

Subject: Daily Prayer 24th March 2020
From: Anglican Church <anglicanpollenca@gmail.com>
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To: Anglican Church <anglicanpollenca@gmail.com>
BCC: kjgreenall@gmail.com

CROWN OF THORNS to CROWN OF GLORY

Good Morning to everybody! Perhaps in recent weeks we have all become 'experts' on the origin, spread and increasing danger of the Corona Virus. So called by experts because it resembles a 'Crown of Thorns' - however as the Church moves towards Passion Sunday on Sunday 29 March and as a Christian Family, we enter Passiontide, we need to give some thought to that Crown of Thorns worn by Christ, which love on 'that Green Hill far away' transformed into that Crown of Glory which we all shall wear as disciples of Christ.

We are about to enter the most important and solemn two weeks of the Church's Liturgical Year. We recall, yet again, the depth of Our Lord's love for each one of us here in Pollenca, as obedient to his Father's will, he turns his back on the calm waters of the Sea of Galilee and heads towards Jerusalem. Of course, he knew full well in advance, how the fickle crowds who greeted him with shouts of 'Hosanna' in that dusty city on Palm Sunday, only a few days later would be clamouring for his death - Crucify him! Crucify him! But the Man from Galilee whom we all love so very much, kept on walking - such was the depth of His love for each one of us, in obedience to His Father's will.

As we enter Passiontide 2020, we do so, surrounded by a cloud of anxiety, but we would do well to remember that during these difficult days, we do not walk alone and even though we cannot see the future clearly, Christ is holding each one of us, tightly by the hand. He does so that the Crown of Glory may be ours.

Fr Simon

Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lord our God, we thank you for the help you have given us so that we can stand before you, rejoicing in the certainty of faith. We thank you for guiding and leading our lives and for letting us see a goal ahead. Be with us in times of silence when we seem to be alone. Keep us strong and steadfast through all the turmoil of life. Help us to remain unshaken, for you walk with us holding us by the hand. Amen.

Psalm 40:5-11

You have multiplied, O LORD my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us;
none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt-offering and sin-offering
you have not required.

Then I said, 'Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart.'

I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;

see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O LORD.

I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.

Do not, O LORD, withhold
your mercy from me;

let your steadfast love and your faithfulness

keep me safe for ever.

Luke 1:26-38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Message from Bishop David

The Pope's invitation to all Christians



The Annunciation, (unknown), the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles.

Addressing the leaders of all Christian Churches, communities and confessions worldwide, the Pope invites us all, on 25 March at 12 noon in each local time zone, to recite the prayer of all Christians.

“In these days of trial, as humanity trembles at the threat of the coronavirus pandemic, I would propose that all Christians join their voices together to heaven to invoke the Almighty, the All Powerful God, by reciting contemporaneously the prayer that Our Lord Jesus has taught us”.

25 March is the Feast of the Annunciation. Its central focus is the wondrous moment in history when the Eternal Word became flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary; in short God became one of us. The feast marks the dramatic entrance of the divine into our everyday world, God with us, Emmanuel. As we remember the closeness of God to us – God who took on our very flesh – Pope Francis encourages us in reciting our common prayer to remember the closeness of God to doctors, nurses, health workers, volunteers, the authorities who have to

make difficult decisions for our common good, the closeness of God to those who are stricken with this disease and those who are alone.

As the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM) suggests, Anglicans see the value of a ministry exercised by the Bishop of Rome as a sign and focus of unity within a reunited Church. We experience this ministry of unity in the call of Pope Francis to all Christians to join together in praying the Lord's Prayer at this difficult time for people everywhere.

Blessings

Vicky