

Church of Our Saviour Bulletin

The English Speaking International Roman Catholic Parish of The Hague

22 March 2020

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(under the name 'Church of Our Saviour')



Fourth Sunday of Lent also known as Laetare Sunday

Psalm Response: "The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."

Readings: 1 SM 16: 1B, 6-7, 10-13A; PS 23: 1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6; EPH 5: 8-14; JN 9: 1-41

The 4th Sunday of Lent celebrates the fact that the longest part of the 40 days of Lent are almost over. Traditionally, this Sunday of joy shows the coming Light of the Resurrection in dark times. The reasons for rejoicing in these gloomy days of the coronavirus are to be found in all these people who are signs of life in the suffering of people. As we have a common cross to bear, we turn to the Lord and to one another to raise each other up.

PARISH LOCKDOWN

Following the instructions of the Dutch government, our parish is taking the following precautions to combat the spreading of the corona virus.

- The Parish Office and buildings are no longer open to visitors starting from **Friday 20 March at 14.00** (except by appointment for emergencies).
- The Parish Office can be reached by phone. Please leave a message or email us at office@parish.nl.
- Our staff will work from home as much as possible.
- A website page will be dedicated to offer comfort to our parishioners during this turbulent time with uplifting thoughts/videos/prayers at www.parish.nl/news/inspirational-thoughts-for-these-difficult-days/.



Church bells ring for comfort and solidarity

There are many reasons to let the city know that the Church cares for everybody struggling today. Now that we no longer gather for worship, we pray for all the caregivers, helpers, companions, and of course, the coronavirus patients. A national campaign of bell ringing was held last Wednesday between 19.00-19.15 to give a sound of empathy.

Thirty minutes before we started ringing the bells, our church was covered by grey clouds, but our tower stood as a beacon of hope in the full sun.

This is a real, unedited picture taken last Wednesday at 18.30 by Fr. Sjaak.

Another amazing fact...

Yes, the Church has a St. Corona and guess what...since the 2nd century, she has been the Patron Saint of Pandemics!



It's incredible but it's seemingly true - there is a Saint Corona and she is one of the patrons of pandemics. Saint Corona, pray for us!

Saint Corona is thought to have lived in 2nd century Syria under Roman occupation. She was only 15-years-old when she professed her Christian Faith during the persecution of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius.

According to legend, Saint Corona was arrested and tied by her feet to the tops of two palm trees which were bent to the ground. When the palms were let loose she was torn apart.

It is reported that Saint Corona is especially venerated in Austria and Bavaria as the patron saint against epidemics. Her mortal remains are now housed in the city of Anzu in northern Italy, the epicenter of the recent outbreak of Coronavirus in Europe. Her feast day is May 14.

How we can help

Parishioners and volunteers ask how they can reach out to those who get lonely or bored or those who cannot leave their homes or nursing homes. Here are a few practical steps.

- Call or read a book together through Skype or FaceTime
- Offer to cook for caregivers or the sick
- Offer to do the shopping
- Organize or participate in a WhatsApp group to stay in touch when help is needed in your building or street.

Parish Calendar



Due to the ongoing situation, please continue to check the parish calendar at www.parity.nl/parish-calendar/ for any schedule changes.

Church of Our Saviour

HOLY WEEK 2020

The Pope and the Dutch bishops (together with Episcopal Conferences in many countries) decided not to go through with public ceremonies during Holy Week.

For our parish, this means that we will offer the following options:

PALM SUNDAY

- Palm Branches will be blessed and available in church between 12.00-18.00.
- Mass will be streamed live through our website www.parity.nl at 10.00 and available for viewing for the rest of the week.
- The Church will be open for private prayer with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 18.00.

HOLY THURSDAY

- Mass will be streamed live at 19.30. After mass, the Altar of Repose will be streamed live until midnight for your own vigil prayer.

GOOD FRIDAY

- Pictures of our Stations of the Cross will be available on our website with accompanying texts and prayers for every station, to be read and prayed over at home.
- The cross will be streamed live for private prayer starting at 15.00 until midnight.

HOLY SATURDAY

- A Vigil Mass will be celebrated at church and streamed live at 18.00.
- Church is closed.

EASTER SUNDAY

- Easter mass will be streamed live from our church at 11.00 and available for viewing for the rest of the week.