

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST SEAHAM HARBOUR

PARISH OF SEAHAM AND DAWDON

St John's, Seaham Harbour | All Saints, Deneside | St Mary's, Old Seaham

An Act of Spiritual Communion

The following act is made available for use if you are prevented from being able to get to church to receive Holy Communion - especially on a Sunday or Feast day, because you are ill at home or in hospital, in quarantine or self-isolation or because at present there would be a significant risk to your health to be in a public space.

It is also provided in the event that public health advice or legislation prohibits us to gather together in church to worship together and to celebrate Mass.

Remember always, that our faith teaches us we are never truly alone. Not only is God present with us, but that in the prayer and worship we offer, even when physically alone, the saints and angels are present spiritually with us.

There are also a number of online resources you can use, if you have internet access either through a computer, tablet or smart phone:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> - can take you to Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer, as well as Prayer during the day. The Daily Prayer app for smartphone users is also free.

<http://almanac.oremus.org/> click on 'View' - and you can find services of Morning and Evening Prayer, Prayer during the day and Night Prayer. You'll also be able to find the daily readings for Mass as well.

<https://universalis.com/index.htm> also has Morning and Evening Prayer as well as all the daily readings for Mass.

churchservices.tv has live and recorded services from churches across the UK.

Preparation for Worship

First settle yourself quietly without distractions. Turn the 'phone and television off. You might want to play quiet, reflective music in the background. You may want to light a candle as a focus. You could even set up a 'prayer corner' with any religious images, statues or candles you might have.

Be still, and know that God is with you.

*** In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Now call to mind your sins and make this act of contrition:

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

Ask God for his forgiveness:

May the Lord in all his mercy,
grant me forgiveness of my sins,
deliver me from evil, and bring me
to the joy of eternal life. Amen.

At this point read the Collect for the day – or for the previous Sunday if you have this available from the current pewsheet. If not, then use this general prayer:

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people;
in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon
us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O
lover of souls, and to you we give glory; Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Now read the Gospel of the day or of the previous Sunday or you may read one of the following Gospel passages:

Mark 2. 1-12

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of

the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 'Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?' At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven", or to say, "Stand up and take your mat and walk"? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—he said to the paralytic— 'I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.' And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'

Mark 14. 32-38

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.' He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.'

Prayers of Intercession

Now spend time in prayer for

- The Church
- The World
- The Parish, family and friends
- All who are sick
- The departed
- Yourself

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Now make your spiritual communion. Imagine that you are receiving Holy Communion, in company with the whole Church in heaven and on earth.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayers for Aid, defence and thanksgiving

The almighty Lord, who is a strong tower for all who put their trust in him, whom all things in heaven, on earth and under the earth obey, be now and evermore my defence. May I believe and trust that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

May Our Lady, St John, St Hild and St Helen, and all the saints pray for us. May the angels and archangels watch over us to guard us and keep us. And may almighty God bless us, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.