

The Four Ways Mission Community

St James, Swimbridge | The Holy Name, Gunn | St Paul, Landkey | St Peter, West Buckland | St Michael, East Buckland

Revd Shaun O'Rourke, Priest-in-Charge. Tel. 01271 830950
8th May 2020 for 10th May – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to what is now our sixth weekly letter under lockdown. Today, Friday, we are celebrating VE Day, the time when we give thanks for the bravery of our servicemen and women who gave up so much - even their lives - so that we could enjoy the happiness of a future in a free Europe.

It's hard to imagine what those brave men and women faced day by day in combat and in keeping things going on the home front. It puts what we are doing right now to protect our fellow citizens into perspective: we are frustrated and tired of sitting in our homes, not being able to do what we want but they lost lives, homes and loved ones. I believe that we should keep our chins high and put up with what our government has asked us to do so that we and our children may have a healthier future. It's our national duty to do our bit.

I know many of us are worried about our church buildings and when we finally do get back to slowly use them, we expect that there will be new procedures that we will have to implement to assure safety. It is likely that there will be just small gatherings at first, but we will endure and move ever slowly forward, protecting ourselves and our neighbours and offering an environment in which people can feel safe coming back to our churches.

Many of you are continuing to give to your churches and for that we are greatly thankful. Our church finances are taking a big hit and we still have to pay the normal everyday expenses. If you would like to contribute your normal giving and have thought about it, please do so as we need to have a healthy church to return to. You can contact your Treasurer to arrange this and I know they would be overjoyed at your contributions to keep us all open.

Please don't forget that you can access daily prayer every day at 10am live on our dedicated Facebook page Mission Prayer Programme or watch it later in the day, we have between 25 and 40 people sharing that medium every day and we also have a full communion service on a Sunday at 10am as well. All are welcome, all are wanted, and all are loved by God.

The link to Mission Prayer is <https://www.facebook.com/mission.prayerprogramme>

Thank you as well to all our wardens and members who have been going into church to make sure the church is secure every week. It's been wonderful to see the commitment that you have all had to our wonderful church buildings - it's inspiring.

God willing, we will soon be able to join again in worship under one roof together and that is something we all look forward to with anticipation.

May God bless each and every one of you and keep you safe.

With blessings

Fr Shaun