

## POST EASTER REFLECTION by a Parishioner

Lent has passed, and now Easter, that period of reflection on the heart, the very centre of our faith - that Christ died and rose again. Without it where would we place our faith?

It does us no harm to ask ourselves what impact has our reflection, during Lent and Easter, had on the way we pray? Is it somehow different? Or still the same old, same old? We're sometimes advised to 'pray as you can, not as you can't'. This may seem sensible, down to earth advice but what can we do when our minds are full of distractions? When we try to pray and our thoughts are on anything other than what we think of as prayer, it can easily feel such a waste of time.

Yet if we can set time aside to reflect on the fact, not possibility, that God is present in every breath we breathe, in every beat of our hearts, always, always; that God is our being; that we cannot be separated from this God who loves us just as we are.

Am I more aware of the Presence of God, through Christ, in my life, in all my circumstances, regardless of age, status, background? How would I describe the relationship I have with my Creator at this stage of my life?

No matter how we may view our relationship with God, we are always loved just as we are - unconditionally. All that is asked in return is that we seek to love and serve Him with all our heart and all our soul (Deut 10,12; John 14,23) knowing that God chose us in Him before the creation of the world (Eph 1.4).

The awareness of God's Presence, no matter how we pray, is the foundation, through Christ, on which we try to live out our faith journey. Now, that would be a real grace from our reflections during Lent and Easter. No words are needed, just silence, and always the awareness of the presence of God to rise and fill our hearts even for a few moments.

### REGINA CÆLI

O Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia!  
For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia!  
Has risen, as He said, alleluia!  
Pray for us to God, alleluia!  
Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!  
For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia!

### THANK YOU

Parishioners attending the 'Understanding Your Bible' talks would like to say thank you to Matthew for the background work he has put in to lead these sessions. Also many thanks to Jenny, Helen and team for the very welcome refreshments, especially welcome after attending the 12.30pm Mass.

### PARISH MASS BOOK Divine Mercy Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter) Year C Ps Wk 2

**Readings: from page 262**  
**Preface: from page 74**

### Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage

July 13th at St George's Cathedral  
If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please apply as soon as possible. Get in touch with the parish office and provide your names, the anniversary you are celebrating, your home address, email address and telephone, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop.

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**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> Divine Mercy Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter) Year C Ps Wk 2**

**9.30am First Holy Communion Mass with presentation of crosses**  
**4.00 pm Benediction & Evening Prayer**  
**6.45pm Confirmation Class Hall**

**OUTREACH St George's Cathedral**

The Cathedral is the Mother Church for the parishes in South London and Kent. Today's collection is for the cost of the upkeep of the cathedral.

**MONDAY 29<sup>th</sup> St Catherine of Siena Exposition and Rosary resumes today**

**TUESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> St George**

**12 Noon Tuesday Lunch Club**

**4.15pm First Holy Communion Class**  
**8.00pm First Holy Communion Parents Meeting Hall**

**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> St Joseph the Worker**

**THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> May St Athanasius**

**FRIDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> Sts Philip & James**

**SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> The English Martyrs**

**8.45& 4pm First Holy Communion Class**  
**2.30pm Polish Catechism Hall**

**SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Year C Ps Wk 3**

**6.45pm Confirmation Class Hall**

**OUTREACH Tunbridge Wells Citizens**

**Advice Bureau** The charity Citizens Advice aims to provide the advice people need for the problems they face and improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives. CAB provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. Please see [www.twcab.org.uk](http://www.twcab.org.uk)

**Claire Chard** (parishioner's daughter) will be running in the London Marathon for the Rockinghorse Children's Charity the official fund raising arm of the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital Brighton. To support Claire please visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/claire-chard](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/claire-chard).

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019**

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 13th May at 8.00pm in the Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you haven't already got one please pick up an invitation, and take a copy of the minutes of last year's meeting (which have been approved by the Parish Council), from the table in the porch.

This year, three councillors are needed. If you would like to serve the Parish by joining the Council, please complete a Nomination Form, available on the table in the narthex, and return it the Office. Alternatively, please contact the Chairman [chair-parishcouncil@st-augustine.co.uk](mailto:chair-parishcouncil@st-augustine.co.uk) or the Secretary [pooley.richard.sta@gmail.com](mailto:pooley.richard.sta@gmail.com)

To truly reflect the composition of our Parish, we would like to encourage female parishioners and parishioners from all communities to consider joining the Council. The work of a parish councillor is interesting and rewarding and a diversity of contributions is essential. Sometimes it can be challenging. The Council's focus is on serving the Parish so we ask you please to consider helping us.

Please don't forget that questions or suggestions can be submitted via the box in the porch or by email to the Chairman before Sunday 12th May. If you make a suggestion, it would be helpful to us for you to be present at the Meeting to address any queries. The Parish Council

**Madonnas next Get Together is**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 8pm in the Hall. Hope you can come along to meet other young women of the parish.

**Grow in Community - with Parish Day on the Grass.**

**Following the successful Parish Day last summer, the Social Committee is organising a Parish community event on Sunday, 7th July at St. Augustine School grounds. A Suggestions box is placed at the Narthex and we would welcome by 5th May 2019 your valuable suggestions and/or offers of support that would help organising a memorable afternoon for the Parish.**

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