

NEWSLETTER

for the

The Anglican Chaplaincy of Bonn and Cologne

AND NOW **THESE**
THREE REMAIN:
FAITH, HOPE AND
LOVE. BUT THE
GREATEST
OF THESE IS
LOVE.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Faith, hope, and love – together and apart

Dear Friends,

You will notice, like the times, this newsletter is a bit different to what you may have become accustomed to over these last months.

In these pages you will hear from Fathers Michael and Richard, as well as read many tips about how we can continue as a community of Christians even at this time when we cannot gather physically. Most of this content was compiled by Jenny Knudsen, who has our warmest and heartiest thanks.

Jenny will also be publishing daily tips on how we can keep connected on the chaplaincy's social media accounts (see page 2). Now is a great time to follow.

Many tips are for public worship and prayer offered in digital spaces – streaming over your computer or phone, or as downloadable content. If you need support accessing any of this, please reach out to **newsletter at**

anglicanbonncologne dot de. If you have any tips, we'd also love to know how you are practising social distancing while keeping connected.

I expect to have the next edition of this newsletter ready to send sometime in April.

With great hope that we will all meet again soon,

Carrie Andrews

Regular Worship ...

... and all other activities in the chaplaincy are suspended until further notice. Until then, here are some places you can keep up to date with the chaplaincy online.

All are publicly accessible. You don't need a facebook or twitter account to see the chaplaincy pages there or our regular updates.

www.anglicanbonncologne.de (you'll find the weekly sheet here, with Sunday's readings, psalm and prayers)

www.facebook.com/AnglicanBonnCologne

twitter.com/Anglican_Bn_Cgn

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8388 (St Boniface, Bonn)

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8389 (All Saints, Cologne)

Pastoral care remains available. Please contact Fr Richard.

Dates for your diary

Please note, all dates are subject to change, depending on how the situation develops.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Please watch the spaces mentioned above.

Monday, 27 April

Chaplaincy AGM

At **19.30** at All Saints, Cologne

Sunday, 3 May

Confirmation Service

At **10.30** with Bishop David at All Saints, Cologne, followed by a potluck lunch.

Postponed!

Concert with Blackburn Cathedral Choir

This was originally planned for Friday, 17 April, and has been postponed to autumn. The new date is still to be determined.



The Weekly Sheet newsletter

To ease and increase communication from the chaplaincy during this time, starting Wednesday, 25 March, the weekly sheet will be sent out as a newsletter as well.

It will go to everyone who receives this newsletter, but if you not wish to receive the Weekly Sheet in your e-mail, you will be able to unsubscribe. This will not affect your subscription to this newsletter.

The Weekly Sheet for the upcoming Sunday is and will remain available on the chaplaincy website as well.

If you have any questions about this, please contact **newsletter at anglicanbonncologne dot de**.



From the Chaplaincy

Please read on, on this page and the next, for messages from Fathers Richard and Michael. Thank you, Fathers!

Dear friends,

As you know, in the light of the coronavirus outbreak and the absolute need to reduce the spreading of the virus, all public services have been suspended - in the first instance – up until and including 10 April.

However this does not mean that all worship has stopped. The ancient pattern of prayer - Morning and Evening Prayer - will continue and although said in private these services are conducted on behalf of the whole church community, the chaplaincy and the wider world.

In the coming weeks, and possibly months, we are facing the challenge of being a church that, although it has no physical presence in the form of public worship, is still recognisable not only as a community rooted in prayer but also, in these difficult times, as a community that is there for all those who are in need.

So as a church community let us pray for and support those who are most vulnerable in our church, but also in our local communities.

Finally, let me assure you that you are all, very much in my thoughts and prayers at this time.

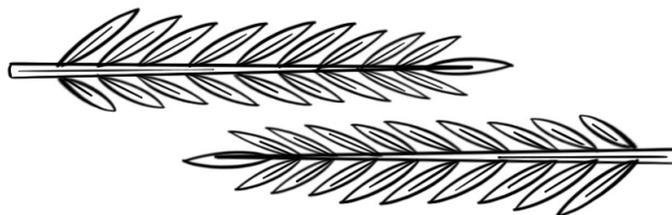
A Prayer for all those affected by
Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from
your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Please do get in touch if I can be of any assistance.

Yours in Christ,
Fr Richard



Dear Friends,

I am writing this on 18 March, and my first thought was that I might write something emphatically not about coronavirus.

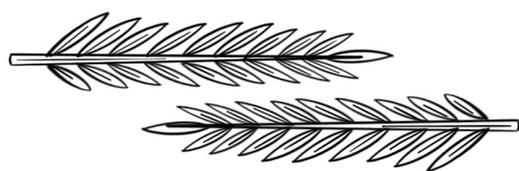
However, the virus is in our thoughts and should be in our prayers. I don't think I have quite come to terms with the fact that this coming weekend for probably the first Sunday since I have been an adult practicing Christian, I will not be receiving Holy Communion. The reasons why this is so are proper and cogent, but the Holy Communion is important to me since it reminds me that Christianity is not so much about having personal spiritual highs (although we should be grateful for spiritual highs when God grants them) but rather it is about being a real person in God's real world, in which we eat bread, drink wine, shake hands and enjoy the company of our neighbours.

During this time when we cannot meet together at the altar some of you whose knowledge of social media is greater than mine (admittedly not a high hurdle) have suggested ways in which we can keep in touch as people of God. We are blessed to have Father Richard who is firmly rooted in this community. For some of us a time of forced isolation may afford time and opportunity in which to develop our personal prayer life, although for some it may be the opposite and even a time of apparent dryness in prayer. As far as public worship is concerned, although I

can no longer share the Eucharist, I can fall back on the Daily Prayer, the daily offices of Morning and Evening Prayer. These are available online under [Church of England daily prayer](#). I have called Church of England Daily Prayer “public” worship; in fact I shall mostly be reciting Daily Prayer on my own, although I am strengthened by the thought of so many, lay or ordained, who will be doing exactly the same thing. Daily Prayer consists of Bible readings and the recitation of psalms, which sounds rather dry, but I am constantly surprised by joy at making the Bible part of me (including some of the less obviously helpful passages, where sometimes I just have to offer up my uncertainties) and in most, although by no means all, verses of the psalms which become my own prayers, indeed better than my own prayers, as I allow myself to say them slowly and dive more deeply into their meaning.

On the table in the church flat in Bad Godesberg is an icon of St Willibrord, an English cleric who worked in this part of Europe. I bought the icon at Echternach, where he died in 739. The icon was painted by an Eastern Orthodox nun in Belarus, and I had intended to present it at a study group in Stieldorf. Clearly the study group can't happen at present, but the icon is a sign of hope that it will happen before long, whatever we have to go through in the meantime. The Christian virtues are hope, love and faith, and during this time we need to pray to the Lord, even if we seem to pray little else, that we may increase in them.

With my prayers and heartfelt good wishes,
Michael Bullock OGS



The Bonn Sunday School leaders have collected the following resources for families with school-age children. The links are embedded in the text. Thank you, Jenny, Jean, and Geoff!

Dear families,

As we are unable to hold church services at the moment, we are sad to say that there will be no Sunday School in April.

If you'd like to try a Sunday School at home, there are lots of resources available that you can use. Here are some ideas.

1. [Illustrated Ministry](#) is a community of pastors and church leaders, parents, teachers, youth workers, chaplains, and many other folk who care about quality faith formation resources and products. Usually there's a fee for their materials, but to help families during this time of uncertainty, they are currently providing a wide range of resources free of charge.

2. [Going For Growth](#) is a Church of England resource hub to support ministry with and among children and young people. It offers resources, downloads and links.

3. [The Bible App for Kids](#)

4. [A collection of prayers by William Lister](#), especially written for this time of uncertainty due to the coronavirus.

We hope you find these helpful and that we will all be able to see each other again soon. In the meantime, please be assured of our prayers for you and your families.

Warmest wishes,
 Jenny, Jean and Geoff from the Sunday School team



Work by the Bonn Sunday School at the beginning of March. With thanks to Carol Pereira for the picture!

Ideas for worship, prayer and community, while staying safe at home

Even though we can't physically be together for services at the moment, we are all still here!

As of Monday, 16 March, ALL church services and activities in the chaplaincy are suspended until further notice. Suspending services, confirmation classes, Sunday School, and other church gatherings is hard. But it's how we as a chaplaincy can – and must – contribute to protecting the health of those around us.

Pastoral care of course remains available at all times. Please [contact Fr Richard](#) if you would like to receive home communion or simply a visit at any time in the coming weeks.

And as individuals, there are lots of things we can do in the meantime to keep our sense of community strong. Here are some ideas:

Home Worship

Every day, the Church of England website publishes services of Morning Prayer, Prayer During the Day, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer (Compline) in contemporary and traditional forms. You can [find them here](#).

Alternatively, download the Daily Prayer app to access the same content, available from the Apple App store and Google Play. That way, you can join in prayer and worship with others, wherever you are.

A simple phone call

On Sunday morning – or any time! – why not call someone you'd usually see at church? Ask about their week, whether they need anything, if there's something they'd like you to pray for. Perhaps you'd like to say the Prayer for the Day together on the phone. You can [find that here](#).

Offer help

Who do you know who lives alone? Has been ill recently? Is self-isolating? Feels lonely or anxious? Make contact. Offer help with shopping, or just a friendly ear to listen.

In Cologne, "Kölsch Hätz" (Caritasverband für die Stadt Köln e.V.) has created a hotline/e-mail address for all who require help from or can (safely) volunteer to help their neighbours. Please [see this page](#) for the telephone number and e-mail address (in German).

In Bonn, anyone interested in volunteering to help can the [Freiwilligenagentur Bonn](#)

Pray

As Christians we are called to be faithful in prayer at all times. Below is a prayer for all those affected by the Coronavirus. Many others are available from [the Church of England here](#).

We are all here for each other, and God's love is ever-present among us. As Jesus told his disciples:
"I am with you always."

Jenny Knudsen

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

More ideas for staying connected

*As this chaplaincy works to come up with ways we can gather to worship or prayer in a digital space, there are many communities that already offer such spaces and services. If you want to try any of these things out, but are uncertain about how it works, please write **newsletter at [anglicanbonncologne dot de](mailto:anglicanbonncologne.dot.de)**, and the editor or someone else will do their best to help.*

The following is a compilation of ideas, mostly from Jenny Knudsen, with a couple from the editor.

A church for all

In a joint letter published on 17 March, Archbishops Justin Welby and John Sentamu encouraged all congregations in the Church of England to “become a different sort of church” as coronavirus and its effects continue to spread worldwide. “Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day,” they wrote. “This is a defining moment for the Church of England. Are we truly a church for all, or just the church for ourselves?”

Although we’re not able to gather for public worship in Bonn and Cologne for the time being, there are lots of things we can do – individually and together – to worship wherever we are. Here are some ideas.

Books

Perhaps you’re reading a Lent book at the moment. ‘Saying Yes to Life’ by Archbishop Justin Welby is just one of many. Whichever one you choose, you can be sure that lots of other people are reading the same book at the same time, and reflecting on the same questions as you are – all part of a fellowship journeying together.

Radio

BBC Radio 3 broadcasts Choral Evensong twice a week (Wednesdays and Sundays).

BBC Radio 4 broadcasts live worship each Sunday at 9.10am German time.

Apps

LiveLent: Brief readings and reflections for every day during Lent.

Pray as you go: Daily 10-minute audio with beautiful music, a reading and a reflection. Very calming if you’re feeling anxious about anything.

PrayerMate: A great way to keep track of all the people and situations you’d like to pray for.

Daily Prayer: Order of service (contemporary or traditional language) from Common Worship for Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer (compline) every day (scroll to the bottom of the page to find the app store links).

Internet

First, see page two of this newsletter for all the places you can find this chaplaincy on the internet.

Live worship services: Many churches are live-streaming services that you can watch. Here in the Diocese in Europe, they include [St Clement’s in Prague](#) and [St Alban’s in Copenhagen](#).

Further afield, the [Washington National Cathedral](#) in Washington, DC streams their (Episcopal) Sunday service, as well as Morning and Evening Prayer. Watch the time zones with this one!

[This is a playlist](#) of popular, well loved hymns you can listen to at home.

Habits of Grace: Every Monday through May, Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the US will present a new short video meditation on cultivating a habit of grace.

Wash your hands

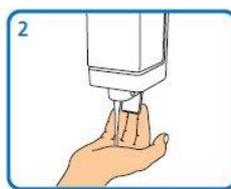
You may have seen this poster or similar designs in various places on the internet the last few weeks. We have all learned the importance of washing our hands with soap and water, for the proper amount of time, and using proper technique to prevent the spread of corona virus, as well as many other germs.

This poster demonstrates proper technique, and how, in this instance, reciting the Lord's Prayer as you wash will help you make sure you spend the recommended time lathering and scrubbing.

Hand-washing technique with soap and water



1 Our Father in heaven,



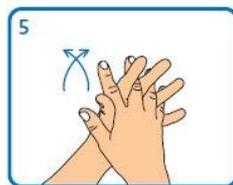
2 hallowed be your name,



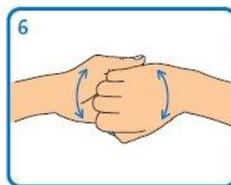
3 your kingdom come,



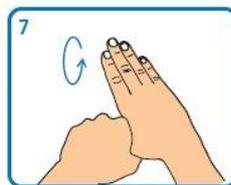
4 your will be done,



5 on earth as in heaven.



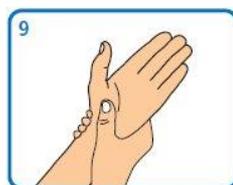
6 Give us today our daily bread.



7 Forgive us our sins



8 as we forgive those who sin against us.



9 Lead us not into temptation



10 but deliver us from evil.



11 For the kingdom, the power,



12 and the glory are yours



13 now and for ever. Amen.

Create your own
<https://washyourlyrics.com>