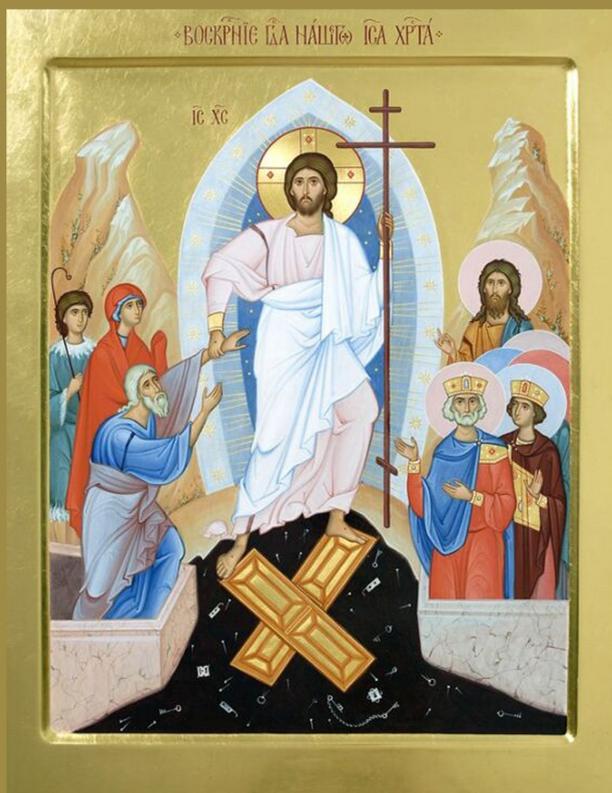


News 30p letter



April 2021



Calendar for

April

1 Thu	MAUNDY THURSDAY	Mass of the Lord's Supper, 8pm
2 Fri	GOOD FRIDAY	Liturgy of the Day, 3pm
3 Sat	Holy Saturday	Vigil & First Mass of Easter, 8pm

4 EASTER DAY

Parish Mass, 11am
Children's Mass, 4:30pm

5	EASTER MONDAY	Mass, 10:30am
6	EASTER TUESDAY	Mass, 7pm
7	EASTER WEDNESDAY	Mass, 11:30am
8	EASTER THURSDAY	Mass, 10am
9	EASTER FRIDAY	Mass, 11am
10	EASTER SATURDAY	Mass, 10am

11 Second Sunday of Easter

Weekday Masses at the usual times this week. Sunday Masses usual pandemic pattern.

18 Third Sunday of Easter

Weekday Masses at the usual times this week. Sunday Masses usual pandemic pattern.

23 Fri **SAINT GEORGE** **Mass, 11am**

25 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Weekday Masses at the usual times this week. Sunday Masses usual pandemic pattern.

29 Thu Saint Catherine of Siena *Mass, 10am*

Holy Week & Easter

It is very important that we should remember that our gathering in a group of up to 30 people in church is a privilege, given to us providing we observe certain conditions. Among those conditions are that we do not associate with each other before or after Mass on church property.

We should also treat church with respect, and that means keeping absolute silence before Mass: there is **NO** conversation so important that you should disturb your own silence and concentration—or that of others—by having **ANY** conversation no matter how muttered.

The Easter Triduum

The Great Three Days

The high point of the Christian year is
Easter

because that's when the Church celebrates the fulfilment
of what Jesus came to bring:
freedom from sin,
and the consequence of sin,
which is death.

Jesus opened the way to heaven for us,
the way to an eternity with God: so whilst Christmas is incredibly
important, it is at Easter that the Christian finds the ultimate
meaning and outcome of God's overflowing love for us.

It's important to remember, though, that this was not an easy
victory or a painless, velvet revolution; sin and death were
overcome through the blood of Jesus Christ upon the Cross
and we are called to reflect deeply upon His sacrifice.

So, as we approach Easter, Lent gives way to the
GREAT THREE DAYS or **EASTER TRIDUUM**
These two phrases mean the same thing.

They begin with
MAUNDY THURSDAY
with the evening celebration of the Lord's Supper
when Jesus gave to us the gift of Holy Communion
and said to us: **Gather** together, **bless and break** bread,
bless and drink wine and **make me present**
through your sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

On Maundy Thursday in non-Covid years, there is the washing of
feet as Jesus reminded us of our need to understanding His service
of all so that we can understand our service of all and remember
our need for humility in the face of God's wonderful love.

The Triduum continues over the page..... >>>

People News

We might not have been able to sing to **Joyce Waine** for her 90th birthday, but at least we could mark it in church with flowers! (many thanks to Christine for organizing them.) We send Joyce birthday love, hoping that she wasn't too tired after all the time she had on the phone.

Welcome to the world Eric! **Yvonne Myers** grand-daughter **Annabel Cook** gave birth to a bouncing (9lb) baby boy last month and mum & baby are both doing well. Many congratulations to them. At the other end of the scale, so to speak, was Yvonne's 80th birthday the day after Joyce's 90th. Although she was expecting to spend it quietly, Yvonne was given the wonderful surprise of a family birthday cake and a socially-distanced set of happy birthday wishes and visits. Rumour has it that the cake was especially beautiful!

Someone else who will be busy (though for a very different reason!) is **Angela Farren**. After a long wait, she's finally been given an allotment and is looking forward to its fruits.

She'd like to invite anyone who wants to help with some socially-distanced digging to offer help. Maybe we'll have an Autumn harvest shop in church for everyone who has spent some of the last year turning their hand to fruit and veg and is glad of the opportunity to share them. Fr Dane knows nothing of the timing of such things but September might be a good month for which to aim. (obviously no pressure, Angela, nor on anyone else.....)

Thank you to those who have enquired after **Edward Cooke**: although following his stroke last year hopes were that he might be able to re-establish himself at home, sadly that hasn't proved possible. He's now settling at a care facility in Sevenoaks called Gloucester House and our prayers continue to be with him and with his family.

Former members of the St Mary's family **David and Brenda Begg** celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary in March and we send congratulations to them and our best wishes for many more years.

The Easter Triduum

The Great Three Days

... continued from first page...

In non-Covid years, there's a Watch of the Passion until midnight and then begins

GOOD FRIDAY

the day on which the Saviour gave Himself upon the Cross.

After a sham trial and mob-rule, a man innocent of everything of which he was accused, was whipped with a whip with metal and bone fragments in it (that's what is meant by scourging) and crowned with a circlet of thorns jammed down upon His head.

He was led to the place of execution and there received nails through his flesh and was hoisted up on a Cross and left to die.

In a non-Covid year, we mark the journey to His death with the Stations of the Cross in the morning, followed by the Liturgy of the Day in the afternoon which features hearing the account of His death, acknowledging the Cross and receiving Holy Communion.

In this Covid year, the Stations will not go ahead and the Veneration of the Cross will be done from our seats.

After the Liturgy of the Day, the church is in silence and darkness.

On

Holy Saturday

in a non-Covid year there is a bustle of activity in the morning as the church is made ready for Easter celebrations.

That won't happen this year, but it will return.

As night falls on Holy Saturday there begins

The Vigil & First Mass of Easter

usually packed full of ceremonies and observances designed to set this most holy night apart from all others. It will be more restrained this year, but just as full of meaning.

Easter Day

concludes the Easter Triduum and begins the Easter Octave—eight days of celebrating Easter as though it is one long day.

The Octave ends on the second Sunday of Easter.

The season of Eastertide is 50 days and runs from Easter Day until Pentecost, this year that's on 23rd May.

Towards Reopening

Preparing the Way

There are studies being conducted at the moment to determine when it will be safe to re-establish large gatherings. At the moment, 21st June is the earliest possible date but that is completely dependent on national and international data and the results of the studies. So whilst we can't assume that the green light will be given to churches in every respect, we'd like to hope!

Along with Fr Dane (who had his first jab on the day this Newsletter was prepared) there are many who, by having their vaccination, are preparing the way for a restoration of some 'normal.' (Whatever that means in the present circumstances!)

The church building has been out of normal use for more than a year already, but has had some significant difficulties during this time. The most serious so far is the bad leak under the floor in the ladies toilet which has caused a very serious damp problem stretching out from there. Before we can re-open, we shall need to make sure the floor is completely dried out and then we can reinstate it as long we're sure there are no further 'nasties' to discover and that all is ready for its long-term repair.

Simultaneously, the hall is presently full of the chairs which have been displaced from church. Whilst the church floor is so (relatively) free from obstacles, it would be good to get the wooden floor of the nave repaired, sanded down, properly sealed and polished. We shall also need to do a year's worth of dusting for some of our statues!

The likeliest scenario is one where we shut for a very short time before fully re-opening to enable all these jobs to be done with the minimum of fuss and interference, but the exact time when we shall do this is not clear. It might be a rather urgent "all hands to the pump!" appeal as we seek to get everything ready.

It will be good to re-establish the routines which enable so many to thrive and grow in the Lord, but we shall be mindful all the way that there will be some who are nervous (with good reason) and others for whom the pandemic and lockdowns have created more than a little reflection. Habits will have changed and St Mary's will have to learn to read the change in approach and will have to change to meet these new needs.

Sunday Mass Pattern

All services in church and the churchyard are currently subject to an attendance limit of 30.

Our present Sunday pattern is:

4.30pm, Saturday: Children's Mass, First Mass of the Sunday

Adults are welcome, but the focus is on our young people!

11am, Sunday: Parish Mass

With music accompaniment.

4.30pm, Sunday: Parish Mass

A quiet and reflective unaccompanied Sunday afternoon Mass.

You can reserve your place for these Masses any time from the Wednesday before by phone, text, email or Facebook message.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)
will meet on
Thurs 6th May 2021
via Zoom at 7.30pm
(if present restrictions still in force)

Annual Meetings

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners

*which elects our Churchwardens
and which any resident of the parish may attend*

AND

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting

*which transacts business relating to our Church Council and may
be attended by members of the Church's Electoral Roll*

will take place on

Sunday 9th May 2021 at 12.15pm

via Zoom, allowing people to have got home from the 11am Mass.

The law will still not permit a gathering 'in person' at that point.

These are two separate meetings which must have separate agendas and minutes, but they are held on the same day as it is more practical and convenient.

In this series for 2021, we'll be examining ways in which we can show our love for our neighbours.

Our Scriptural focuses are:

Listen without interrupting
Proverbs 18:13

Speak without accusing
James 1:19-20

Give without sparing
Proverbs 21:26

Pray without ceasing
Colossians 1:9

Answer without arguing
Proverbs 17:1

Share without pretending
Ephesians 4:15

Enjoy without complaint
Philippians 2:14

Trust without wavering
1 Corinthians 13:7

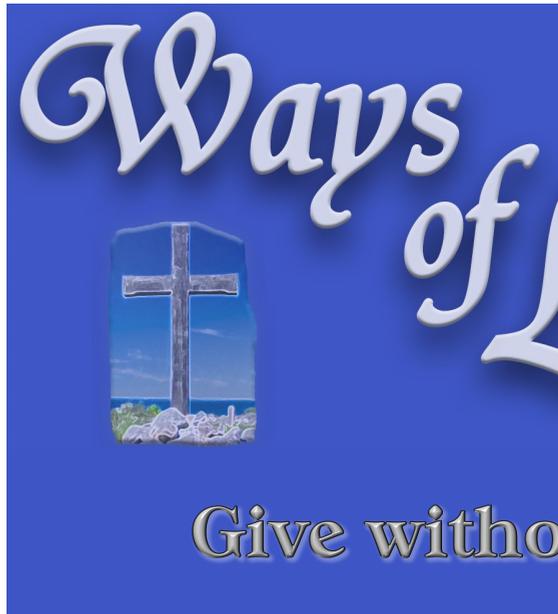
Forgive without punishing
Colossians 3:13

Promise without forgetting
Proverbs 13:12

Proverbs 21: 26

"²⁶ The Godless is forever coveting, the virtuous give without ever sparing"

Jealousy and envy are different things. Being jealous can mean wanting to keep things for yourself or an unpleasant way of seeing others as rivals,



regardless of whether that is something which stems from their behaviour. You're saying, in effect: "I'm not sharing" or "I wish I had what you have because you having that makes you better than me."

Envy takes a different form, it is when a person is unhappy because someone else has something—even if the envious person already has it themselves! It could be summed up as "you shouldn't have that." In the Ten Commandments, for 'covet' read 'envy'.

When we hear in Scripture that God is 'jealous' He means that He loves those who are His and

Loving

without sparing

He is unwilling to give them up. For Him to be jealous is not sin, whereas when we show it, we are being sinful because it takes a different form in human beings from God.

When covet or envy is used, that is the sin which—at its heart—is, our unhappiness because someone else has something and so we are making a judgement about their worthiness and that's not something we should be doing. The element of 'I'm unhappy you've got it, you shouldn't have that, I'll take it away' is fundamentally sinful no matter how we dress it up.

Becoming and remaining truly

happy is related to being contented with what you have rather than wanting what others have, or what you lack. If you can see around you much that makes you happy, if you can see in your surroundings a past which can enable a sense of achievement, looking upon so many gifts as wonderful reminders of love, then you can build happiness from your very soul.

That's not to say this is always easy, or that you don't have to do the occasional bit of hard work in recognizing your blessings. It is remarkable just how often many people who have very little are so open-handed when it comes to sharing what they do have. They recognize that they are dependent on the kindness of others and are intent on sharing what they have. They are not clutching all to themselves, determined not to be generous because others 'don't deserve it.' They see a need and seek to help, and when they do they show forth God's generosity, goodness and love.

We are all rich in something: it may be money or possessions, or humour or time or wisdom or kindness or grace but whatever it is: share it!

Face-coverings Compulsory for all Services in Churches

A face-covering is required at Public Worship unless you are exempt, as defined by law.

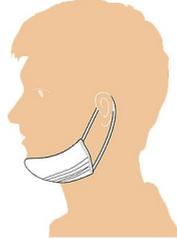
A face-covering, or mask, must be sealed above the nose, below the mouth and the sides.



✗



✗



✗



✓

A visor may be worn by someone who is exempt but is not a substitute for a face-covering for anyone who is not exempt.

At present a maximum of 30 people can attend public worship or funerals here at St Mary's, although burials of ashes and similar acts of worship can have a maximum of only six people.

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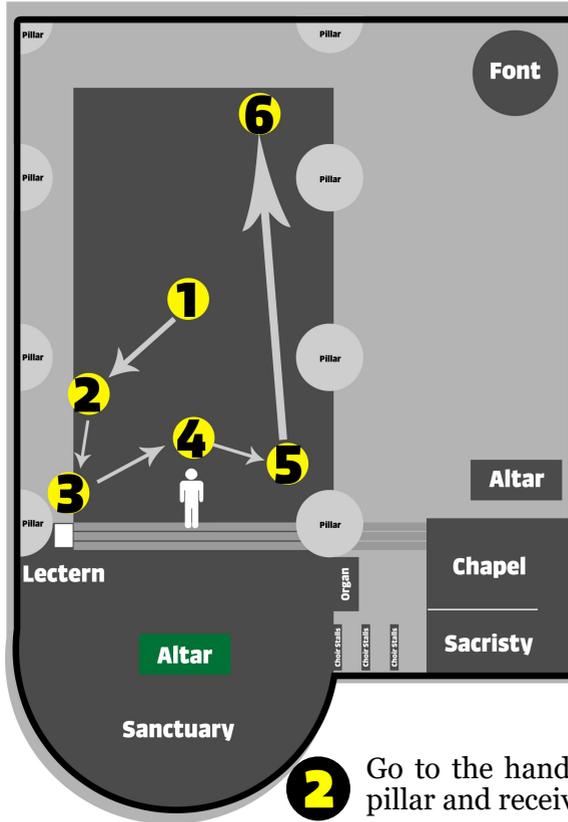
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Receiving Holy Communion During the Pandemic



We are administering Communion in a rather different way from usual, so that we keep people safe.

The main point is that you receive your Communion and leave, don't go back to your seat.

It may look a bit complicated but in fact it's fairly easy to follow and we'll soon get into the habit.

1 Collect all your belongings: coat, bags, etc so you don't return to your seat.

2 Go to the hand sanitizer station by the pillar and receive one squirt of sanitizer.

3 Move to the lectern, where the strip of fabric hangs, and rub your hands together until the sanitizer has gone. Don't worry if it takes a long time, just keep going till your hands are dry!

4 Move to where the priest is standing: he will give you the Host: **he won't say anything and you won't say anything.** Move then to the statue of Our Lady.

5 Once at the statue of Our Lady, you can consume the Host.

6 As soon as you have consumed the Host, go to the main door, sanitize your hands and go straight home.

Mission Partnership

Father Richard Norman, vicar of St George's Bickley, will be leaving there at the end of April, we wish him well and hope he's soon settled.

We shall be providing support to St George's across the Mission Partnership and we're so very fortunate that a number of retired priests are taking on a lot of the 'heavy lifting' there.

Father Clive Jones is doing a number of weddings. Fr Paul Farthing from the Annunciation and Fr Dane here at St Mary's will also be on hand to assist during the months of the vacancy.

This is a key strength of our partnership: that priests known to the people can help out in times of need.



Next Walsingham Pilgrimage: 2022

The Shrine have announced that limited-number pilgrimages will be permitted from 7th June, however there can be no guarantee at present of what will be permitted: the ban on communal singing remains in place for the moment; so, too, are restrictions on anointing, laying-on of hands, sprinkling and the like.

After some discussion, involving both St Mary's and our friends at St Augustine's Belvedere (with whom we share the pilgrimage) we shall not be offering a pilgrimage this year. The reduction in numbers of those who are confident or able to travel, together with the potential restrictions referred to, above, mean that we shall aim to restore the pilgrimage in 2022.

Protecting Children & Vulnerable Adults

There are a whole set of responsibilities which parishes have always had to make sure that those in their care are safe. Over recent years, these have become more and more under scrutiny as the terrible failings of the institutional church and of parishes have been exposed. We have an absolute duty both to recognize risk and to manage it and training is available for every member of our parish family so that they can play their part in keeping all safe.

Flowers

During the course of May, we shall review the opportunities for flower arranging and consult with those who have been so consistent in their work for us over so many years. We'll hope to reintroduce flowers (if the arrangers are content and the law allows) during the course of June.

Our Finances: 2020

We'd like to thank every member of our fantastic giving community who has supported us during 2020: being locked out of church has not meant that the needs of us all have been neglected by those who have given so generously.

Church can only be here, doing its work, if every member of our family of faith makes their contribution: both their time & talents AND their money. These are worthy recognitions of God's generosity to us and they have certainly featured over the past year.

Our accounts show that our ordinary income fell from just under £64,000 in 2019 to 44,500 in 2020. Our ordinary expenditure fell from just under £60,000 in 2019 to just under £47,500 in 2020. Thanks to some very generous donations to our restricted funds, the deficit on ordinary income was transformed into a surplus of £5,000 BUT we did not pay anything to the diocese out of our giving last year AND we had a set of substantial bills to pay in the early part of 2021 so—sadly—the surplus is an illusion, not a reality.

Anniversaries in April

- 1 Helen Smith, Clara Furby,
Rosemary Williams,
Sarah Foster, John Pearce
- 2 Charles Nicholls
- 3 Gladys Kirkpatrick, Eric Bailey,
George Barnes, Vincent Merrick
- 4 Sarah Snell
- 5 Lil Bartlett, Agnes Wakefield
- 6 Frank Bowler, Hilda Giles,
Arthur Rosser
- 7 Edwin Lane, John Carr,
Edward Jennings
- 8 Emeline Lynch, Edith Willard,
Winnie Knight, Dorothy Carr
- 9 Edward Parham
- 10 Lavinia Groves, John Maguire
- 11 Alice Taff, Harriot Best-Dalison,
Adelaide Walker
- 12 Hubert Hunt, Terry Boswell
- 14 James Sanguine, Mary Butler,
Arthur Burrows, Pr
- 15 Arthur Herrington, Arthur Petty,
Carole Lamy
- 16 Arthur Fane, Gwynneth Jones
- 17 Violet Croucher, Ann Rogers
- 18 Annie Chown, Patricia Pettman,
Audrey Brundle, Barbara Fabling,
Dilys Spearpoint
- 19 Susannah Cribb, Norah Dove,
Audrey Wright
- 20 Ernest Coote, Kenneth Grimes
- 22 Frederick Witt, Harry Lowe
- 23 Harry Burlace, Alan Booth
- 24 Winifred Bloomfield
- 25 Eileen Lawley
- 26 Edith Sweatman, Thomas Taylor,
Brian Woods, Pr
- 27 Patrick Coates, Daisy Davis
- 28 Parker Curtiss, Pr,
Frank Penny, Gladys Jackson
- 29 Charles Webb
- 30 Louise Scott

Funerals in March

3rd March

George Darroch

St Mary's Church then Kennal Park

5th March

Peter Tutt

St Mary's Church & Churchyard

10th March

Shirley Jones

Kennal Park Cemetery

11th March

Ellen Banks

St Mary's Church & Churchyard

12th March

Jean Boorman

St Mary's Church & Churchyard

26th March

Barrie Wade

Eltham Crematorium

REST ETERNAL GRANT TO
THEM, O LORD,
AND LET LIGHT PERPETUAL
SHINE UPON THEM.

*"May they rest in peace
and rise in glory."*

In accordance with the law, the Church of England is offering a limited funeral service, with a maximum number of 30 mourners or a service at a Crematorium in accordance with their regulations.



**ST MARY THE VIRGIN,
SWANLEY**

is in the
**Diocese of
Rochester**
the **Archdeaconry of
Rochester**
and the **Deanery of
Dartford**

We are a
Forward in Faith
parish under the care of
The Right Reverend
Norman Banks
Bishop of Richborough

The right to present a priest
to be our Vicar when there is
a vacancy is held by the
parish patron, the Guild of

Hall Hire

No hirings at the moment but for full details of price, availability and facilities call Nicky on 07821 005632. We're grateful to her for all she does.

Baptisms

There is no charge for Baptism.

Here at S Mary's we baptize those who live in our parish - and will even baptize those from outside with their parish priest's permission.

Who's Who

Vicar

Father Dane Batley-Gladden
Saint Mary's Vicarage,
London Road,
Swanley, BR8 7AQ.
01322 662201
vicar@swanleyparish.org.uk

Churchwardens

Kevin Merrick
(also PCC Vice Chair)
Christine Parkes

Hon Secretary

Holly Attwood

Hon Treasurer

Sandra Merrick

Hall Lettings

Nicky Reeve

Servers

Kevin Merrick

Organist

Doug Blew

Choir

Ann Parkes

Safeguarding Officer

(Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection)
Toni Roast

Weekly Mass Booklets

Bob Jones

Finding Us



**St
Mary's**

St Mary's Church car park is available to those attending our church services.

Giving to Church

WE ARE COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON YOUR GIVING. ALTHOUGH SERVICES ARE LIMITED OUR BILLS GO ON IN FULL: water rates, electricity and gas all have a standing charge. We still have to pay for our priest. We still have to pay for the central church functions which are supporting us even now.

Online, you can go to www.justgiving.com/stmarys-swanley to give by credit or debit card.

All these allow you to enhance your donation with Gift Aid if you wish.

To offer your usual donation by standing order or BACS please

Our Week

Sunday

PANDEMIC PATTERN

Sunday Masses must be pre-booked. Weekday Masses do not need pre-booking.

Sat, 4.30pm:

Children's Mass

Sun, 11am: Mass

Sun, 4.30pm: Mass

Monday

No Mass

Tuesday

Mass, 7pm

Wednesday

Mass, 11.30am

Thursday

Mass, 10am

Friday

Mass, 11am

Saturday

Mass, 10am



Our website:

www.swanleyparish.org.uk
where you will find a lot of
information, news & much more!

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