

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
5th Sunday Easter Year A – 10th May 2020

<u>English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's</u>		<u>St Bede's</u>	<u>St Joseph's</u>
<u>Mass without congregation</u>			
Sat 9th	<u>Mass (not live-streamed)</u> Pat Chapman RIP		
Sun 10th	<u>10:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)		
	<u>4:00pm</u> Holy Hour		
Mon 11th	<u>10:00am</u> Winnie Allinson RIP (MH)		
Tue 12th	<u>10:00am</u> Pat Cullinane RIP		
Wed 13th	<u>10:00am</u> Alan Parkes RIP		
Thur 14th	<u>10:00am</u> Peter & Emma Burke RIP		
Fri 15th	<u>6:30pm</u> Deceased Spayne & Moschopoulou Families RIP		
Sat 16th	<u>Mass (not live-streamed)</u> Andrew Dunn RIP		
Sun 17th	<u>10:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish)		
	<u>4:00pm</u> Holy Hour		

Week by week, each day will have a theme to help us to pray for those affected by Covid-19:
Please keep these themes in your daily prayers.

<u>Sunday</u>	will be Pro Populo	<u>Thursday</u>	for Young Families
<u>Monday</u>	for the Bereaved	<u>Friday</u>	for the Government and Scientists
<u>Tuesday</u>	for Hospital Staff	<u>Saturday</u>	For all Areas, National and International affected by Covid-19
<u>Wednesday</u>	for the Sick and Housebound of our Parishes		

Feast Days this Week:

Tuesday: SS Nereus and Achilles MM & St Pancras M
Wednesday: Our Lady of Fatima
Thursday: St Matthias Apostle

Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available **by appointment.**

Bulletin Items: If you would like a notice included in the next bulletin, please email parishnewsletterstockton@gmail.com by **Wednesday evening** at the latest.

Alternatively, post through the letterbox at English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's Presbytery.

Please remember to add your contact details in case we have a query.

ST. HILDA PARTNERSHIP



English Martyrs and Ss. Peter and Paul's



St. Bede's



St. Joseph's

PARISH NEWSLETTER

5th Sunday of Easter Year A – 10th May 2020

Clergy
Parish Priest: Fr. Jeffrey Dodds
Deacons: Jeffrey Parkes, Paul Hargreaves
Retired Priests: Fr. Denis O'Mahony, Fr. Pat McKenna

Parish Office
Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10.00am till 2:00pm
Contact: Gill Hall Tel. 01642 806469
Email: parishfamilystockton@gmail.com

Internet
Facebook page: @ParishFamilyStocktonRC
Parish website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk
Diocesan website: www.rcdhn.org.uk

Reflection

5th Sunday of Easter - St John 14:1-12

Of course, Jesus knew that his disciples were deeply unhappy and bewildered at the prospect of his leaving them. To alleviate their sorrow, he told them: "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me." (v.1) By believing in him their hearts would find peace. They would have peace by believing in Jesus because they would come to the Father: "no one comes to the Father, but by me." (v.6) They would know the Father, "if you had known me, you would have known my Father also." (v.7) and they would see him, "he who has seen me has seen the Father." (v.9).

The disciples had to make a choice. Would they believe in Jesus and find their peace, or would they remain with troubled hearts? Like the disciples, we often live troubled lives. We are so absorbed by everything we have to do or cope with that we forget the truth that our destiny is heaven. This should be the true source of our joy.

We were created by the father to be his children. Our first sin took us out of the plan of God designed for our good. Out of love for us, Jesus came to bring us back into the Father's original plan. He came to take us to the Father. By his life, suffering, death and resurrection Jesus reconciled us with the Father. He took away the sins that separated us from him. He opened up the gates of heaven, closed against us by our sin, so we could enter into heaven itself.

We are on a journey to the Father. St Pope John Paul II said, "The whole of the Christian life is like a great pilgrimage to the house of the Father." (*Tertio Millennio Adveniente* 49). In faith we should keep our eyes fixed on heaven. Christ has promised to come back to take us there. He has prepared a place for us in his Father's house. (v.2) This hope can overcome all the troubles that burden our hearts and fill them with confidence, joy and peace.

Father, I thank you for creating me to live forever in your presence. In Jesus I can come to you freely. I know you as my Father and will one day see you face to face. Teach me to put my faith in the truth of the gospel and the hope and life it brings. Amen.

Extract from Bible Alive. Easter 2020.

Parish News

Sick and In Need of Prayer: Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish family who are ill.

Recent Bereavements: Please pray for Kath Todd and for all those who have died recently. May they rest in peace. Amen

Parish Family: Supporting Each Other: Members of our Parish family from the Eucharistic Ministry Teams are ringing people who we know are self-isolating so that we can offer them a hand of friendship and faith. If you haven't heard from us yet and you are self-isolating, or you are on your own and would like a friendly chat, or if you know of someone in our Parish family who is lonely, please let us know so that we can arrange to contact you.

Ring or text: **St Bede's** - Karen 07939 495837 or Bernie 07922 154863. **St Joseph's** - Mary 07523 861661

English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul - Joan 07528 523873

St Anthony, patron of the elderly, Pray for us. St Rita, patron of the lonely, Pray for us.

Newsletter Distribution: Many people are able to look at the Newsletter through the parish website, but if you know of someone who doesn't have the internet and would like to have a copy of the Newsletter please ring or text the name and address to Colette 07849712694 and a copy will be posted out. Let's keep in touch as a Parish Family.

IMPORTANT: CENSUS FORM: If you haven't yet filled in a Parish Census Form which asks for contact details, family members and involvement in the Parish, please ring the Parish Office on 01642 806469 for one or look on the Parish Website under Parish News, Extra Parish Events. This information will be used to help us to keep in touch with you especially whilst we are unable to gather as a parish family. Thank you.

SUNDAY LUNCH: Parish Family Stockton are offering a **FREE** weekly Sunday Lunch home delivery service to anyone in the local area who is self-isolating at home alone during the lockdown period. If you would like them to drop one off at your house please text or call Damian Blackwell with your address details, **by Thursday evening at the latest**, on 07931 474235. Thanks.

CATALYST - Stockton based Charity: have volunteers who can collect prescriptions, deliver food etc for all who are socially isolating and in need of assistance. The contact telephone number is **01642 524500**.

An Appeal for Donation to Support the Philippines During this Pandemic: Ted Patulan is a frontline worker fighting hard against COVID-19. He has also committed to help the people of the Philippines survive this pandemic. Support him as he runs 120 km in 30 days (ends 30th May). Money raised will be donated to ANCOP Philippines – the charity arm of Couples for Christ. ANCOP has been giving out food packages and basic necessities to poor families in the Philippines who are confined to their houses due to COVID-19. To donate, go to <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/120kmin30days> or email tedpatulan@gmail.com.

How to keep busy and amused in Covid-19 Times:

Have a ride on all the roller coasters at Blackpool www.youtube.com/watch?v=zK_JGca0NH4

Have a sing in the Lake District with 'sing from your seat' www.youtube.com/channel/UCjEJ1Y0NY3ZL17sm3vl-TFQ

Visit the Chester zoo on a virtual tour 2020 on youtube

Watch the NHS charity appeal by local student group Bellissima singing hallelujah

www.youtube.com/watch?v=38voSoShbFY

If anyone would like to share any other ideas, please email parishnewsletterstockton@gmail.com

The Spiritual and Pastoral Development Group which is made up of various members of our Parish communities, will meet each Sunday via a Zoom conference to discuss the initiatives that are already in place to support you, our Parish Family. If you have any suggestions for consideration, please contact Fr Jeff at the Parish Office.

Foodbanks: As a result of social isolation, distancing and supermarket shelves laying empty, food banks in our borough are experiencing a significant shortage of supplies and are struggling to support those most in need. You can help by donating money which will enable the foodbanks to buy supplies. Go to **Gofundme.com** and search for Emergency Appeal for Foodbanks in Stockton-on-Tees.

Partnership News – taking in Hartlepool, Billingham and Stockton

We continue to pray for our Partnership of St. Hilda that we will continue to support each other not only at this time but in the future as we face the aftermath of the Covid-19 virus. May our parishes here in Stockton work together to build up God's Kingdom in our own area.

Diocesan News

Please be aware of the developing situation regarding the Coronavirus

Masses will be celebrated by Parish Priests but **without a congregation** on a daily basis. Congregations can join in spiritual communion with priests. **All Sacraments** will be deferred until such time that congregations can gather safely.

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions for May: For Deacons - We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

NEWS FROM UGANDA: Fr. Vincent reports they are still in lockdown. So far there have been no deaths and those who have been infected with the virus have recovered. The major problem is still hunger. Many people who have casual jobs and are paid each day have no income. Every day people knock on his door asking for maize flour. The State are trying to help but the demand is great. Some people have only 1 cup of porridge a day. One day when Father was pouring out flour some fell on the ground. A lady came and collected it because she couldn't let it go to waste. Father says "I am indeed under stress because of the constant cry of the hungry people I hear. I have felt with the refugees but this is a little more hectic. We pray for better times." **Donations to the Uganda Mission Fund:** Recent donations to the fund have totalled £270. Sincere thanks to everyone who has made it possible for us to help Fr. Vincent in his work. God bless you all!

Prayer and Liturgy News

Spiritual Communion Prayer - My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Prayer of Saint Padre Pio (1887 – 1968) who would often pray this after receiving Holy Communion

Stay with us, Lord!

Stay with me, Lord, because I am weak and I need Your strength, that I may not fall so often.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my life, and without You, I am without meaning and hope.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my light, and without You, I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord, to show me Your will.

Stay with me, Lord, so that I can hear Your voice and follow you.

Prayer to our Guardian Angel

Our children are also finding these times a challenge with their normal lives disrupted and not being able to play with their friends or meet up with their family. Many of them are worried about the future. As parents and grandparents, you can support them by reminding them of their Guardian Angel and praying with them the traditional prayer:

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here,
ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen

Mass and Devotions: The parish website has lots of information about Masses and Devotions which are available online. You can pray the various Mysteries of the Rosary and The Angelus through the Parish Facebook page.



MIDDLESBROUGH DIOCESE MASS BY PHONE SERVICE: You can now listen to Father Phil celebrating what we think is the first Catholic Sunday Mass available by telephone in this country. **Telephone 01642 130120** Calls should be charged at local rate. A number of our Parishioners listened to last Sunday's Mass. Please pass on the word to anybody you know who would like to share in our celebrations but does not have internet access. It is hoped that for next Sunday we will be able to offer this service from our three Parishes.

Diocesan Day of Prayer for the sick and their families, NHS front-line, social care workers and other key workers

On Thursday 14 May 2020 we are hosting a Diocesan Day of Prayer for the sick and their families, NHS front-line, social care workers and other key workers.

The day will be streamed online and begins with Divine Office from St. Mary's Cathedral, and ends with Bishop Byrne, who will celebrate Mass for the sick and their families, and for NHS front-line, social care and key workers at 7.00pm.

Further information including liturgical and prayer resources will be made available on this website in the near future.

Virtual Pilgrimage to Medjugorje May 2020

As it is the month of May dedicated to our Blessed Mary, I thought you might like to know that a few priests are keen to explore and plan a pilgrimage while we are in lockdown! The priests are Fr Martin Morris, Fr Shaun O'Neill, Fr Paul O'Hara (Hallam diocese) and myself. The pilgrimage would be multi-media and include Holy Mass live-streamed, talks, reflections, the Rosary, devotions, photos of Medjugorje sights, YouTube videos, etc. The aim is to have the virtual pilgrimage between Monday 25th to Sunday 31st May. We will be able to journey towards Pentecost and pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon each one of us and the Church. The pilgrimage would be open to all people for free, whether they have been to Medjugorje or not. It is likely to appeal especially to those who have the internet as introductory resources could be easily emailed out beforehand and for each day of the pilgrimage. Those who don't have the internet could be sent a hard copy of the programme by post which ought to have enough spiritual exercises to make it worthwhile for them. Further details to follow.

Wednesday Word: Please use this link to see next Sunday's Readings
http://wednesdayword.org/downloads/parish_docs/633-A-06-Easter-2020.pdf

Finances

Parish Finances: Please continue to use your offertory envelopes and if you wish, you can deliver them to one of our Presbyteries and they will be collected from there; alternatively, please keep them until our churches reopen. If anyone would like to make a donation, please ring the Parish Office on 01642 806469 and Fr Jeff will give you the paying-in details. Inevitably, income has reduced but we still need to pay bills, so please do what you can to help. This is an opportunity to set up a standing order with your bank which makes giving your weekly offering so much easier.

GIFT AID: Your contribution to the Parish can be increased by 25% if you pay tax. There is no catch. Please contact your Parish Gift Aid organiser, email the Parish Office or speak with Fr. Jeff who will advise you.

...and now for some Light Relief...



Jamie's Paws for Thought:

Life is like old fashioned photography... we use the negatives to develop.

Alexander Maclaren