T E N T E R D E N K E N T

**Parish Priest:** The Rt. Rev. John Hine, (Emeritus Bishop)

**Address:** The Presbytery, 47 Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6LL.

**Telephone:** 01580 762785. **Mobile: 07802 510847**

**Parish E-mail** tenterden@rcaos.org.uk **Parish Website:** www.standrewstenterden.org

**Deacon:** Rev. Jolyon Vickers **Telephone:** 01580 766449 **Email:** j.vickers1@btinternet.com **Hire of Parish Hall:** Lesley McCarthy 07791 949652 **E-mail:** bookings.standrews@talktalk.net

**Newsletter Editor:** Patricia Sargent 01233 850963 **E-mail:** sargentpat51@gmail.com

**Newsletter for the week commencing 2nd/3rd May 2020**

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)**

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2: 14, 36-41**

**Psalm 15 Response:**  The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 2: 20-25**

**Gospel: John 10: 1-10**

**Father John writes:**

I find myself listening day after day to the latest statistics relating to Covid19 in the media. But I find it all rather depressing. It all seems so shallow and impersonal. Our leaders tend to get caught up in claiming our statistics are better than those of others – ‘we are winning the battle!’ we are told again and again. I suppose it is all about trying to bring hope to the people of our countries.

I have to remind myself again and again that each of these deceased, numbered in the day’s statistics are individuals created by God out of his love, they are singular unique human beings loved by their families and friends, and above all loved by their God more deeply than they ever realise. Above I wrote, that statistics by their very nature have to be impersonal. But God’s love is just the opposite – God knows every individual and loves them for their very uniqueness.

As for ‘winning the battle of statistics’, I am not moved at all by such concepts. Surely for each true Christian every death is above all a fulfilment of God’s love for this deceased person’s life. God’s is the victory of mercy, but the victory is over sin and evil.

During the week I read in a Catholic newspaper, a homily preached by a Dominican, Timothy Radcliffe, at the requiem Mass for one of his colleagues who died of Covid19. He says of the deceased” above all David enjoyed people. He was endlessly fascinated by them, he wanted to know all about them.” He suggests this gives us a glimpse of how God loves each one of us. God does not just love us ‘in general’. According to the great St Aquinas, God knows the uniqueness of each of us in a way that we do not. “When we glimpse that we cannot but love others.”

In our Gospel today (John 10 1-10) “the sheep of the flock hear his voice; one by one he calls his own sheep … the sheep follow him because they hear his voice”

Jesus recognises each of what we would probably see as an identical crowd of anonymous sheep, He knows each one, and the sheep follow him because they recognise his voice.

Jesus had no need for counting, no place for statistics!

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased: Bernardette Gurtler** RIP– private cremation and **Alfonsa Macapinlac Moodie** RIP – Cremation Wednesday May 6th at Charing

**Those ill or infirm:** Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Joe Venables and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time**: Fr John Hagreen, Ninette Purcell, John Moriarty, Sue Maxwell-Scott, Claire Claydon, Nigel Collins, Dr Mary Hoogewers, Ninette Newling and Winifred Price.

Deacon Jolyon writes

The Vatican has just published a wonderful volume of prayers and thoughts to support us during this time.

It is entitled “Strong in the face of tribulation”. It is a free downloadable document and the link is

https://www.vaticannews.va/content/dam/lev/forti-nella-tribolazione/pdf/eng/strong-in-tribulation.-20042020.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0h6Ra4PXtmVDWexqsWSdiWKZGjpQFDNXLsFR1x-x-pCL5q3GDKYlklzUQ

**or just search Vatican news and type in the title of the book “Strong in the face of tribulation”**

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** In the early 20th century, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin linked his deep spirituality as a Jesuit to his scientific work and reflection. As a scientist he explored humanity’s early beginnings and our place in the ever-unfolding sweep of evolution. As a philosopher and theologian, he developed a unique synthesis of science and religion based on an evolutionary understanding of what he called the ‘cosmic Christ’ – the idea that the universe and everything in it is constantly moving towards to a point of perfection defined by unity and love, a point which he called ‘the Omega point’.  The mission of the Omega Centre is to deepen Teilhard de Chardin’s integration of science and spirituality by providing insights and practices to enkindle awareness of love at the heart of reality. Visit their inspiring website at:   www.newpilgrimpath.ie

**Mass for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care:** The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love. Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands, are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time.

In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week from next Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live streamed for people to join.

This will take place **every Thursday at 7.00pm** on the following dates,

7th May Bishop Marcus Stock Leeds Cathedral

14th May Bishop Robert Byrne CO Newcastle Cathedral

21st May Bishop Mark Davies Shrewsbury Cathedral

28th May Bishop Terence Drainey Middlesbrough Cathedral

By visiting the Cathedral webpage, or the Bishops’ Conference Webpage (cbcew.org.uk) links for the live streaming of these Masses can be found.

**Spiritual Communion – Prayer of St Alphonsus**

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things
and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.
Amen*.*

**A prayer for our parish**

O God, protector of all who hope in you, bless your people, keep them safe, defend them, prepare them, that, free from sin and safe from the enemy, they may persevere always in your love.

Through Christ Our Lord.

Amen

**The Pandemic – a prayer**

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray- look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders, and the courage to reach out to all in love so that together we may give glory to your holy name.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen