

Prayer

Not as orphans did Jesus leave us, Lord God,
for he asked you to give us another Advocate, the Spirit of truth, to be with us for ever.

Let your Holy Spirit abide with us always,
to keep us steadfast in suffering, gentle in bearing witness,
faithful in keeping Christ's commandments.
We ask this through the Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP : PRAY FOR US

◀ Throughout these weeks of 'lockdown', when it is not possible to visit the church to pray and light a candle, the votive light at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is burning night and day for us all - for our cares, prayers and intentions.

Please remember in your prayers

Those who are ill . . .

Neil Abrahams, Isabella Ayres, Mary Brennan, Lesley Carroll, Tom Coddington, Pat and Janet Defreitas, Brenda Duke, Father Paul Dynan, Compton Glasgow, Father Tom Jordan, Eddie Margot, Gary Martindill, Maureen Mongan, Helen Murray, Sue Read, Stephen Smithers, Sue Spelling and Mary Treston.

Those whose anniversaries are recalled at this time . . .

16-22 May: Harold Bygrave, Joe Reilly, Denis Samwell, Frank Hull, Grace Reade, Michael Bradbrook, Rosina Tagg, Tony Fraser, Victor Sidoli, Lydia Moulton, Dennis Curnow, Marie McCormack and Jim Henshaw

ANNUAL GIFT AID STATEMENTS

If you Gift Aid your contributions to the parish, your annual statement detailing your giving is now available. Should you wish to receive yours electronically, please email the Parish Office and we will send it to you. Alternatively, paper copies will be available to collect from Church House, or 'phone us and we will post it to you.

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Tuesday is the **Memorial of St Dunstan** – an Archbishop of Canterbury, he died on 19 May 988. He was one of Anglo-Saxon England's greatest saints, a hugely dynamic and at times controversial figure who loomed large over the English church in his lifetime and in the centuries after his death. In art he is often depicted pinching the devil's nose with a pair of tongs.

Thursday is the **Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord** – on the fortieth day after the resurrection, the Lord is received into heavenly glory. Readings and prayers for this holyday are on a separate newsletter, also available on the parish website.

Friday is the **Memorial of St Rita of Cascia** - born near Spoleto in 1381, she married a rude, ill-tempered husband who died a violent death. Her two sons, who had sworn vengeance against their father's murderers, died shortly afterwards, filled with a spirit of forgiveness. Rita now entered a convent of Augustinians at Cascia, where she bore patiently a chronic and very painful malady. She died in 1457 and was canonised in 1900. In Spanish-speaking countries she is named: *La Abogada de Imposibles* – the saint of desperate causes.

CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This week, the light in honour of Our Lady is in memory of Kathleen Frendo.

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Sixth Sunday of Easter
16-17 May 2020

Prayers and Readings



*May you be filled with joy and hope
as we celebrate the resurrection.*

*Christ has conquered death
and is risen to newness of life!*

*Due to the Coronavirus pandemic,
all public acts of worship are suspended
and churches are locked until further notice.*

*This newsletter includes readings from Sunday's Mass,
which you might like to use as an aid to prayer and reflection.*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

available at any time on request

PARISH WEBSITE

www.corpuschristicollierrow.org

(for use at home)

Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Psalm

Ps 65

Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise. Say to God: "How tremendous your deeds!"
"Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!"
Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men.

He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might.

Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me.

Second Reading

I Peter 3: 15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him."

Reflection

from **Pope Francis**, *Regina Caeli Address*, St Peter's Square, 21 May 2017

Today's Gospel (cf. Jn 14:15-21), the continuation of that of last Sunday, takes us back to the moving and dramatic moment of Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. John the Evangelist gathers from the lips and heart of the Lord His last teachings, before His Passion and death. Jesus promises his friends, at that sad, dark moment, that after him, they will receive "another Paraclete" (v. 16). This word means another "Advocate", another Defender, another Counsellor: "the Spirit of Truth" (v. 17); and he adds, "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you" (v. 18). These words convey the joy of a new Coming of Christ. He, Risen and glorified, dwells in the Father and at the same time comes to us in the Holy Spirit. And in his new coming, he reveals our union with him and with the Father: "You will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you" (v. 20).

Today, by meditating on these words of Jesus, we perceive with the sense of faith that we are the People of God in communion with the Father and with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. The Church finds the inexhaustible source of her very mission, which is achieved through love, in this mystery of communion. Jesus says in today's Gospel: "He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is

who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him" (v. 21). So, love introduces us to the knowledge of Jesus, thanks to the action of this "Advocate" that Jesus sent, that is, the Holy Spirit. Love for God and neighbour is the greatest commandment of the Gospel. The Lord today calls us to respond generously to the Gospel's call to love, placing God at the centre of our lives and dedicating ourselves to the service of our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need of support and consolation.

If ever there is an attitude that is never easy, even for a Christian community, it is precisely how to love oneself, to love after the Lord's example and with his grace. Sometimes disagreements, pride, envy, divisions, leave their mark even on the beautiful face of the Church. A community of Christians should live in the charity of Christ, and instead, it is precisely there that the evil one "sets his foot in" and sometimes we allow ourselves to be deceived. And those who pay the price are those who are spiritually weaker. How many of them — and you know some of them — how many of them have distanced themselves because they did not feel welcomed, did not feel understood, did not feel loved. How many people have distanced themselves, for example, from some parish or community because of the environment of gossip, jealousy, and envy they found there. Even for a Christian, knowing how to love is never a thing acquired once and for all. We must begin anew every day. We must practice it so that our love for the brothers and sisters we encounter may become mature and purified from those limitations or sins that render it incomplete, egotistical, sterile, and unfaithful. We have to learn the art of loving every day. Listen to this: every day we must learn the art of loving; every day we must patiently follow the school of Christ. Every day we must forgive and look to Jesus, and do this with the help of this "Advocate", of this Counsellor whom Jesus has sent to us that is the Holy Spirit.

Prayers of Intercession

That we may always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us, proclaiming the faith with gentleness and with respect for the beliefs of others.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

That governments may make possible the sharing of medical and humanitarian resources to foster healing of all who are in any anguish of body, mind or spirit.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

That prisoners of conscience and all who suffer for doing what is good and true may persevere in their witness and so convert even their oppressors.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

That all whom we have loved in this life but see no longer may live for ever with God in Christ.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Our Father . . .

Spiritual Communion

written by St Alphonsus Ligouri

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever.

Amen.

Antiphon

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.