

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF LYMINGTON, BROCKENHURST & MILFORD-ON-SEA

Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph
132 High St, Lymington, SO41 9AQ

St Anne
Rhinefield Rd, Brockenhurst, SO42 7SR

St Francis of Assisi
Park Lane, Milford-on-Sea, SO41 0PT

Parish Contacts:

Parish Office: Maryhouse, 132 High Street, Lymington SO41 9AQ. **Telephone:** 01590 676696.

Parish Priest: Rev David Adams; **Parish Administrator:** Lisa Thurston. **Email:** lymbrockmil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website: www.nfwp.org.uk; **Parish Blog:** www.lymrcchurch.blogspot.com. **Registered Charity No:** 246871/2
School: Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Ramley Rd, Pennington, 01590 672711. Exec. Head: Gerida Montague
Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils: Mike Reynolds, Lymington; Ian Holden, Brockenhurst; Anthony Kirke, Milford on Sea
Parish Safeguarding Representative: Vanessa Dugdale (Lym); Susan McCabe (Brock); Liz White (Mil).
PA to Pastoral Co Ordinator & Health & Safety Co ordinator : Linda Guilding; **Health & Safety Reps St Francis:** Colin Stack & John Parry . **For the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion to the Sick or housebound:** Contact the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

If needed urgently contact Fr David at the parish office.

The Week: 3rd May 2020 - 10th May 2020 - ALL PUBLIC MASSES SUSPENDED

DAY	DATE	SERVICE	LITURGY	INTENTION	P
SUN	3 rd	Mass	Fourth Sunday of Easter Yr A (W)	For the People of the Parish	DMA
MON	4 th	Mass	The English Martyrs, Feast, (R)	as per celebrant	PWR
TUE	5 th	Mass	of the 4 th Week of Easter (W)	Patricia Mate RIP	DMA
WED	6 th	Mass	of the 4 th Week of Easter (W)	Jim Holder RIP Anniv	DMA
THU	7 th	Mass	of the 4 th Week of Easter (W)	Roy Beachey RIP Anniv	DMA
FRI	8 th	Mass	of the 4 th Week of Easter (W)	The Baker Family F/M	DMA
SAT	9 th	Mass	of the 4 th Week of Easter (W)	Clare Barry-Ball RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	10 th	Mass	Fifth Sunday of Easter Yr A (W)	For the People of the Parish	DMA

CHURCH CLOSURE: WHY WE MUST MOURN.

by Sara Parvis, a senior lecturer in Patristics at the University of Edinburgh.
Published in The Tablet, 30-04-20

Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament is part of the lifeblood of the Catholic faith. A theologian writes of the depth of her grief at being unable to receive the Eucharist – and why we must not allow self-pity to distract us from our responsibility to protect the most vulnerable

The little Catholic chapel in Edinburgh that I normally attend has a glass front, and looks on to a garden. This means that you can still see both the tabernacle and the lit sanctuary lamp next to it from the lane behind the church, even when the back gate is locked.

I was enormously proud of the Church's prompt response to the coronavirus pandemic, and had little time for those who thought otherwise. It was just the reverse of the child abuse crisis: we saw the institution moving swiftly to protect the vulnerable, showing intelligence and resolve, and swallowing the probable cost to its own status and financial security without hesitation. Led by Pope Francis, who smothered all self-pitying tendencies by directing our gaze to the health workers, bus drivers and supermarket workers daily risking themselves for others, the Church laid down its life, the life of its public Eucharist, for the good of the people, in hope and trust that in due time God would allow it to take it up again.

Our local community of Dominican friars moved quickly to become connected to their people in other ways, broadcasting their celebrations of the Mass on their Facebook page and sending out a daily email with spiritual reflections and jokey video clips intended to keep our spirits up, braving for the common good the risk of inciting volatile responses from pent-up parishioners with frustration in their hearts and too much time on their hands.

I have always had a strong devotion to receiving the Eucharist; praying before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle and on the altar has also become very dear to me in recent years. We need a tangible sense of Christ's presence. We need to know that Christ is with us. Of course, you can find Christ in others, in prayer, and clothed in the flesh of Scripture. You can find Christ in your heart, in your memory, understanding and will. But Christ in the Eucharist has a sureness, a concreteness, that is irreplaceable. Yet I knew we had to give that up to safeguard as far as possible the lives of our fellow parishioners and their families.

I was surprised, therefore, at the strength of my reactions to watching from afar the Dominican community celebrating the Triduum without the people. I felt not only terrible desolation but also naked jealousy. It looked like some kind of clericalist fantasy: no lay people, and above all no women. I so missed every lay reader, psalm singer, coffee maker; I missed the thrill of gathering in the fresh, cold night as a raggle-taggle group in the lane for the blessing of the new fire, the dark, excited procession back into the church, the organ and bells at the Gloria, the invocation of the saints and the sloshing of the holy water over us all, ending with sharing the Eucharist together. I missed joining everyone afterwards to share our Easter joy. So many are Vatican II Catholics in their seventies and eighties, my parents' generation, who had remained faithful and joyful over so many years. These were also the people most in danger from the virus. I thought of what the chances were of going back to normal again next year, and wept.

Instead, we watched other people feast on the risen Christ together while we fasted separately from behind an impregnable online wall. It was meant to comfort, but it felt like being shut out of Paradise. The "Act of Spiritual Communion" said at every Eucharist jarred more than anything. "Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You." "At least" spiritually! "As if" you were already there! What atrocious theology! St Alphonsus Liguori was bad enough; the suggestion, widely offered by friends both clerical and lay, that being separated from the sacraments might somehow help us appreciate them more was salt on the wound. It seemed to make a mockery of my fast, dictating the terms of my grief, somehow hinting that it was my faith that was lacking.

Yet I also recognised over the successive liturgies the shining witness of the friars to Christ in the quiet dignity of their celebrations, and their care for one another and for us. So I carried on wrestling with it all. I started a series of arguments with different people (over the phone and by email), and did some further reading and thinking. Another Dominican, expert in the theology of sacramental desire, took me to task for misprizing the notion of Spiritual Communion as somehow second best, argued it all out with me, and sent me off to read St Thomas Aquinas on the subject (Summa III.80.1, since you ask). I realised that he was right that physical and Spiritual Communion are equivalent in Thomas' teaching (much to my surprise). I also saw that, for St Thomas, although the Eucharist heals and feeds us as individuals, just as important is its function of making us into the Church, joining us as Christ's members to the Head.

At this, it all fell into place, with a bit of help from Mary Magdalene. The deep grief I felt was her grief at the apparent disappearance of Christ's body, the gathered Church. Only the dry bones, dismembered and deprived of flesh, seemed to remain of the assembly of the people that we had been. But Ezekiel had prophesied to us resurrection as a people, a rejoining of bone to sinew and flesh to flesh. Christ would still raise Lazarus for Martha and Mary, no matter how late his coming seemed, and in the meantime he would weep with them. While we wait and watch and ponder the Crucifixion from afar, or in some cases very close-up, only a truly sacramental desire, continually renewed in our hearts, to be again the re-membered Church, can keep us from oblivion and allow us to see and hear the resurrected Lord once more. It is and has long been the depths of our longing to be the Church, our longing to be the Body of Christ, which is the source of our grief. This is why we mourn, and this is how and why we shall be comforted when Christ shall choose to raise us.

Meanwhile, we must stand at the gate and gaze on Christ until it is opened and we can enter the garden once more.

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Alfred Bernard Little (3rd), Alma O'Sullivan, Vera Irene White (4th), Arthur Joseph Bishop (6th), Peter Igoe, Claire Patricia Weaver (7th)

Sick & Housebound: Sr Rosaleen, Josie Warren, Richard Blacklock, Daphne Jones, Colin Stack, Joan Lloyd, Marjorie Horton, Sarah Bell, Alison Doubleday & Sean McVeigh.

PRAYERS PLEASE: for Louise Layne, Rosalie Mans daughter in Australia, who is suffering from cancer and needs further treatment.

New Forest Basic Bank has now moved into their new premises. Just in time, because we are now EXTREMELY busy as a result of redundancy etc. Also Hollands of Milford have kindly put a crate in their shop to receive gifts of goods and food for NFBB to distribute to the hungry. We invite you to give generously, please. I can send you photos of our new purpose-built home if you would like to see. Anthony Kirke, treasurer@basicsbank.org.uk.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: John Joseph Boocock (5th); Vera Cassidy, Lance Reginald Day (6th); Lilian Le Chevalier, Frederick Matthews (8th)

Sick and Housebound: Please keep in your prayers: Sr Rosaleen, Helen Pignatelli, Edelweiss James, Sean Dunn, Linda Reardon and Mary Byrne.

RECITING THE ROSARY: We thought it would be nice if, during the month of May, anyone who would like to could say the Rosary from our own homes at the usual time of 9.30 am on a Wednesday. This could bring us closer together in prayer with each other and with Our Blessed Lady.

BROCKCARE: Here are the relevant contact details:

St Anne's: Ian and Aude – 623408; Madeleine and Paul - 622360

Brockcare: St Saviour's Church Office - 624584

(Open 10.00 - 12.00 Mon to Friday. At other times please leave a message and your phone number and someone will get back to you ASAP)
Joyce Kolaczowski (Brockcare) - 623329

A MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH TREASURER: Thank you to all in the Parish who are making their Offertory by standing order and direct debit at this difficult time. I have had calls from parishioners who normally make their offerings in the plate who have asked if there is any way they could make payments by cheque for normal offerings and Easter Offerings.

If you would like to make payments you can send cheques. All cheques should be made to "PRCDTR Brockenhurst St Anne"
If you want to send an Easter Offering to Fr David please put a note with the cheque to say it is an Easter Offering. I will add gift aid where necessary.

Please post the cheques to St Anne's Church, Rhinefield Road, Brockenhurst SO42 7SR. or put them through the Church letterbox in an envelope marked Offertory. Cheques only please no cash. If you have any query, please ring me.

Stay Safe. With Thanks Bill Pignatelli 623360

Any items for the newsletter to anna@boylemellor.co.uk to arrive EARLIER PLEASE - WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME

All Parishes

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: www.nfwp.org.uk for more resources to support us in our faith and in our care of one another.

FOOD BANK UPDATE: The Food Bank is now working five days a week 9.00 to 2.00 to keep up with the demand. Also **Hollands of Milford** have kindly put a crate in their shop to receive gifts of goods and food for NFBB to distribute to the hungry. We invite you to give generously, please. I can send you photos of our new purpose-built home if you would like to see. Anthony Kirke, treasurer@basicsbank.org.uk. The new address is: New Forest Basics Bank, Rear of 132 High Street, Lymington, SO41 9AQ Tel: 01590 610008

ARUNDEL CATHEDRAL CARPET OF FLOWERS: As we probably could have predicted, this event has been cancelled for 2020. Many thanks to all those who took an interest earlier in the year. However, the **Mass for Corpus Christi** (Sunday, 14th June) will still go ahead and will be live streamed. Details available on Arundel Cathedral website. Let's pray for a better outcome in 2021.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Leigh Horton, John Elmer Stevens, Jane Fletcher (3rd), Cliff Borrell, John Szwaczka (4th), Thomas Augustine Feehan, Irene Shepperd (5th), Edith Theresa Mould, Jim Holder (6th), Bruna Baker (7th)

Sick and Housebound: Jane Rayner, Sr Rosaleen, Gerry Heneghan, Anne Nyland, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Johnny Flood, Simone Cluett, Ramona Heath-Saunders, Concetta Losanno, Mai Wilson, Den Walker, Brian Choules, Len Harley, Marie Smith.

Patricia Mate RIP: you will be sad to hear that Pat died in the early hours of Thursday morning (30th April). Her nephew Howard & his wife Geri were with her. They had been looking after Pat for the last few weeks and gave her all the support and care she could have wished for. Pat has been in the parish for many, many and was very active until about 2013 when her health deteriorated. She will be sadly missed by her friends and family. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

EASTER EGGS UPDATE: Who knows after three weeks or more, you lucky winners may be able to get your eggs! So far we have managed to hide them from Olly the dog, who has a great nose for things edible. But chocolate is BAD for dogs so he mustn't find them!!

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: so far we have 41 5yr pledges yielding £88K incl. Gift Aid; Total in Bank as at 30/04/20: £36,314.59. Thank you to all of you who are continuing to donate in different ways. Contact the parish office if you need help with this.

DO YOU ORDER GOODS FROM THE INTERNET? If so, you could earn some free money for our building fund! It is very simple: go to / giveasyoulive.com to register. Sign up for free. Choose the charity: **Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph church**, Click -support us. Enter your details to create an account. Each time you shop online a box will appear in the right hand corner asking if you would like to earn money on that transaction. Follow the instruction. Bingo! Free money! It does not cost you anything. **The money earned for each transaction goes straight to our building fund account.**

GIFT AID & YOUR TAX RETURN: If anyone needs to know how much they have donated via Gift Aid during the last tax year, the figures are now available on application. Please email your request to the parish office. Thank you.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS, STITCHERS, CROCHETERS, CRAFTS PEOPLE. The Knit & Stitch group still hope to hold a sale of work in October for the Building Fund. While we are all in lockdown, could you get busy with your needles & hooks & make something for this sale? Whichever craft you prefer. Wool & yarn are readily available from online sites & YouTube has many tutorials. I use Pinterest for lots of free patterns. Please hold on to your work till we can all meet again. Many thanks keep safe & well, Jill Heneghan 07503682669

All Parishes

THIS WEEK: SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE CLERGY TRAINING FUND (3rd May)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE PARISHES: For many of you this crisis will involve financial hardship and I do understand that. But, this crisis will also significantly affect the upkeep of our parishes. I'd like to **thank those who are continuing to contribute** by Standing Order or Direct debit. For those who use the envelope scheme or give cash each Sunday, perhaps you will consider setting aside an amount each week that you can afford. You could put the contribution in a marked envelope and keep it until such a time when it can be handed in. If you wish to contribute by Standing Order or Direct Debit instead please contact the parish office.

MASSES ON THE INTERNET: You can find many daily Masses from different Catholic parishes available on the internet. Go to www.churchestv.com; www.churchservices.tv; www.mcnmedia.tv

Also here: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online>. For Sunday Mass with Fr Denis McBride, Redemptorist scholar

POPE FRANCIS – HIS PRAYERS & WORDS: Just follow the link below for these resources. This could well be already on our website (such a lot happening that one loses track!) <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-04/downloadable-publication-popes-prayers-homilies-now-available.html>

WALSINGHAM RETREAT TALKS: recently there was a retreat at Walsingham shared over – social media. One of our parishioners commends it to everyone. Go to the website address and follow the links. <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/latest-news/>