



## ST MICHAEL & ST GEORGE

The Cathedral Church of the Bishop of the Forces  
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*Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020*

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE/MOTHERING SUNDAY) – YEAR A

*Due to the situation the Church finds herself in, the obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is removed, until further notice.*

**The Cathedral will be open today from 1000hrs to 1300hrs for private prayer and reflection.**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place between 1030hrs and 1230hrs.**

#### WELCOME EVERYONE

Our great church was consecrated in 1893 following the Laying of the Foundation Stone by HM Queen Victoria in 1892. During the rationalization of garrison churches in the 1960s it was decided that St George's Church (as it was then called) should be given over for use to the Roman Catholic military community following the closure of both RC churches (St Michael & St Sebastian in South Camp and St Patrick in North Camp). Some stained glass and statuary from these churches was transferred and installed and the dedication changed. Since the declaration by Pope John Paul II in 1986 that all Military Vicariates should become Ordinariates, the Bishop of the Forces, currently The Rt Revd Paul Mason, has had his *cathedra* (throne or chair of authority) in the church and hence it's designation as the Military Cathedral.

#### RECENT COLLECTIONS

The plate collection for last Sunday was **£134.55** and the **Special Collection** for CAFOD was **£336.96**.

#### EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

During the current health pandemic all public liturgy is suspended. Priests will continue to offer Mass privately for the intentions of the faithful and the Cathedral will be open every weekday (excluding Saturdays) from 1000hrs to 1600hrs (and often later) so that individuals may gain access to pray, reflect, light candles and/or adore the Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. Social-distancing should be practised by everyone when in church and hand-sanitising equipment will be available at the door. Everyone is requested to utilise this resource both on entering and leaving the building. Should you wish to speak to a member of the clergy please call their mobile number as given above.

#### THIS WEEK

Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Mar: *Feria of Lent, Week 4*  
1800hrs – 2000hrs: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Mar: *The Annunciation of the Lord*  
1200hrs – 1400hrs: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Mar: *Feria of Lent, Week 4*  
1200hrs – 1400hrs: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

#### PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please keep the members of our Armed Forces, their families and all support staff, in your personal intercessions, together with health professionals, the emergency services, voluntary workers, retail and leisure industry staff, and the most vulnerable in society.

#### KEEPING FAITH

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has recorded a video about the reasons why public worship is being suspended and what alternatives are on offer so that Catholics can continue to practice what they believe. It may be viewed at: <https://vimeo.com/398532027>

#### EPISCOPAL PROMULGATIONS

The letter from the President and Vice-President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, together with the document detailing the Liturgical Advice which we are adopting, may be viewed on the noticeboard at the back of church and at: [www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/)

#### MAINTAINING COMMUNICATION

In order to sustain effective transmission of direction, advice and activity, the Cathedral tab on the Bishopric website will be updated routinely with information and resources that may be used during the suspension of public liturgy. This may be accessed at: [www.rcbishopricforces.org.uk/cathedral/](http://www.rcbishopricforces.org.uk/cathedral/)

#### SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The continuing celebration of Mass by priests privately ensures that the faithful can join in spiritual communion with other members of the Church. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church states (1364): As often as the sacrifice of the Cross by which 'Christ our Pasch has been sacrificed' is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out.* Liturgical resources for use at home, including making a 'Spiritual Communion' with the priest, are available in church and on the Bishopric website, as is information about the live-streaming of the celebration of Mass.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL JURISDICTION

Members of the Cathedral worshipping community who are not subject to Bishop Paul's authority because they are neither serving members of HM Forces or one of their immediate dependants, and who live within the Portsmouth Diocesan area, might like to read what Bishop Philip Egan has promulgated via the noticeboard or: [www.mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/special-edition](http://www.mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/special-edition)

#### TIMELY REMINDER

British Summer Time will end next Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March at 0200hrs with the clocks going FORWARD one hour.

#### AND FINALLY ...

... sometimes we just have to let it rain and wait for the sunshine.

*With every blessing*  
*Fr Nick*