

# St Edmund Champion

Watlington

AND...

## Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity

Stonor Park

Newsletter | March 2020



[www.stedmundswatlington.com](http://www.stedmundswatlington.com)

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

### The Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary...

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Today Catholic churches and cathedrals throughout England will take part in the Rededication of our nation to Mary. We think of England as The Dowry of Mary. So, at noon on Sunday please join with me in this great act of devotion. I will pray the Angelus before the Blessed Sacrament.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk, streams all day every day. There is Exposition, Mass and meditation, and silent prayer. See [www.walsingham.org.uk/rededication](http://www.walsingham.org.uk/rededication).

This morning I was hearing live reading from the great Julian of Norwich. She lived as an anchoress - Hermit - in 14th century Norwich. Her Showings (visions) are all about the love of God. We all know the phrase from her : 'all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.' Words we need to hear in these times! I hope you are all well, and adapting to a new way of life we did not imagine just a few weeks ago. I celebrate Mass every day as usual, but with no congregation, of course - at least not a visible one!

My old friend Sister Marcelline rang me from Assisi a few days ago. Her community runs a guest house there. She said 'we may be isolated from other people, but we are never isolated from God. " These are wise words, especially for those of us who are self-isolating.

I go for a run in the car every day. It is round the car park, of course!  
I have heard from many families around the country in the past few days. Some have family members with the Corona Virus. They have been working in hospitals. Two other families have babies due. My sister Shirley is recovering from her recent hip operation. Thank you all for your prayers.

Fr. Michael o.d.c.s

“*But the earth and all its fullness are the Lord's. Poverty I do not fear; riches I do not sigh for; and from death I do not shrink.*”

*St John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople*



## **Easter and the resurrection**

A message of hope in dark times...

There are only two weeks to go until Easter. The Bible readings this Sunday all speak about Resurrection. What could be more encouraging in these times of testing and great suffering?

Over thirty years ago I went with parishioners from St. Joseph's Church, Chalfont St. Peter on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There were so many highlights - Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Mount Carmel. Jerusalem has to be THE high point. So many places associated with the Lord. Masses in the Holy Land are uniquely special. We visited Bethany where Martha, Mary and Lazarus lived. They were great friends of Jesus. He clearly visited them often and felt at home there. Today's Gospel tells us of Jesus's greatest sign that He gave there.

John does not write of miracles. For him Jesus gives us signs as to Who He really is. The raising of Lazarus is very dramatic. Imagine being there and hearing the Lord shout out 'Lazarus come out of the tomb!' The figure shuffles out in the grave clothes. The Lord says to the onlookers 'unbind him.' They take off the grave clothes. John wants us to ask ourselves the question: 'What is holding me back in my desire to be a more faithful disciple?' This is the most important spiritual question as we approach the events of Holy Week.

Let us continue to pray for one another in this testing time.

## **New ways to communicate**

With considerable labour, I have dragged myself into the 21st Century...

Having purchased a new tablet and as the owner of a new smartphone, I am now a fully paid-up member of the 'technocracy'. My new email address is *fathermichaelminers@hotmail.com* and not only that, but I have a new **Facebook** account which will be helpful during these strange times when face to face contact is not possible. You can find me on Facebook [here](#).

Finally, a few of us in the parish will be praying the Rosary together in our own homes. Do join us on Wednesdays at 2. o.pm. (Joyful Mysteries) and Fridays at the same time (Sorrowful Mysteries) - perhaps soon I will work out how to live stream these occasions!





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