the Electoral Roll. However, if you are not on the Roll, are 16 or over and either live in the Parish or have habitually worshipped at St Mark's for six months, and would like to be included, please ask me for the simple application form and return it to me. I will be happy to answer any questions you may like to ask about the Roll. During the present emergency I am quite happy to receive forms at 46 Ridgeway Road, Redhill RH1 6PH as I can always process these at home.

Terrence Hancock Acting Electoral Roll Officer 01737 761178



CHRISTMAS APPEAL

This year we are supporting two projects: EducAid, supporting the costs of a classroom/boarding space for girls and young women returnina to education in Sierra Leone, a country where gender inequality is deeply engrained in tradition and cultural practices. The second project is supporting Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Services, buying devices to test blood samples of people living in extremely remote areas of Ethopia, giving them a chance of earlier treatment where necessary. The people served by these devices will number approximately 350,000. Please contact Barbara Perkins (Barbara@barbaraperkins.co.uk) for further information. If you haven't had a chance to donate yet, the Christmas Appeal will remain open until the end of March and your support is much appreciated.

We will be closing the Appeal on 31 March.

Barbara Perkins, Chairman

WORSHIP

Although no Public Worship is being held at this time, every Sunday you will be able to participate in worshipping with me via our website. Initially this is just an audio link, but we may use video in the future. There are links on our website to other Church of England worship materials including the Daily Prayer App which I use every day. Perhaps you might like to use this with me every morning?

I will continue to pray for the parish every day and so I will be praying for all of you.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

In the past week I have written further emails to all our contacts about the changing situation.

The Churchwardens and I wish to hear from anyone who would like any help or a chat. Also, we want to hear from anyone who may be able to offer some help to those in our community who have been advised to self-isolate. Please contact the office 07979 788601 or email help@stmarksreigate.co.uk

If you would like copies of these or would like to be included in future email updates, please contact the Parish Office. Also please pass on this information to any others who may not have received this information

PARISH OFFICE

Alexia, our Parish Administrator, is working from home until further notice. She has the office computer and is able to complete all the administrative tasks needed. Alexia is also a vital part of the help we are giving to members of our community.

As she is working from home, the contact number has changed. Please call Alexia on **07979 788601** for anything connected with the office. The email address remains the same. Alternatively, Fr Martin can be contacted on 01737 241161.

Please send any notices for the News Sheet to Terrence Hancock 🕾 01737 761178 or by email to t.f.hancock@btinternet.com at the latest by **8.00am** on Thursday