



Filey Parish

St. Oswald's St. John's St. Thomas'

Sunday 22nd March 2020
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday

***Keep us, good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy
In this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
And lift up all who are brought low;
That we may rejoice in your comfort,
Knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(from the Diocese of Exeter)***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Covid-19 changes:

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice. Churches should be open where possible but with no public worship services taking place.

(See Church of England Guidelines & Resources: shorturl.at/fHKX3)

After considering this guidance, we have stopped all non-essential meetings until further notice. This includes:

- **all Sunday and midweek services**
- **the lent course and home groups**
- **the PCC and the APCM**
- **most activities at the Parish Centre - such as Luncheons, clubs, pastoral teas etc.**
- **Baptisms and Weddings are postponed.**
- **Funerals will continue but will be different.**

The Parish Office is operational but not open to the public.

Please contact Liz via email or telephone. (fileyvic@yahoo.co.uk 01723 512745).

While our Sunday morning worship will regrettably stop, it is hoped to open St Oswald's Church regularly for private prayer each Sunday between 10am – 12pm and at other times during the week indicated by 'Church Open' signs.

PLEASE OBSERVE PHYSICAL DISTANCING (at least 2 meters / 6 feet apart).

As a group of churches we are committed to ensuring that our members and neighbours will be cared for in the most appropriate way. We now have **Filey Parish Churches Helpline** should you need help of any kind, especially if you are self-isolating. Call or text **07853 086321** leave a message and someone will contact you as soon as practically possible.

PLEASE do not feel that you are being a nuisance or trivial. If we can help we will and we will always get back in touch with you as soon as we can.

'Pull together for Filey - Covid19' on Facebook is also offering various means of help and support and they now have a large volunteer base.

We are also exploring different means of supporting people spiritually. Part of this will be to assess and implement the online resources that the Church of England and others are making available in the next few weeks, such as daily prayer. Check our website regularly. fileyparish.org.uk

The BBC has announced it is launching a virtual church service on Sundays. It will take place on Sunday mornings across local radio in England, initially led by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The BBC will also aim to broadcast a weekly Sunday morning church service on BBC One, but this will be subject to outside broadcast capacity.

Spirituality Resources -

Loyola Press (Jesuit Ministry) - 3 minute retreat: shorturl.at/loprz

Celtic Daily Prayer: Morning / Evening: shorturl.at/psQ34 / shorturl.at/uzEN5

Apps for smart phones and tablets available on Google Play & App store - Apple

C of E 'Daily Prayer'

#LiveLent free C of E app for Lent

Bible Reading Fellowship – Daily notes / prayer [BRF Online](#)

The Diocese of York are also encouraging all of us to

- be constant in prayer
- stay safe and ensure others are safe
- look out for those who are vulnerable, distressed or lonely
- help people not to be fearful
- be servant-leaders among colleagues

The Archbishops' recognise that *being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead. Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day.* As such they have called for a **day of prayer and action** to be held on **Mothering Sunday, 22 March**. Prayer for the sick, the anxious, the health service and the government speaks for itself. However, they suggest we act together by placing a lighted candle in our windows at 7pm on Sunday night representing a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished. Please ensure that in lighting a candle you keep your house safe from naked flames!

The coming days and weeks ahead are going to be uniquely challenging. It does **NOT** mean that the Church is 'closed', rather it is an opportunity to pray, witness and serve our community albeit in ways that we may not be used to doing. We will issue further clarification for our church members as we get them, but meanwhile, please do feel free to contact me (512645) or the parish office (512745) if you have further concerns or questions.

Finally, as Bishop Nick Baines in Leeds wrote to his clergy: "**We are drawn by hope, not driven by fear**".

Please stay safe!

Every blessing - Revd. Nigel Chapman

Collect of the day - fourth Sunday of Lent

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Collect of the day - Mothering Sunday

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Gospel reading John 9

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not

know.”

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard

that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

Comment Rev Nigel

Some people might consider that this global Coronavirus is all because of human ‘sinfulness’. They may be right in one way. Evidence suggests that this Covid19, and Ebola a couple of years ago, have been caused by the destruction of habitat and loss of biodiversity which are creating the perfect conditions for such diseases. (Reported by ENSIA). It is not however, because of an act of God.

At one time it was certainly thought that suffering and blindness and even mass death were as a direct result of human sin. However, sin is just a condition of our being. It is about our broken relationship with God and our spiritual blindness. In the story of Eden it was because of our fall that things started to go wrong. That fall it appears, is still happening.

Perhaps what Jesus was trying to get across to those listening to him that day is that in spite of our fall, in spite of our blindness to God, He is able to change the situation. Jesus takes the focus away from the blind man and on to God. Particularly to glorifying God and the restoration of relationship with God – both on a

personal and corporate level. Spiritual blindness on the other hand, can lead to maintaining sinful outcomes.

When we look into our own hearts, are there areas that need to change, perhaps because we have closed our eyes and minds to our own sinful nature within? Are we able to see God's glory and worship God accordingly through a restored relationship with God?

Today is Mothering Sunday. It is heart-warming to see great acts of kindness, care and love happening not just in families but in communities all over the world in these challenging times. Acts that show how we can continue glorifying God and grow in Christlikeness in spite of our penchant for quite the opposite!

We will also try to continue to produce this weekly news sheet with a reading and short homily for the week. These will be available to collect from church on Sunday, as a download from the website, they will be emailed to all the congregation for whom we have contacts for or by request to the Parish office (one can be put through your letterbox if necessary!)

It is also an opportunity to share with others any news, thoughts and useful information for our church family.

I will be producing this leaflet each week and would encourage you to send me anything to include that you feel may benefit others at this time.

So please make sure that I have up to date email, address and telephone contacts for you at the office.

fileyvic@yahoo.co.uk or tel 512745

I am still working from the office Wednesday to Friday and I am always available by telephone or email but Diocese recommendations have stated that I work from home.....it is far easier for me to be at the office, so I am, but working behind closed doors, so no face to face visitors please!

Liz Goodwill

Filey Parish Churches Helpline should you need help of any kind, especially if you are self-isolating. Call or text 07853 086321 leave a message if not answered and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

'Pull together for Filey - Covid19' on facebook is also a helpful page run by volunteers who are working alongside Filey Lions to help those in need in our community during this difficult time.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need volunteers who may be able to "run errands" for those who are self isolating at this time please contact Rev Nigel Tel 512645 who is compiling a list of contacts.