



Dear Parishioners,

Clearly, Lent 2021 will be more of a challenge than Lent has been in previous years! Our usual Day of Reflection at Buckfast, Stations of the Cross and other additional liturgies have been curtailed by the mantra *stay at home*. I have, then, put together a proposal for a parish *Lent at Home* under the heading *the paths of hope*, a phrase from Pope Francis' latest Encyclical Letter, *Fratelli tutti*, "*Let us continue, then, to advance along the paths of hope.*" (§55)

Just as **JOY** was our word for Advent, let **HOPE** be our anchor word for Lent.

In the booklet, you will see on the front page a prayer to be used daily during Lent, 'Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty.' On each page following, you will see the pattern: ❶ an excerpt from a First Reading; ❷ words from *Fratelli tutti*; ❸ a thought from Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist* and ❹ a picture for pondering. At the foot of each page is a prayer beginning either '*Merciful and loving God*', '*Forgiving God*', '*All-powerful God*', '*God of power and might*' or '*All-loving God*' – all calling on the God we meet as we '*advance along the paths of hope*'.

Please, if you wish, use each page for a week's reflection and prayer beginning, The First Sunday of Lent, The Second Sunday of Lent, etc. Above all, take it slowly, as I think each page gives us a lot to think about!

Another suggestion is that we all, as far as possible read *Fratelli tutti* and/or *The Alchemist*.

There is a Kindle edition of the *Alchemist* (Amazon £11.49.) and a Mass Market Paperback (Amazon £5.99.)

Pope Francis' Encyclical *Fratelli tutti* can be read (in English!) on the Vatican website :

[www.vatican.va > francesco > encyclicals > documents](http://www.vatican.va/francesco/encyclicals/documents)

It is also available from Amazon (paperback £8.99. and Kindle £3.99.)



Let's have a **DLB** (DISTANCED-LENTEN-BOOKCLUB) in the parish along the lines St. Benedict proposes in his Rule:

'During the days of Lent, they should devote themselves to reading from the morning until the end of the third hour; and from then until the tenth hour they should do the work assigned to them. In these days of Lent they should each receive a book from the library, to be read straight through in its entirety. These books are to be given out at the beginning of Lent.' (RB 48)

For those of you who can access the parish website, please keep your eyes posted for details of a **Lent 'retreat resource'** being offered by **David Wells**, so well-known to us in the parish for his helpful, challenging and often amusing insights into our spiritual lives.

Happy Lent!!

Fr Philip



HAPPINESS IS THE WAY YOU SEE THINGS

CHOOSE THE HAPPY SIDE OF LIFE

ALWAYS SIT ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BUS!

Holy Family Lent Appeal

In his Angelus address Dec. 27, the feast of the Holy Family, the pope noted that March 19, 2021, would mark five years since the signing of *Amoris laetitia* (The Joy of Love) following the synods on the family in 2014 and 2015.



He said: *“Today’s feast reminds us of the example of evangelising with the family, proposing to us once again the ideal of conjugal and family love, as underlined in the apostolic exhortation Amoris laetitia, promulgated five years ago this coming March 19. And it will be a year of reflection on Amoris laetitia and it will be an opportunity to focus more closely on the contents of the document.... As of now, I invite everyone to take part in the initiatives that will be promoted during the Year.... Let us entrust our journey, with families all over the world, to the Holy Family of Nazareth, in particular to St. Joseph, the devoted spouse and father.”*

Our Parish School, as we all know, is under the patronage of ‘St. Joseph, the devoted spouse and father’. I am asking, therefore, that our Parish Appeal, our ‘lenten almsgiving’ will be for the benefit of our children in St Joseph’s, to recognise, as a community, the untiring effort of all the staff, in enormously trying circumstances, to teach ‘gospel values’ to those entrusted to us.



It would be an enormous help if you would make your gift to the school directly since, as a parish, we are currently prohibited from processing cash and cheques.



Please, therefore, place your cheque, payable to *St Joseph’s School (Exmouth) PTA* in an envelope marked **Holy Family Lent Appeal**. You may then drop it through the Presbytery letterbox. If you wish to *GiftAid* your donation, please add a note to that effect. If you wish to make a direct gift to the school, please telephone the administration for details on 264875



“Walking with Jesus to be the best we can be”

As we in Lent follow *the paths of hope*, let’s meet St. Joseph’s ‘*walking with Jesus to be the best that we can be*’.

Thank you!

