

BISHOP'S BULLETIN No 43

To the Licensed Clergy of Peterborough Diocese

Palm Sunday, 28 March 2021



Dear friends

This Week

As we enter Holy Week, and approach the heart of our faith in the great Triduum, the three-day period from Maundy Thursday evening to Easter evening, let's be still. Stop and think. Reflect. Don't let the otherness of these days, or the frustrations of closed churches, or the work and excitement of re-opening our buildings, or the anticipation of Easter chocolate, distract you from what matters. We are to lead others to the very heart of God: to his self-giving, his suffering and death; to his promising the Holy Spirit, to his command to us to love one another, to his feeding us with his body and blood, to his washing our feet; to his burial in a borrowed tomb; to his mighty resurrection, "flesh and bones and all", ending all of history and beginning a new creation, opening a new and living way ...

Before we do the Triduum for others, let all this enter our hearts again: bring us in tears of repentance to the foot of the cross, and in tears of joy to the encounter of new life in the garden or the upper room. Have a blessed and life-changing Holy Week and Easter.

Singing

Outdoor singing is now permitted, under strict conditions. If communal worship takes place in the grounds or the outside space of a place of worship, the congregation may join in with singing, provided that household "bubbles" remain two metres apart. Communal singing in other public open spaces is not permitted.

Maundy Thursday – Oils

Normally on Maundy Thursday morning in the Cathedral we bless the oils for use at various key moments of people's lives. I will be doing that, quietly and early in the morning rather than at a large gathering. As public worship resumes and gathers pace, you may find yourself in need of a supply of consecrated oil, either to anoint at baptism or confirmation, or to anoint the sick or dying (I'll hold on to the oil for ordination!) You can request oil from [Canon Rowan Williams](#) and she will make the necessary arrangements (where applicable, a donation towards postage costs would be appreciated). Please specify oil of catechumens, or oil of the sick, or both.

“Low Sunday”

If you haven't yet planned a post-Easter break, or at least a rest on the following Sunday, you still have time. My recorded sermon for 11 April (Easter 2), in video or audio format, is still available from [Rachel Lomas](#) in the Bishops' Office. And/or you can now ask for a sermon for any Sunday in April or May.

More New Marriage Rules

Our Diocesan Secretary Andrew Roberts has been keeping you up to date with new marriage registration rules, and the necessity to buy a new [Register of Marriage Services](#) for each parish. Thanks to Andrew, and to our Registrar and Archdeacons for behind-the-scenes work on this.

But, thanks to Brexit, there is more change on the way. Our departure from the EU altered the requirements for EEA Nationals wishing to marry in the UK, and these changes come into effect on 1 July. Anna Spriggs, our efficient and long-suffering Registrar, has updated the Diocesan Registry website to reflect this. You probably need to take a look [here](#), especially at the *Foreign Nationals* paragraphs. Many thanks to Anna for supporting us through this.

Carys Walsh

Carys is stepping down as Curate Training Officer at the end of this month, to focus on her ministry in Kettering and with the National Ministry Team, and her writing. She has been a great gift to us in her work with the curates and training incumbents, and will be a hard act to follow. Thank you, Carys.

“In the twelfth year of our consecration ...”

Over the years I have scrapped some of the pomposity of the way we do things. (I know, too much for some, and not enough for others.) But, just as a reminder, I was ordained bishop on Lady Day 2010, so since last Thursday all our diocesan licences and suchlike could have included an updated reminder of just how long I've been here. They don't, so I've included it above. What I did reflect on last Thursday was how grateful I am for God's call to be here, and I how much I still enjoy serving alongside such a great bunch of fellow-clergy. Thank you!

With love in Christ

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