

Hello

Time is ticking on and Holy Week is just around the corner. We are being forced to mark it in a different way to what we are used to and what we would like. Even though we are *dispersed*, we are not divided, and we are still church together. Here are some ways you can join in, with your church family, from home:

* Each morning at 9:15am I am saying mass online, on behalf of us all. You can find this on Facebook. If you don’t have Facebook, I can send it to you via WhatsApp or email each day (if you would like to receive the services in this way, please let me know by texting 07780 675322 or emailing revdgemma@gmail.com). Additional services will be shown through Holy Week and these will be publicised online.
* If you don’t have the option to receive these, why not pause for a short period at 9:15am and join your prayers with mine, in the knowledge I’m holding you before God right then
* You will find a poster enclosed for Holy Week – many families have been placing rainbows in their front windows as a sign of hope. Why not put this Holy Week poster in your window to show people that this is a significant time for us?
* On Easter Sunday you can replace your poster with the ‘Christ is risen’ one and leave it up for the whole Easter season
* Pray for your neighbours and street; that this visual reminder might make them aware of Holy Week and Easter, and that they may be inquisitive to find out more about Jesus
* At 8pm on Holy Saturday (Easter Eve) I will be lighting the holy fire in my garden, singing ‘the Light of Christ’ and the Exsultet (watch out neighbours!) and saying the first mass of Easter. I do that on your behalf, as well as for the Church of God in our town, and worldwide. At that time, spare a thought, say a prayer, light your own candle in your front window, sing a chorus of *Thine be the Glory* or your favourite Easter hymn, and know your voice joins with mine, and countless others, going straight into the throne room of heaven!
* And do you remember, at the beginning of Lent (with no idea of what lay ahead), we buried our holy word of praise (beginning with an A!)? Well, until we can proclaim it loudly together, you must shout it loud, so the powers of darkness know that death is defeated, and life is everlasting, because of Christ our Lord. Shout it from your windows! Shout it in the shower! Shout it in the darkness and the light! Shout it on your daily walk! Shout it alone until we can shout it together!

I do not know when we will be able to be together again, but I miss you. I miss our time together. I miss worshipping our Lord together. And when we come back together, what a party we will have! Until then, know you are carried in my heart and in my mind, and in my prayers, and that you are loved by the very same God who loved you into being. Keep safe.

With every blessing,

Mother Gemma ☺