



**St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church. Totton  
Our Lady of the Assumption & St. Edward the  
Confessor Church. Lyndhurst**

(Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth) Reg Charity No: 246871,  
Parish Priest: Fr. Gerry Onyejuluwa, MSP. Serving the Parishes of Totton & Lyndhurst  
Parish Office: 20 Beaumont Road, Totton SO40 3AL, Hants.  
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Rev. Stephen Short. Parish Deacon.  
Totton Parish Safeguarding Rep: Mrs. Lynda Szymanski 02380292058.  
Lyndhurst Parish Safeguarding Rep: Adrian Forest. 02380283427.  
Parish Secretary/Administrator Steve Bowler (Thursday 9 – 1pm)



My Dear Parishioners,  
Firstly, I reiterate what Bishop Philip has written about the harm and concern the Covid-19 pandemic is causing to our lives. I have produced two paragraphs below from bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter issued to all the Diocesan faithful. Copies are available in the porch for you to take when you visit our churches. The full version you can also read in e-news on the Diocesan web site, also, a web page has been added to the site which will be updated regularly and will have the latest information and prayers on how our church deals with the crisis. The Bishop has asked that our churches be open for parishioners to come and pray when you are able, although no organised prayer services will take place.

Church open times at Our lady and St Edward Lyndhurst will be from 10.00 am till midday every weekday except Monday. Over the weekend Saturday, 10.00 am till midday. 9.00am till midday on Sunday, to make a private visit individually and/or as a family to the Blessed Sacrament on the Lords day. St Theresa Totton open times will be from 10.00 am till midday every weekday except Friday. Over the weekend Saturday, 10.00 am till midday. 9.00am till midday on Sunday, to make a private visit individually and/or as a family to the Blessed Sacrament on the Lords day.

Please avail yourself of this facility to come to church and pray and reflect. Of course, we should not forget our commitment to our food banks, so can I ask when you do come to church to please be kind to bring an item of food with you, the food will be delivered to the food banks weekly. This will be a desperate time for those relying on our food banks.

Please contact Fr. Gerry on 023 8086 2270 or Deacon Stephen on 07777660050 if you wish to arrange any pastoral needs Such as Mass intention, Mass cards or anointing.

Also please let us know if you are self-isolating or God forbid have contracted COVID 19.

I hope to issue a weekly newsletter that will be in the porch and on the pastoral area website each week with updates and information.

There are copies of the leaflet "when Mass cannot be celebrated publicly" at the back of Church. There are also copies of the Bishop's Pastoral Letter and Decree available.

Please keep safe and God Bless you all  
Fr. Gerry.

**+ PLEASE pray for the following members of our community who are ill or housebound:** Bella Calder, Claire Sorrell, Tony Wright, John Tobin, Christopher Brown, Peggy Crooke, Greg Borkowski, Jay Dosanjh, John Vidal, Clara Nolan, Eve Barry, Ray & Mary Templeman, Chris Phelan, Miss Fahim, Alaric Rosman and Mary Taylor. For all those in nursing homes or hospital and other Parish Family members who are ill or need our prayers.

**Pope Francis' Intentions Mar 2020**

**Catholics in China**

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

**Pope's Tweets:** God's mercy is our liberation and our happiness. We need to forgive, because we ourselves need to be forgiven.

Pray together for the deceased, those who have died because of the virus. Let us pray especially for healthcare providers who have given their life in service of the sick.

**A letter from the President and Vice-President on behalf of all the Bishops of the Conference**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. This includes the ways in which we publicly express our faith. It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice.

Our churches will remain open. They are not closing. They will be a focal point of prayer, where you will find solace and strength. In visiting our churches at this time, we will observe with great care the practices of hygiene and the guidance on social distancing. However, the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation. Knowing that the Mass is being celebrated; joining in spiritually in that celebration; watching the live-streaming of the Mass; following its prayers at home; making an act of spiritual communion: this is how we share in the Sacrifice of Christ in these days. These are the ways in which we will sanctify Sunday, and indeed every day.

**We want everyone to understand that in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.**

You will find more details about the pathway of prayer and sacramental life we are now to take in the accompanying document and on the Bishops' Conference website ([www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)). Your own bishop and parish priest will provide further support, encouragement and information about our way of prayer together in the coming weeks.

The second vital aspect of these challenging times is our care for each other. There are so many ways in which we are to do this: being attentive to the needs of our neighbour, especially the elderly and vulnerable; contributing to our local food banks; volunteering for charitable initiatives and organisations; simply keeping in touch by all the means open to us. During these disturbing and threatening times, the rhythm of the prayer of the Church will continue. Please play your part in it. The effort of daily kindness and mutual support for all will continue and increase. Please play your part in this too. For your commitment to this, we thank you. 'The Lord is my shepherd, There is nothing I shall want.'

May God bless us all.

Vincent Cardinal Nichols    Archbishop Malcolm  
McMahon OP President    Vice-President

18th March 2020

***Here is a prayer you can say from the Manual of Catholic Prayer:***

Lord Jesus Christ, true physician and heavenly medicine,  
be merciful to us and bring us aid.  
Heal all our sickness, Lord.  
Heal every malady that afflicts Thy people.  
Banish our infirmities of soul and body.  
Rid us of all disease and pestilence.  
And in Thy pity, deal also with the causes of our evil plight,  
so that, in curing our perverseness,  
Thou mayest also remedy our bodily ills. Amen.

**The Dowry of Mary Bishop Philip writes...**

**On Sunday 29th March**, On Sunday 29th March, The Fifth Sunday of Lent, the Sunday after the Solemnity of the Annunciation, every single Catholic in England – and thus in our Diocese of Portsmouth - will be invited to rededicate themselves personally to the Blessed Virgin Mary so that England can shine once again as the Dowry of Mary. We can do this privately at home. Those who wish, may also gain a Plenary Indulgence, subject to the usual conditions. Copies of the Act of Entrustment of England to the Virgin Mary are available.

The re-dedication follows in the footsteps of King Richard II, who in the face of great political turmoil in 1381 went to the shrine of Our Lady of Puy in Westminster Abbey to seek her guidance and protection. The purpose today is so that the Catholics of England, faced with the personal and national challenges of our times, can turn to Her once again and offer our faith as She leads us to Christ Her Son.

**CAFOD**

A very big Thank you for your generosity for the CAFOD Fast Day which raised the grand sum of £816.63 which include £185 from the CAFOD boxes.

