

BISHOP PHILIP WRITES ... During this national emergency, it is the Church's task to do what she always does: to call on the prayers of Our Lady and our Patron Saints and to pray earnestly and trustingly to God our Father. We do not know why God in His providence has allowed this pandemic to occur. What we do know is that He has given us victory through the death and resurrection of His Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ and poured into human history the power of the Holy Spirit to guide all things in the right direction. This is why we know, in the words of St. Paul, that nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. ... These are the trials by which we triumph by the power of Him who loved us. Indeed, we can be certain that neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power or height or depth, nor any created thing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8: 35-36, 38-39) ... So let us pray and work for an end to this scourge, for a speedy resolution, for the minimisation of damage, for the sick, for the protection of the elderly and the vulnerable, for those in self-isolation, for all who are suffering anxiety and worry, for the poor and the homeless, for the well-being and financial security of everyone, for the pastoral care of the Church community, for the medical staff and others who care for the sick, and for the eternal repose of those who have died.

COMMUNICATION

In order that we can communicate with as many parishioners as possible during this challenging time, please ensure that you are signed up to receive our newsletter via email. To subscribe please go to www.sacredhearthook.org.uk. If you are a Facebook user our page is [facebook.com/sacredhearthook](https://www.facebook.com/sacredhearthook). We will post updates on our website and on Facebook. Copies of relevant information will also be available in the church porch for those who do not have access to the Internet.

DIARY CANCELLATIONS

As we have now implemented Stage 3 of the guidance in relation to COVID-19, all social events, groups, courses, meetings and Sacramental programme sessions have been cancelled with immediate effect.

CARITAS FUND RAISING

The fund raising event at the Bolton Arms last Saturday raised £1,860.53. It is an incredible amount, which will support our local families and individuals whose day to day lives are a real struggle Thank you all.

DON'T FORGET ... Next weekend, Saturday 28th March, British Summer Time begins and clocks move forward one hour.

ONLINE MASS AND SERVICES

Live Mass and Services from other Catholic Churches are also available from Church Services TV and EWTN. For further details go to <https://www.churchservices.tv> or <https://www.ewtn.com>.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THE SICK IN OUR PARISH

Lord, have all those who are unable to be with us at Mass in Your safekeeping as we remember:

Sister Connie, Joan Coleman, Joyce Beeson,
Ian Dillow, Helena Allen, Yvonne Beaumont,
Debbie Cavedon, June Walsh,
Margaret Sauce, Natalie Mahon,
Anne Hill, Jay De Alwis & Timothy Walsh.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

Start your day with the Bible in one year, a free Bible reading app. with commentary by Nicky and Pippa Gumbel. Nicky Gumbel is the pioneer of Alpha and the vicar of Holy Trinity Brompton in London. The app. can be downloaded from www.bibleinoneyear.org or from the App. store.

L.O.C.K.D.O.W.N

Is a time to:

L-isten to God's Voice and reflect. Let go and Let God.
O-bey His word and His teachings.
C-all on Jesus' name and be Calm.
K-know what is the purpose of all of this.
D-well in His presence. Do not panic.
O-ffer a prayer for everyone's safety.
W-ait and be patient. This too, shall pass.
N-urture our personal relationship with Him.

A MOTHERING SUNDAY BLESSING



Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless these women that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHURCH OPENING TIMES

Even though the church is closed to Masses, we will endeavour to keep the church open during the following times for private prayer.

Monday to Friday 9 am to 2 pm
Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 4 pm

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Parish Collection amounted to £631.55. Grateful thanks. Please continue to support our Parish as best you can at the current time. Donations can be made via Standing Order or posted through the Presbytery Letterbox. PRC DTR SACRED HEART HOOK: 00880117 30-93-04
Thank you.



SACRED HEART

The Parish of Hook
In the Diocese of Portsmouth
Reg. Charity no. 246871

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 22 March

Page 164 Year A Psalter 4

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored

Faith in the time of Coronairus

The [coronavirus pandemic](#) is confusing and frightening for hundreds of millions of people. That is not surprising. Many around the world are sick and many others have died. Unless the situation changes dramatically, many more will fall ill and die around the globe. This crisis raises serious [medical](#), [ethical](#) and [logistical](#) questions. But it raises additional questions for people of faith. So I would like to offer some advice from the Christian tradition, Ignatian spirituality and my own experience.

Resist panic. This is not to say there is no reason to be concerned, or that we should ignore the sound advice of medical professionals and public health experts. But panic and fear are not from God. Calm and hope are. And it is possible to respond to a crisis seriously and deliberately while maintaining an inner sense of calm and hope.

St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, often talked about two forces in our interior lives: one that draws us toward God and the other away from God. The one that draws us away from God, which he labelled the evil spirit, "causes gnawing anxiety, saddens and sets up obstacles. In this way it unsettles people by false reasons aimed at preventing their progress." Sound familiar? Don't lend credence to lies or rumours, or give in to panic. Trust what medical experts tell you, not those who fear monger. There is a reason they call Satan the "Prince of Lies."

Panic, by confusing and frightening you, pulls you away from the help God wants to give you. It is not coming from God. What *is* coming from God? St. Ignatius tells us: God's spirit "stirs up courage and strength, consolations, inspirations and tranquillity." So trust in the calm and hope you feel. That is the voice to listen to. "Do not be afraid!," as Jesus said many times.

Do not demonize. The other day a friend told me that when an elderly Chinese man got onto a subway car in New York City, the car emptied out as people started shouting slurs at him, blaming his country for spreading the virus. Resist the temptation to demonize or scapegoat, which increases in time of stress and shortages. Covid-19 is not a Chinese disease; it is not a "foreign" disease. It is no one's "fault." Likewise, the people who become infected are not to blame. Remember that Jesus was asked about a blind man: "Who sinned, that this man was born blind?" Jesus' response: "No one" (Jn 9:2). Illness is not a punishment. So don't demonize and don't hate.

Many things have been cancelled because of the coronavirus. Love is not one of them.

Rev. James Martin, S.J.

DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS (22-28 March)

These are arranged so that in the course of a year we pray for each parish of our Diocese and the Catholic organisations working here. This week's intentions are:

Sun: The "Ascent" movement, for the spirituality of older people.

Mon: The work of the John Henry King Fund. **Tues:** Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Hedge End

Wed: Community of the Annunciation, Charminster; Community of St Mary, Aldershot.

Thurs: Parish of the Annunciation, Netley Abbey.

Fri: Community of Our Lady of the Annunciation & The Martyrs of Japan, Saint-Martin, Jersey

Sat: Wisdom House, Romsey