

Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 22nd March 2020

4th Sunday of Lent (A) Psalter Week 4

The Parish of the Holy Trinity,
Stroud Green



with
Holy Innocents, Hornsey

Seeking to know and serve God and our local community

A Christian Response to the Coronavirus Situation



It is very sad that on what should have been the day we celebrate Mothering Sunday, the church family cannot come together for worship. The decision by our bishops to suspend the Sunday Mass for a while is, of course, in the best interests of everyone. But whilst it is not one we want or would lightly choose, it does make us think about a positive response we can give to the Coronavirus outbreak.

An Irish priest, Fr. Kieran O'Mahony OSA, suggests there are at least four ways we can do this. The first is that we move from thinking less about "I" to thinking more about "we". This is a frightening situation that we face together. The common good — the good of us all — must be given first place; within the common good, we will find our own good. That is a very Christian virtue.

The second is an attitude of concern and compassion. Even if we must be isolated in our own homes or workplaces, modern communications allow us to stay in touch in a way impossible before. This is a great benefit. But, we need to choose to stay in contact, perhaps with a greater frequency so that people don't feel abandoned.

The third is a respect for truth. In recent years, the truth has suffered in public discourse, giving rise to a horrible expression, the post-truth era. In these days, we need to pay attention to science and medicine and less attention to opinion-makers and rumours. A society without truth cannot last. Today, right now, we need truth more than ever before. After all, we worship him who is the Way, **the Truth** and the Life.

Lastly, as Christians, we can pray. We can pray in particular for scientists, medical personnel and politicians. These are wonderful people with a huge job of work before them. As we pray for ourselves and our families and friends, we pray too for all who look after the common good. We can and should entrust things to God who 'causes all things to work together for good to those who love him, to those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Fr. Patrick writes...

Since Sunday morning I have been told that **all Church of England churches in London are to remain closed** even for private prayer until further notice. This is to play our part in lessening the spread of the Coronavirus.

Next week's newsletter will contain some more pointers and links to prayer resources for people to use at home during this difficult period

A number of kind people have already offered (providing they are well) to do shopping for anyone in the parish who cannot go out. If you would like to add your name to that list, or need help yourself, or are aware of anyone who needs help, please do get in touch.

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