



St. Patrick's R.C. Church

Glenfield Road, Fairfield,
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Parish Priest : Fr. John Cooper
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Sunday 17th May 2020

Jesus speaks in this Sunday's Gospel about being still alive, even after his death. Mostly we find Jesus alive in the love of others. The energy of love that is connected to the energy of God, for God is love. Other times we find God close to us in prayer; but where we can sense him alive mostly is in the ordinary and extraordinary loves of every day, in marriage, family, friendship and care for others. In this way we are Christ-bearers. In listening, in care of all sorts, in putting ourselves out for each other, in working for justice and for peace the Spirit of God is alive and people are touched by God's love through the co-operation of ordinary men and women. Through celebrating and sharing in the resurrection, each of us also shares in and experiences the Peace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. As we continue our journey through Easter, we know that we will be blest with the gifts of Christ's Peace and encouraged by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Holy God we pray for your church throughout the world. We pray for all who strive to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel, especially in these difficult times when we cannot meet together in our church buildings. God of heaven and earth, companion in life, Spirit of truth, to you alone we turn our eyes and lift our hearts. Help us to keep your commandments and to love one another as you love us. Amen.

ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Holyday of Obligation) . . . If possible, on Thursday please could you light a candle at 9.30am, make the Sign of the Cross and recite the following prayers. In this way we are spiritually united. We pause and remember that the Risen and ascended Lord Jesus is never far from us. He is with us in the Sacred Word, the Holy Sacraments and in one another. Although we are unable to attend Mass in Church we can still join together in prayer and thanksgiving to Our Risen Lord.



Entrance Antiphon: You kingdoms of the earth sing to God; praise the Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens: his majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.

Collect: O God, whose Son today ascended to the heavens as the Apostles looked on, grant, we pray, that in accordance with his promise, we may be worthy for him to live with us always on earth, and we with him in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever Amen.

An Act of Spiritual Communion ~ 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

READINGS FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD:

- **First Reading ~ Acts 1:1-11**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 46:2-3, 6-9**
- **Second Reading ~ Ephesians 1:17-23**
- **Gospel ~ Matthew 28: 16-20**

<i>Masses with no Congregation</i>			
6th SUNDAY OF EASTER			
17	Sunday		People of our Parish
18	Monday		Josie Willis
19	Tuesday		
20	Wednesday		
21	Thursday <i>The Ascension of the Lord</i>		
22	Friday		
23	Saturday		Michael, Dora & Maureen McWilliams
7th Sunday of Easter			
17	Sunday		People of our Parish
Recently Deceased:		Cathy Conlin ~ May she rest in peace. Amen	
Anniversaries:		James Henry, Ned Wardell, James Harrison, Mary Waters, Jean O'Brien.	
		Riska Okninski, Monica McShane, Billy McGuinness, Pat Jackson, Margaret Devlin, Pauline Morton, Mike Rutland, Margaret Kenning, Christopher Brown, Fr. Pat McKenna, Rosie Owens, Andrew Brydon, Mary Talbot, Veronica Connors, Betty Griffiths, Sadie Todd. Audrey Bentley	



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS . . .

- **First Reading ~ Acts 8:5-8, 14-17**
- **Responsorial Psalm ~ Psalm 65:1-7, 16, 20**
- **Second Reading ~ 1 Peter 3:15-18**
- **Gospel ~ John 14:15-21**



Diocese of Middlesbrough . . . You can now listen to Father Phil celebrating what the diocese thinks is the first Catholic Mass available by telephone in this country. Please pass on the word to anybody you know who would like to share in their celebrations but does not have internet access. The number to call is 01642 130120. **Calls are charged at local rate and free if in your included minutes.**

Following many discussions with workers across the world, CAFOD launched an **emergency appeal** on the 30th April for countries in the global south who are in serious danger of being devastated by the COVID-19 coronavirus. I know we in the UK are living in very difficult times, but the Holy Father has called on us to remember our brothers and sisters who are at even greater risk, and **CAFOD is appealing for help** from our communities. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. **Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever** to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. If you would like to donate please visit cafod.org.uk



MISSIO . . . I have received the following from Missio and will try to get the whole appeal onto the parish Stockton website for you to read. (Marie Davis - Missio Local Secretary)

HOLY FATHER'S EMERGENCY APPEAL . . . I pray that you and your loved ones are safe and well in these most difficult times. Through prayer and witness, Pope Francis has been walking alongside the whole global community. **He has also made a special Appeal** for financial support for the Church around the world which is struggling to cope with the effects of COVID-19. He has asked Missio to administer this Appeal. Sister Mary from Pirimiti Hospital in Malawi has written to say: 'Thanks so much for your concern. We are in darkness. There is no testing being done and the situation has started biting us economically. I am so worried because up to now, there are no preparations for this pandemic. Our health system in Malawi, and Africa at large, is so weak. Only God will help us out.'

The Holy Father has established an emergency fund to come to the aid of those people and communities who are tragically impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. He has asked each of us to contribute what we can to help the Church overseas through Missio. Any gift that you can give at this time will help our missionaries reach out to the most vulnerable people and offer them spiritual and practical support; and any prayer you offer them will surely be heard. Pope Francis has reminded us that 'we are in the same boat, all of us fragile and disorientated, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together.' Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones. I am celebrating Mass every day at 12 noon in our Missio Chapel. (Fr Anthony Chantry)

Some of you may have received this appeal direct from Missio. For those of you who have not and wish to donate, it can be done in any of the following ways.

1. By sending a cheque, made payable to 'Missio' to COVID-19 Response, 23 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1NU
2. By telephoning their office on 020 7821 9755 during business hours (9am to 5pm) and making a credit/ debit card donation.
3. By visiting www.missio.org.uk and donating online, by clicking on 'I want to help' on the Pope's Emergency Fund banner, or by selecting 'Where the need is greatest' on the donation page.



MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE . . . This week 11th-17th May would have been our UK National Marriage Week, culminating in our Diocese with a Mass of Celebration

of Marriage and Family Life on Saturday 16th May, presided by Bishop Robert. As you will appreciate this Mass has been postponed in line with all other public acts of worship. However, I would respectfully ask if you would remember this day in your prayers.

We also remember the thousands we know who are participating in Spiritual Communion to recall their own married lives, be they young or old, newly married or celebrating a significant anniversary, engaged couples, those having taken part in Diocesan Marriage Preparation in the year prior to lockdown, and any who are on their journey into full Communion with the Catholic Church. In these extraordinary days of social isolation, we should remember especially married individuals who have suffered bereavement through loss of their partner, and who may feel more than many loneliness and despair without their husband or wife to support or pray with them. (Rev Deacon Rob Wareing, Diocesan Co-ordinator for Marriage and Family Life)

'LAUDATO SI' - 5 YEARS ON . . . It is incredible to think that five years have passed since this stunning document from Pope Francis was published. Across the world the Church is marking this anniversary. Visit the Diocesan website: www/rcdhn.org.uk to find a message from Bishop Robert, links to streamed services from within the Diocese to mark Laudato Si' Week (Saturday 16th – Sunday 24th May) and some very good links to deepen your knowledge and encourage you to play your part. **There will be a streamed Mass on Sunday 24th May celebrated by Fr. Chris Hughes and a streamed Rosary on the same day at 3pm.**

VICARIATE FOR FAITH & MISSION : Thy Kingdom Come . . . *'Thy Kingdom Come'* is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. In 2019 Christians from 172 countries took part in praying *'Come Holy Spirit'*, so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. There are many different ways to get involved and supporting resources are available on the Diocesan website.

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities."

Mass for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care . . . Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time. In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week on a Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join. **This will take place every Thursday at 7.00pm**

- ❖ 21st May Bishop Mark Davies Shrewsbury Cathedral
- ❖ 28th May Bishop Terence Drainey Middlesbrough Cathedral

By visiting the Cathedral webpage, or the Bishops' Conference Webpage (cbcew.org.uk) links for the live-streaming of these Masses can be found.



Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other. 2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI’s Apostolic Exhortation on ‘The Word of the Lord’ and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome’s death. **These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and ‘The God Who Speaks’.**

The Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales website: www.cbcew.org.uk has resources to help us focus on the ‘God Who Speaks’. Throughout the year they have a different monthly focus to help explore the three themes: Celebrating, Living and Sharing God’s Word. Available at present are:

- **Ascension and Pentecost through Art:** Fleur Dorrell takes us on a visual journey using four paintings for individual reflection.
- **Word at Home:** Home alone with St. Jerome. What can we learn from St Jerome at this time of self-isolation? In this section they have suggested some ways you can socialise distance in the company of St. Jerome

ST PATRICK’S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL . . . If you would like to see the school activities or find out more about what our children are doing, please visit the school website and use the Facebook page. www.stpatricksfairfield.org.uk



THANK YOU to all St. Patrick’s parishioners who are delivering bulletins, providing treats and for all other acts of kindness during these difficult times.

Please could you pass this newsletter round the parish by forwarding to your parish contacts. If you do not wish to receive future newsletters please email stockton.stpatrick@rcdhn.org.uk or stpatricks.fairfield@btinternet.com to be removed from the mailing list. If you know of any parishioner who would like to start receiving the bulletin, please ask them to e-mail the above. This bulletin can also be accessed through the Parish Family Stockton website: www.parishfamilystockton.org.uk.

If you would like to have any prayers, news, anniversaries or any other item included on the newsletter please e-mail stpatricks.fairfield@btinternet.com or olwlynlyons@hotmail.com. Thank you.