

Parish of Seaham & Dawdon  
John Seaham Harbour: All Saints Deneside:  
S Mary the Virgin Seaham  
[www.stjohns-seaham.org.uk](http://www.stjohns-seaham.org.uk)

**A FORWARD IN FAITH PARISH IN THE DIOCESE OF DURHAM PART OF  
THE SOCIETY OF S WILFRID & S HILDA IN THE EPISCOPAL  
CARE OF THE BISHOP OF BEVERLEY**

Dear Friends,

We hope this letter finds you safe and well. In these strange and difficult times we thought it right to contact everyone on the Electoral Rolls of the Churches to keep in touch and establish a means of communication so that although we can't see one another as we are used to we can still remain in touch. So just a few things we hope will help. If we have your e mail address you will receive this letter electronically, but the majority will be by post.

### **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

On behalf of the Parish a small number of us will try to contact everyone we can by phone each week or by e mail, text skype, WhatsApp - which ever platform is easy for you. In the meantime, it would be a great help if you could contact me or Fr Mark and let us have your telephone number and other contact details as the list we have is very incomplete.

### **PRAYER & WORSHIP**

While we are not allowed to use our Churches Fr Mark, Fr Chris and I daily recite the Offices of Morning, Evening and Night Prayer and daily offer Mass in our homes on behalf of the Parish and pray for each one of you daily, alongside all affected by this virus, those working with the sick and maintaining as much of daily life as possible for us and asking the Lord to deliver us from the present emergency.

Last Sunday we did live streaming of Mass from All Saints and S John's and those able to access that means did but we have decided not to stream from our homes as that we believe doesn't resonate as well for people and there is no shortage on Facebook of services being streamed for you to join in. We will however, each week have on the Parish Website and Facebook page the Sunday readings and prayers as well as Holy Week and a short reflection on them from one of us. For those who don't have access to the internet at the end of this letter you will find the appropriate readings for you to use at home from your Bible or Prayer Book. There is also going to be an increased number of programmes on radio and television for Sundays, Holy Week and Easter, which I'm sure you will find helpful.

## **CONTACTING US AND HELP**

While Father Chris alongside some of our Church Officers because they are over the magic age have to be very careful in terms of isolation, but we maintain contact with them. Father Mark and I are about the daily business as much as the restrictions allow and are here for you, so please contact us for any reason even just to chat and if there are any ways in which we can help you spiritual, pastoral or practical please do not hesitate to ask.

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

In the midst of the present emergency it is all the more important to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and trust in God's unfailing love. It is a great sadness that at a time like this the decision was made to close Churches and we very much look forward to them being open again. The necessary isolation is so difficult for us as human beings who naturally want to be together and for me having spent many years encouraging people to come to Church to have to tell that they can't. But for all that we remember that "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord". It was not my intention in this letter to mention money, even though it has been in my mind but a number of you have asked how will the Churches survive for this period for however long it is with no regular income and how can they help. The answer of course is the Churches will struggle greatly and one or two ways I can suggest might help – you can send your offering by cheque in the post to the vicarage made payable to "St Johns Church PCC Seaham Harbour" for S John's and All Saints or to "St Marys Church PCC Seaham for S Marys – or contact one of the Church Wardens or Treasurers of the Churches who will advise how to set up a standing order or direct debit for your bank to pay directly or use your giving envelopes each week and save them up to bring when the current crisis is over. You might also think of adding a little to these to help plug the gap for all the fund-raising events which have had to be cancelled. My thanks in anticipation of your continued generosity.

## **FINALLY**

Please let us know of any special prayer intentions you would like us to offer each day and also if you know of anyone who becomes ill. Please be assured of our continued thoughts and prayers for you all and we look forward to maintaining contact till we can be together again in the Churches we love and treasure.

Father Mark, Father Chris the Church Wardens and PCC's join me in sending you our love best wishes and prayers – we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Fr Paul

## Readings:

29<sup>th</sup> March – Lent 5 Passion Sunday

Ezekiel 37 12-14 Ps 129 Roms 8 8-11 John 11 3-7. 17 20-27, 33-45

5<sup>th</sup> April Palm Sunday

Ish 50 4-7 Ps 21 Phili 2 6-11 Matt 26 14 – 27 66

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Ish 42 1-7 Ps 26 John 12 1-11

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Ish 49 1-6 Ps 70 1-6 15-17 John 13 21 -33 36-38

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Ish 50 4-9 Ps 68 Matthew 26 14-25

Maundy Thurs Exodus 12 1-8 11-14 Ps 115 1 Corin 11 23-26 John 13 1-15

Good Friday Ish 52 13 to Chp 53 v 12 Ps 30 Hebrews 4 14-16, 5 7-9

John 18 1-19 and v 42

Holy Sat Gen 1 1-2, & Chp2 Ps 103 Rom 6 3-11 Matt 28 1-10

Easter Day Acts 10 34-v 37-43 Ps 117 Colls 3 1-4 John 20 1-9