

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
6th Sunday Easter Year A – 17th May 2020

<u>English Martyrs and</u> <u>Ss Peter & Paul's</u>		<u>St Bede's</u>	<u>St Joseph's</u>
<u>Mass without Congregation</u>			
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		
Mon 18th	<u>10:00am</u> Reg Watson RIP		
Tue 19th	<u>10:00am</u> Cis Waters RIP (PL)		
Wed 20th	<u>10:00am</u> Don & Betty Wallace RIP		
Thur 21st	<u>10:00am</u> Mary Scott RIP (JKM)		
Fri 22nd	<u>6:30pm</u> Maureen Deery RIP		
Sat 23rd	<u>Mass (not live-streamed)</u> Joe Ritchie RIP (MK)		
Sun 24th	<u>10:00am</u> Pro Populo (People of the Parish) <u>4:30</u> May Devotions with Crowning of Mary		

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 our Primary Schools	<u>Friday</u>	for Diocesan Priests
<u>Tuesday</u>	for Care Home Workers	<u>Saturday</u>	for The Homeless
<u>Wednesday</u>	for Transport Workers		

Feast Days this Week:

Monday: St John I, *Pope & Martyr*
Tuesday: St Dunstan, *Bishop*
Wednesday: St Bernadine of Siena, *Priest*
Thursday: **The Ascension of The Lord**
Friday: St Rita of Cascia, *Religious*

MAY DEVOTIONS WITH CROWNING OF MARY

On Sunday 24th May we are holding a May Flower Devotion in honour of Our Lady. We invite families to prepare and decorate a Marian Altar in their homes – please send a photo of your Altar for our Facebook page. There is also to be a 9-day Novena to the Immaculate Heart of Mary starting on Saturday 16th May. Prayers will be provided. Follow the Novena on Facebook.

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

6th Sunday of Easter Year A – 17th 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

6th Sunday of Easter

I suspect that many of you, like me, will have spent a lot more time gardening as a direct result of the ongoing lockdown.

In truth, it would be difficult for me to spend less time gardening when compared with other years, because I'm hardly the Alan Titchmarsh type. Cutting the grass every so often has been more than enough for me since we moved into our house some twenty years ago now.

However, this year has been different. I found a bag of stuff in the shed that promised to kill all weeds and moss, whilst at the same time greening up my grass to make it more lush than it had ever been - and all within seven days.

So last weekend I put the whole bag on my grass. Within a day or two I could see that it was indeed making a difference in that where I had put the granules everything had gone black, as if there had been little bonfires all over. It turns out then that I didn't have grass at all, just weeds and moss.

Another few days having passed I'm pleased to report that there are some signs of green life, with a few patches of grass appearing here and there. Perhaps I haven't killed the lawn, or whatever was there, after all. Perhaps I just haven't paid enough attention to it over the years, and now with just a little help it is beginning to flourish.

God's Word is a bit like this. Sometimes we just allow it to 'be there' and before you know it, it is suffocated, overtaken by the cares of the day whatever they might be. If we don't do anything other than let God's Word just be there, there is no chance that it will be able to nourish us in the way God intended.

We hear today in our Gospel that God's Spirit dwells in each one of us. I like to think of the Spirit as a guide, a means of igniting our love of God. Let's allow that Spirit to help us experience God's Word afresh, to get rid of the weeds and moss that are stopping the growth of that Word in our hearts.

Deacon Paul Hargreaves

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 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:

Make a Post Covid Wish box: get a box, any box, and cover it in nice pretty paper, any paper. Congratulations you now have a Post Covid Wish box. Every time you think of something you wish you could do right now, note it down on a piece of paper and pop it in your box. These are some of the things that have gone into other people's boxes already:

Go bowling with the grandchildren. Try on a pair of shoes in a shoe shop. Buy something absolutely non-essential. Visit Tanfield Railway. Go to the Dorman Museum. Paddle in the sea at Saltburn. Eat fish and chips from Verrill's on the Headland. Have afternoon tea in Betty's Café in Northallerton. Ride on the Transporter, when it gets fixed. Buy a 1kg bag of plain flour.

Once Covid-19 is all over you will never be lost for things to do, just pick something out of the box.

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.

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.

Excerpt from the Letter of Pope Francis to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020 "Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing. I would like to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. I am providing a prayer to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you." O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross was united with Jesus' suffering and persevered in your faith. You know our needs and we know that you

will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us, for he took upon himself our suffering and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen

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.

A prayer for a loved one who is isolated in hospital or in a care home:

Lord Jesus, as you suffered on the Cross, your Mother and friends could only stand at a distance unable to help you. In our helplessness we ask for strength to help us through this time. Look on the one we love who is sick, out of our reach never out of your care, beyond our embrace, never beyond your power. We pray you stay close at N.'s bedside and though we cannot draw near, touch him/her with your mercy and hold him/her safe in your arms.

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. Journey with Mary from Ascension to Pentecost by saying this prayer:

Mary, our Mother, you stayed with the disciples in those ten long days between the Ascension and Pentecost, still patient, still pondering, still trusting in your Son. Be with us now as we remember how Jesus was taken from your sight. Be with us now as we remember his call to share our faith. Be with us now as we await his Holy Spirit. Pray with us now, 'Come Holy Spirit', 'Thy Kingdom come'.

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.

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 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: Enclosed with this Newsletter are the readings for this Sunday 17th May and next Sunday 24th May.

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...

Be careful what you wish for: Many people will know just how difficult, if not impossible, it has been to find flour of any kind in the shops recently. It must be worth more than gold dust by now. Well, praise be, Tesco at Summerfield Farm, today (13th May) had flour, both plain and self-raising. Sold in 14kg bags only.....



Jamie's Paws for Thought:

Where there is no love, put love, and you will receive love back.

St John of the Cross