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

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**HOLY WEEK**

Palm Sunday 4th/5th April 2020 **(A)**

**First Reading Isaiah 50: 4-7**

**Psalm. 21 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

**Second Reading: St Paul to the Philippians 2: 6-11**

**Gospel: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 26: 14-27;66**

**Father John writes:**

Because of the danger of spreading the coronavirus pandemic the priest is not able to hear Confessions. You can imagine how useless I feel! Added to which your parish church door is locked day and night... At least I can say Mass every day and pray for you all.

Every year during Holy Week we normally have a ‘penitential service’ to receive God’s forgiveness for our sins. This year it is not possible. However, I bring to your attention what Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, said recently:

*“Many will say to me: ‘but Father…. I can’t leave the house and I want to make my peace with the Lord… how can I do that unless I find a priest? ‘ The Pope replied, ‘ Do what the Catechism says. It’s very clear. If you don’t find a priest to go to Confession, speak to God. He’s your Father. Tell Him in your prayer the truth ‘Lord, I did this and this and this. Forgive me’ Ask his forgiveness with all your heart, with an act of contrition, and promise Him ‘afterwards I will go to Confession’. You will return to God’s Grace immediately”*

So don’t hesitate to have your sins forgiven. Don’t be put off because there is no priest available to hear your Confession. The Lord sees your wish to be forgiven and Christ’s Church ensures you are forgiven by God’s Grace in these extraordinary circumstances.

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:**

**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:** Alex Hatch, John Witham, Fiona Dodsworth, Andrew Lacki, Ellen Lawrence and Ethel Klemen.

**Food for thought…**

As Easter rapidly approaches, please remember that all the **offerings at Easter** are your personal gift to the parish priest. If you are a Gift Aider do use your numbered envelope and, if donating by cheque, please make it payable to 'St. Andrew's Church’. As we are not able to attend any services at church at the moment, please follow Fr John’s guidelines below. Thank you.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week** As we begin Holy Week, we remember the Passion of our Lord. The original meaning of the word is ‘suffering’. In today’s suffering world, bound by our common humanity, we are increasingly learning the meaning of the word ‘compassion’, ‘to ‘suffer with’. Karen Armstrong, internationally acclaimed religious historian, promotes a new kind of religious discourse that goes back to the core values of religion:  the ‘Golden Rule’ shared by all the world’s great religions: treat others as you would yourself like to be treated. The Charter for Compassion which she founded calls on humankind to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion. The Charter has partnered with more than 1,300 organizations in 50 countries to spread and concretely implement its message of compassion. Learn more and listen to Armstrong’s electrifying TED talk at: [www.newpilgrimpath.ie](http://www.newpilgrimpath.ie)

**Websites to visit:**

Redemptorist Publications ([www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)) In response to the decision that all public Masses are to cease, Redemptorist Publications are delighted to be able to bring the Sunday Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R. into your into home every Sunday.

The Catholic Church: Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales: - lots of interesting articles plus Mass online.

**Our website** (address at the top!) has lots more information, especially on where to access online Masses etc. while we’re all stuck indoors.

Another site worth looking at is [www.tenterdencofe.co.uk](http://www.tenterdencofe.co.uk). It is St Mildred’s website and their daily bulletin is useful.

**PARISH FUNDS.**

As you can imagine all parishes are suffering because there have been no Sunday Collections for several weeks, and no prospect of any collections in the near future. But the bills still have to be paid.

Sensitive to those of you whose personal income may have dropped from their employment, there are many of you who would wish to continue making your usual weekly contributions. A few of you have slipped your usual gift aid envelopes through my letter box. Our diocese has made some suggestions about how parishioners might continue to fund their parish during this difficult time.

I would recommend that every Sunday you put your donation in an envelope and keep it in a safe place until our Church is open for Sunday Mass again, using your Gift Aid envelope as usual. However unfortunately it is exactly at this time that the new Gift Aid envelopes are distributed. So I suggest that Gift Aiders put their name and their Gift Aid number on the envelopes that you use for your donation each week. Then you can bring them all to Church with you the first time it is open again. And I am sure you will be aware of the Easter Sunday contribution to your priest!

The new gift Aid envelopes are all ready and waiting in our parish room to be distributed, but I have no way of identifying which number is whose! Isn’t life difficult at times!

Fr. John

Please stick to the guidelines/rules set down by the government regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is important for the health of everyone.

Take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

**God bless.**