



Chaplain's Message No. 12

CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

Easter 6: If you love me you will keep my commandments

Dear Friends,

Thank you to those who got in touch following my “Thinking out Loud” thoughts last week. From your feedback it is clear how much many of you are missing the Eucharist. Actually, I knew that already but it was good to get a variety of sentiments during these extraordinary times.

It was also good to know that my weekly homilies and intercessions have been of some use. The recording process is a quite a challenge. Without any editing facilities the whole process has to be done in one take. You only get to hear the finished product and, thankfully, not my moans and grumbles when it goes wrong halfway through 😊 Anyway, they will continue for as long as the church remains closed.

Last week I passed a mini milestone – my fourth year in office at St Edward's. *Il tempo vola!* It was a strange feeling, especially being on my own in the ‘big house’ – as I call Casa Benson. In the present, almost abandoned atmosphere of downstairs and church, I began to think – and really for the first time – that my stint in Lugano is beginning to draw to a close. It was an odd feeling. But then I offered some prayers in front of our lovely aumbry. We did such a good thing getting it for the church. Day and night, it emanates the living presence of our Lord and gives St Edward's a wonderful numinous atmosphere. All that's missing now is *You!*

Turning to other things. Brian, Francesco and I are continuing to work on putting everything in place ahead of our hoped-for reopening on Sunday 14 June. We are currently working through a complex mix of onerous federal, cantonal and diocesan requirements to allow that to happen. It is not an easy task because new measures/requirements are arriving almost daily. But we are making steady progress and hope to be able to publish our policy on the website quite soon.

I am only mentioning this again because the churchwardens and I really do want you to be aware that the ‘feel’ of church worship in today's environment is going to be quite different from before the crisis, especially our eucharist services. But our principal priorities remain

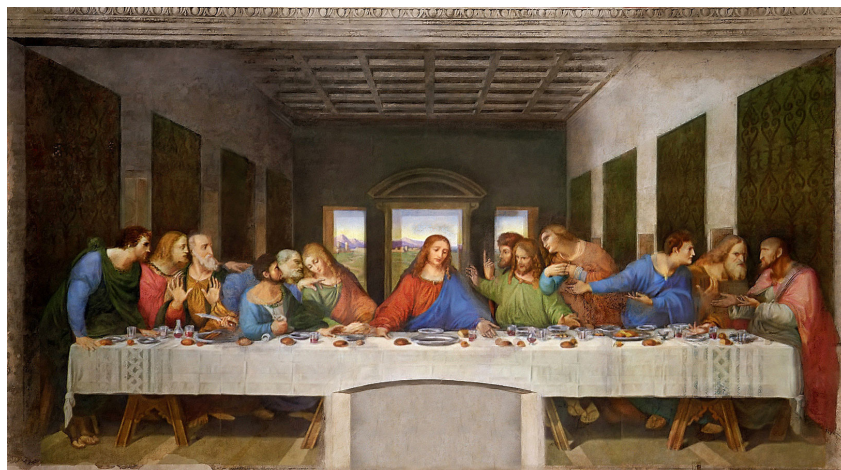
unchanged: the wellbeing of members and visitors and ensuring St Edward's is fully compliant with a whole raft of stringent new regulations. Covid-19 continues to pose serious threats, and we will need to live with this reality until there is a vaccine and/or an effective cure.

For now though you have another homily to listen to ☺ This week my focus is on another part of Jesus' long *Farewell Discourse* that runs through chapters 14-17 of St John's Gospel. It has much to teach us about developing a vibrant relationship with Jesus, and never more so than when times are as unpredictable and worrying as they are today. I hope you find it helpful.

Finally, be assured of my continuing prayers for your good health and strength during these testing times for us all.

Fr Nigel
17/05/20

INTERCESSIONS FOR EASTER 6



Let us Pray

The Collect (Prayer of the Day)

Lord, in you we live and move and have our being,
for we are your children, and you are not far from any of us.
We pray for all who are struggling in lonely or difficult places,
for all who feel forsaken,
for all who are longing to know your love.
We pray for all who seek to do your will
and fulfil your commandments.

Bidding: Lord, you abide in us,
Response: may we know we abide in you

Lord, we pray for **Robert and David** our bishops
and all clergy and readers as they guide and care
for their people through this ongoing pandemic.
Give them health and strength in shepherding the
people you have placed in their lives – parishioners,
family members, friends and colleagues.
May they remain grafted to the vine and help them to
fulfil the tasks and responsibilities you have called them to do.

Bidding: Lord, you abide in us,
Response: may we know we abide in you

Father, during the ongoing pandemic we seek your wisdom daily.
Be with people making decisions that affect
the lives and futures of our families, communities,
countries, and the wider world.
We pray that they will communicate clearly and truthfully
with each other and with the public —
and that their messages are received and heeded.
May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people
setting policies for our protection.

Bidding: Lord, you abide in us,
Response: may we know we abide in you

Lord, in this time of financial strain for many people,
look with love on those who are unemployed,
and especially as a direct result from the pandemic.
Open the doors of opportunity for all searching for new work
so they can keep abreast of household bills and provide the needs of their family.
We pray for efficient production,
honest marketing and responsible use of resources,
for more justice in the sharing of this world's goods
in our own community and between nations.

Bidding: Lord, you abide in us,
Response: may we know we abide in you

Lord, by your indwelling presence
make our hearts and our homes places of peace.
We pray for peace in our communities,
for peace in our relationships,
that your peace may spread throughout the world.

Bidding: Lord, you abide in us,
Response: may we know we abide in you

Lord, you seek out the lost and the sick.
We hold before you the friends and relatives
connected in any way to the St Edward's community
in need of prayer at this time:
*Sandy, Sam, Pierre, Roy, Shirleen, Sarah, Lorelle, Phoebe,
Christoph, Wayne, Helen and Aydan.*
Give them, as well others known to us, courage and hope
and the knowledge that you are present in their time of need.

Bidding: Lord, you abide in us,
Response: may we know we abide in you

A short period of silence to offer your own thoughts and prayers ending with...

Lord, be with us in all our prayers,
and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation,
that among the changes and chances of this mortal life,
we may always be defended by your gracious help;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

The Blessing & Dismissal

Christ, the Lord of the living and the dead,
who died and rose to life eternal,
grant that you may abide in him
and belong to him for ever;
and may the + blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you today and always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.