

Bexley Team News

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood
St James, North Cray
St John the Evangelist, Bexley
St Mary the Virgin, Bexley

Sunday 17 May 2020 Issue 9

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

PUBLIC WORSHIP HAS BEEN SUSPENDED IN ALL CHURCHES & PLACES OF WORSHIP.

Collect

God our redeemer;
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to
eternal joy;
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 forever.



Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Genesis 8 v20-9 v17 New Testament: Acts 17 v22-31 Gospel Reading: John 14 v15-21

Reflection on today's gospel reading

We are living through strange times, when everything seems unclear, uncertain, and there are many more questions than there are clear answers.

There are plenty of 'rules', there is plenty of 'guidance' and sometimes – as perhaps we have realised this last week - it seems the more guidance we get, the more confused we become. We are unsure what is permitted from day to day, and bewildered when other people seem to interpret the guidance differently to the way we do or just seem to ignore it altogether.

It strikes me that this is not too different from the various opinions that God's people have had concerning the way to live out his 'Commands' - as in Jesus words in our Gospel reading today. The Ten Commandments set out in the Old Testament have had their various interpretation over the centuries, and it seems the more we try to explain, the more options we discover, the more exceptions that have to be made, the more muddy the waters can seem to become. "Thou Shalt Not Kill" or "Thou Shalt Not Murder"? seems simple enough until we consider... "What about those who fight to protect others in war? What about if..." and the various scenarios unfold, when some form of taking of life *may* seem to be justified.

The summary of God's Law is contained in the words: - "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself." In our gospel reading Jesus promises the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit, to help us and be with us as we seek to live lives of obedience to him, keeping his commands to us.

We clearly need the guidance of the Holy Spirit, because if our actions are to be truly loving and in accordance with God's Commands, we will have to be very aware of the ways in which we respond to other people, and the way we respond to the different circumstances that confront us. We need to think

carefully about the impulses and motives which direct our words and our actions. In the present confusion and uncertainty, this is true now, perhaps more than ever. This week, let us pray that God would, through his Spirit, grant us an extra measure of kindness, grace and flexibility, so that we show his love in the world.
Revd Ren

You can follow a simple service of worship for Sunday 17 May led by Rev Ren on https://youtu.be/kNPR-y_5Q8

Prayers

Loving Father, help us to love you with our whole heart and serve you in those we meet. Thank you that you have promised to be with us always. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to comfort us with your love and strengthen us in your service. Amen.

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 Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.



We hope you all enjoyed taking part in the messy church activities last weekend. This week we have something slightly different. The below link will take you to a lovely download called 'God, Covid 19 and me. If you don't have a printer, don't worry you can talk your child through the questions and ask them to write down their thoughts on paper. Enjoy! Katrina
parentingforfaith.org/post/me-god-and-covid-19

A message from St. Mary's Messy Church leader- 'I hope you are all well and thriving during this extraordinary time. I wonder if the ones of you with children might be creating things as we do in Messy Church and would like us to set up a small exhibition of anything produced, when we can have our next Sunday afternoon Messy Church? Wishing you health and every blessing' Janet

Do you have news, information or ideas for Bexley Team News? Please contact Rev'd Clive, contact details below.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. In 2019 Christians from 172 countries took part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. Find out more at www.thykingdomcome.global/about-us

John Harrington (1927 – 2020)

It is with great sadness that we announce that John Harrington, one of North Cray's most respected and long-serving residents, died in hospital on the evening of Sunday 10 May 2020, following a fall at his home. Some of you will be aware of John's lifelong contribution to North Cray and the wider community. Through the 1970s to early 1990s John served as Councillor for Cray Ward and was elected as Mayor of Bexley for 1988/89. He and his wife Bridget worked tirelessly raising funds for what was to become the Greenwich & Bexley Hospice.

John was associated with the parish church of St James North Cray for most of his life. Recently he has attended the Bexley Team's Midweek Holy Communion on a Wednesday morning and was committed to supporting this new initiative. He also gave his support to the newly formed North Cray and District branch of the Royal British Legion.

A private family Cremation will be held at Eltham Crematorium on Wednesday 27 May at 11am. When we are once again able to gather in church buildings, there will be a special memorial service held at St James North Cray where John worshipped and attended for most of his life.

Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)

I am grateful to David Cook, former Chairman of the North Cray Residents Association for some of the information in this tribute.

Reg Haddaway & Ray Miller: We share the sad news that both Reg and Ray recently died peacefully at their respective homes. Both were dedicated and faithful members of St John's and will be missed across the team. We pray for their repose and comfort for their families. *Requiescat in Pace*

St. John's- other news

Giving to St John's: You can give financially to the continuing upkeep and ministry of St John's via our Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/stjohntheevangelist-bexley

Ascension Day: An Ascension Day reading and reflection from Edward will be available to watch on the St John's Website from Thursday.

Suspended Sermons are posted each Sunday at fatheredwardbarlow.wordpress.com Social Media- engage with us via Facebook ([/stjohnsbexley](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbexley)) and Twitter ([@stjohnsbexley](https://twitter.com/stjohnsbexley)).

Help offered/needed If you or someone you know **needs help** or if you **can offer assistance** please contact-

St. Mary's Bexley contact Christine Wood 01322 270942 chrisawood2003@yahoo.com

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood- contact Rev'd Ren or Kevin Clarke 07791582546 kacrat@btinternet.com

St. James, N Cray- contact Rev'd Ren or David Stevens 0208300 0867 davidstevens112@aol.com

St. Johns, Bexley- contact Revd Edward Barlow contact details below

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