

Dear Friends,

Easter must be approached in a spirit of penitence. There is no final release from the bondage of sin except the release of the Atonement made by Jesus on that first Good Friday. We can feel sorry for what we have done, but we cannot forgive ourselves. God forgives. It is the Divine prerogative. Christ atoned for us once and for all upon HIS cross. All we have to do is to accept our freedom, and yet we still go bound. The soul wants to be free, but there is something in the mind that makes us cling to our own particular sins. We sometimes persuade ourselves into thinking they are characteristics, not sins. But giving a thing a different name does not change its nature.

The old sins that nailed our Lord to a Roman cross are still abroad in the world today: the cunning of Caiaphas, the weakness of Pilate, the disloyalty of Judas, the cowardice of Peter, the bigotry of the Pharisees and the indifference of the crowd. Is there a streak of Peter in you, or a touch of the Pharisee? We look at Calvary and we see what we are, what we have been or what might be. It is a frightening sight, but no one can afford not to look at Calvary because if there is any hope for us and the world anywhere, it is there. "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again in the yoke of bondage" -Galatians 5.1.

May you all Have A Blessed Joyous and Peaceful Easter,

Yours In Christ Jesus,

Father Ian.

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#### Priory Church Restoration Update

The Restoration Programme is on target and within its budgets. The external roof works is now almost complete and the majority of the scaffolding has now been removed. You may have noticed that shutters have been placed on two sides of the tower; this is because we hope to install a peal of six bells in the future. Internally much of the upper level work in the Nave is now complete, extensive restoration and renewal has taken place with the ceiling structure, rewiring for light and sound, new mouldings and plasterwork throughout, in addition preventative dry and wet rot treatments have been applied.

The scaffold has now been removed from the Nave area and lower elevation works have now commenced. Structural changes have been made both to the Tower internally and the Balcony. In the case of the Tower, preparations have been made to accommodate the blowing equipment for the Organ and a new floor for the Blower and Ringing Chamber. The Balcony has been rebuilt with a steel structural framework now in place to carry the weight of the Grand Organ. The Organ has been taken to the works of Jardines in Manchester where its full restoration is taking place.

There is still a great deal of work to do but I will use this opportunity to thank the management and staff of Lindum Construction for their professionalism in producing a truly outstanding result so far, and our own Clerk of Works, Mr William Roberts, who is so brilliantly managing the Restoration of this Grade 2 Land Mark Church building.

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In your Charity Pray for our Episcopal Visitor, Bishop David Moyer, his wife and family and for the Faithful people of the Good Shepard, Rosemont, as he tries to find solutions to their enormous present problems.