

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
7th Sunday Easter Year A – 31st May 2020

English Martyrs and Ss Peter & Paul's	St Bede's	St Joseph's
Mass without Congregation		
Sat 23rd	Mass (not live-streamed) Joe Ritchie RIP (MK)	
Sun 24th	10:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish) 4:30pm May Devotions with Crowning of Mary	
Mon 25th	Mass (not live-streamed) Deceased Mannion & McCartney Families	Parish Virtual Pilgrimage to Medjugorje Monday 25th - Sunday 31st May
Tue 26th	10:00am Kallaghan Family	<p>Each day there will be a Facebook live-stream at 10.00am, 1.00pm and 5.30pm with a variety of pilgrim activities including Holy Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Veneration of the Holy Cross, faith talks, Stations of the Cross and a time of prayerful petition for the needs of the world. A Pilgrims Booklet has been produced with a daily timetable and lots of resources for you to get the best out of this week of prayer. The following priests will lead the virtual pilgrimage - Fr Michael Whalen, Fr Shaun O'Neill, Fr Paul O'Hara (diocese of Hallam) and Fr Jeff Dodds.</p> <p>The live-streams will be from Fr Shaun's and Fr Jeff's Parish Facebook Pages.</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/Stteresasheaton/ https://www.facebook.com/parishfamilystocktonRC/</p> <p>If you would like us to send you an electronic copy of the Pilgrims' Booklet please email parishfamilyevent@gmail.com before Sunday evening 24th May.</p> <p><i>Our Lady of Medjugorje. Pray for us.</i> <i>Mary Queen of Peace. Pray for us.</i></p> 
Wed 27th	Mass (not live-streamed) Norah Chadwick RIP	
Thu 28th	10:00am Matthew Chipchase RIP (PW/MD)	
Fri 29th	Mass (not live-streamed) John McCarthy RIP (TM)	
Sat 30th	10:00am Myra Booth	
Sun 31st	10:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	

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 Bishop Robert
<u>Monday</u>	for Farmers	<u>Friday</u>	for Prisoners
<u>Tuesday</u>	for our Secondary School	<u>Saturday</u>	for Shop Workers
<u>Wednesday</u>	for those Who Work at Sea		

Feast Days this Week:

Monday: St Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor
Tuesday: St Philip Neri, Priest
Wednesday: St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
Friday: St Paul VI, Pope

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.

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
7th Sunday of Easter Year A – 24th 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 - 7th Sunday of Easter

Mary in the Cenacle

In the acts of the Apostles after listing the names of the eleven Apostles, Luke continued with these words, "All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women. Including Mary, the mother of Jesus, and his brothers."

The word brothers here is not to be confused with how we may use the word in English. The closest interpretation would be male relatives.

Mother Mary's presence in the upper room is an important one and not to be simply surface read. Mary is there as the mirror of the future Church. She reflects for those present in the Cenacle and ourselves today, the way to holiness. By her 'yes' and total submission, Christ was born, the Word become flesh. In that 'yes', to conceive by the Holy Spirit the impossible was made possible, the dividing wall between the divine and the human was broken down. Jesus fully divine, and through Mary fully human, is the one who breaks down the dividing wall of sin through his death. Jesus glorifies the Father through his death; the resurrection was the Father's way of glorifying Son.

When we look at Mary, we see what is possible when in faith we say 'yes' to the will of God. Wherever we are, we can still be united, together in prayer, as we anticipate this week the coming of the Holy Spirit. We can marvel in way that by imitating the action of Mary, the Church was born. When we say 'yes' to the coming of the Holy Spirit upon us, we spiritually become the mother of Jesus. In another way together with Mary our Mother, with God our Father, we become the brothers and sisters of Christ and make up the Church, the Body of Christ. So Mary's presence in the upper room is a significant one. As the relatives of Jesus, we are drawn into that community of continuous prayer in preparation for Pentecost.

I pray then that with all the changes caused by the Covid 19 Pandemic, that your faith will be strengthened and that you will prepare well to receive the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver life.

Regards and God Bless.

Deacon Jeff

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; including dog walking. The contact telephone number is **01642 524500**.

Holy Family India Project Update: Fr Jeff received a thank you for the recent cheque sent on behalf of the Parish. Fr Sarves is finally back in his village after almost 6 months. He is able to celebrate Mass in his own language but is struggling to speak in English. Please continue your prayers that he will recover very soon. The Village is being looked after by the Sisters and are doing a marvellous job of work. Thank you for your continued support.

St. Joseph's Pen Pals: Our Pupil Chaplains and Mini Vinnies at St. Joseph's Catholic Academy, have been busy putting 'Concern into Action', this week. Keen to share their lockdown experiences with our isolated parishioners, they have written to them to let them know they are not alone. If you receive a weekly newsletter delivery through your door, look out for a special note!

News from Uganda

Fr Vincent wrote, "I am well. We are still under lockdown. Hunger is still a problem. Then for the last few weeks we had floods around here, some people lost the little food they had got. Still many knock at my door for food help. In the past it was the refugees but now it's people around me. It's sad to see a family living on a cup of porridge for lunch. We pray for the best.

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.

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.



Parish Family Stockton Mass by Phone Service: You can now listen to Father Jeff celebrating Sunday Mass. Telephone **01642 130032**. Calls are charged at local rate.

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: for next Sunday's readings see <http://wednesdayword.org/parish/resources.htm>

Offertory Envelope and Finances

Offertory Envelopes: 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.

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



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

Jamie's Paws for Thought: One filled with joy preaches without preaching: *St Mother Teresa*