

Times of Mass, Intentions and Services
Pentecost Sunday Year A – 31st 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 30th	10:00am Myra Booth	
Sun 31st	<u>PENTECOST SUNDAY</u> 10:00am Pro Populo (People of the Parish)	
Mon 1st	Mass (not live-streamed) Mary O'Donnell RIP	
Tue 2nd	Mass (not live-streamed) Thanksgiving for Healing & 47 years of Marriage (KG)	
Wed 3rd	10:00am Mary Frawley RIP	
Thur 4th	10:00am Tommie Ansboro RIP (WJ)	
Fri 5th	6:30pm Intentions of the Lamb family	
Sat 6th	Mass (not live-streamed) Joan Armstrong RIP	
Sun 7th	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 School Chaplains
<u>Monday</u>	for Deacons	<u>Friday</u>	for The Unemployed
<u>Tuesday</u>	for Those who are Lonely	<u>Saturday</u>	for Our School Children
<u>Wednesday</u>	for the Poor throughout the World		

Feast Days this Week:

Monday: Mary, Mother of the Church
Tuesday: Ss Marcellinus & Peter, *Martyrs*
Wednesday: St Charles Lwanga and Companions, *Martyrs*
Thursday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, **Eternal High Priest**
Friday: St Boniface, *Bishop, Martyr*
Saturday: St Norbert, *Bishop*

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
Pentecost Sunday Year A – 31st 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 Pentecost Sunday

Jesus often rebuked the disciples for being dull or slow to catch on. They were not alert to the significance of his teaching or the events unfolding before their very eyes. Jesus ticked them off because by being this way they were missing out on God's grace and blessing. There is a very real way in which we too can miss out, and to avoid this we have to co-operate and collaborate with the Holy Spirit. It is a two-way street and a sign of our dignity that God does not force or coerce us but rather invites and woos us. Today, right now, as you are reading this reflection, the same dullness can be at work, and our hope is to work with you to prevent it. Today we celebrate an event which occurred 2000 years ago. This world-changing event was as major an intervention of God in human affairs as the creation of the universe, the incarnation of Jesus or, indeed, his anticipated second coming. This event was Pentecost.

As we celebrate this feast-day, there's something we need to grasp and take hold of, because this is what the church has taught since the beginning: through the grace of the liturgy it is as though what happened in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago is repeated again on this holy feast-day. The same Holy Spirit who came down upon the disciples huddled together in the Upper Room descends on us to.

Remind yourself that the Holy Spirit is with you. When the Holy Spirit came down at Pentecost, he instilled in the church a dynamism and power which since then has been the principle agent behind all its fruitful work and mission in the world. My plea to you today is to let the Holy Spirit come into your lives: invite him, welcome him and pray to him. *Bible Alive Easter 2020*

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of Your love.
Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created
and You shall renew the face of the earth.**

Let us Pray:

**O God, who instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit,
Grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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**.

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.

UPDATE: An Appeal for Donation to Support the Philippines During this Pandemic

3 weeks ago, Ted Patulan aimed to run 120k in 30 days to raise funds for poor Filipino families severely affected by the pandemic. He has now covered 103 km. Driven by his passion to help more people, this final week he will run 10k for 5 days starting this Saturday and finish with a 15k run on the 30th May. Should you wish to support this cause, please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/120kmin30days>

Prayer and Liturgy News



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

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.

Virtual Pilgrimage to Medjugorje May 2020

Our virtual pilgrimage to Medjugorje finishes 31st May on Pentecost Sunday. Many thanks to Fr Jeff, Fr Martin Morris, Fr Shaun O'Neill, Fr Paul O'Hara (Hallam diocese) for leading us on this uplifting spiritual journey.

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. Amen

A prayer for carers and hospital staff:

Bless the hands of those who nurse him/her Let their care be rewarded. May it convey the deep love of our hearts Inspire the skill of the doctors who treat him/her. Look with kindness on all who serve the sick and work for their comfort Keep them safe for their loved ones May they know our gratitude that they are with N. when we cannot be there. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

A prayer for a loved one whose funeral we are not able to attend

Lord, at this time I cannot be at the funeral of N., whom I have loved dearly. Help me through this moment that I may say goodbye to one who has meant so much. Fill my heart with peace and give everlasting life to him/her. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for strength for ourselves

Lord Jesus, You faced suffering and hardship in fear and trembling. Yet in your isolation You entrusted yourself to the will of your Father. Stand beside us now to help us through this hour. Keep us mindful that we are never alone for you share our burdens and you promise your peace. You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

A prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

O Lord Jesus Christ, who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Ghost to finish Thy work in the souls of Thine Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Thy grace and Thy love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom /that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding, to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, the Spirit of Counsel that I may choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with Thee and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, the Spirit of Fear of the Lord that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God, and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Thy true disciples and animate me in all things with Thy Spirit. Amen

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.

Message from Bishop Robert Byrne regarding opening of Churches. As always, your health and safety and that of parishioners, staff and volunteers is my utmost priority. As we await guidance from the Catholic Bishops' Conference and from the recently established Places of Worship Task Force, as to when and how our Churches will reopen, please be assured that the Diocese is developing plans which will enable the COVID-19 secure reopening of all of our buildings. I will consult with the Chapter of Canons and the Partnership Deans in the near future before deciding which Parish Priests to approach about the possibility of opening their Churches. Once we have established which Churches might reopen first, a very small number will be selected in which we will pilot the reopening procedures. Our learning from these "dry runs" will be incorporated into the approach we will take across the Diocese and it can then be shared more widely. After the risk assessment is complete, protocols and procedures will be developed and put in place to enable the building, whether that be the church or Parish Hall for example, to reopen safely and securely.

Do you need to speak to someone for support?

Dedicated counsellors and listeners are available at the Cathedral Listening Service on 0191 232 6953

Worldwide Church News

Pope Francis' Monthly Intentions for June: The Way of the Heart

We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

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



Jamie's Paws for Thought: Patience, prayer and silence - these are what give strength to the soul.

St Faustina