

Prayer

In your house, Lord God, there are many dwelling places,
and your Son has gone to prepare a place for us that, where he is, there we may be also.

Do not let our hearts be troubled but fill our lives in deeds of service.

Make us follow this Jesus with joy: the way, the truth, and the life.

Then we shall come to you through the One who is our Passover and our peace,
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 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 . . .

9-15 May: Win Breheny, Eileen Saggars, Joyce Shaw, Bridie Brown and Dick Dietrich.

PARISH OFFERINGS

Our thanks to those parishioners who contribute through Standing Orders; in the past month these came to £2027.75.

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 **Diocesan Memorial of St John Houghton** – from Essex, he was a secular priest before becoming a Carthusian and prior of the London Charterhouse. He and his community refused to assent to the Acts of Succession and Supremacy of Henry VIII and he was executed in 1535 at Tyburn in his religious habit, together with two fellow Carthusians, a Bridgettine monk and a secular priest; these five were the first martyrs of the English Reformation.

Wednesday is the **Diocesan Memorial of St Erconwald** – allegedly a member of the royal family of East Anglia, he became the abbot-founder of Chertsey in Surrey and founded a nunnery at Barking where his sister, St Ethelburga, became abbess. He was made bishop of London in 675 and died at Barking in 693. His shrine at old St Paul's Cathedral was destroyed in the Reformation; the cathedral in the Great Fire.

Thursday is the **Feast of St Matthias** - he was chosen to take the place of Judas among the apostles. The traditions concerning his later life are conflicting, but his relics were allegedly removed by St Helena from Jerusalem to what is now St Matthias' Abbey at Trier in Germany.

CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This week, the light in honour of Our Lady is in memory of Mary Sequerah.

Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

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Parish Priest:

Father Philip Denton

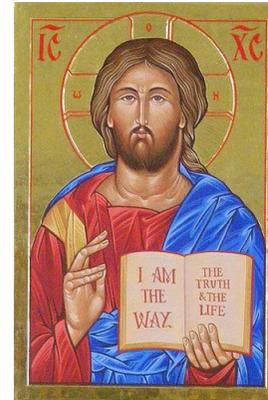
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Fifth Sunday of Easter *Prayers and Readings*

9-10 May 2020



*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

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 6: 1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, "It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word." The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Psalm

Ps 32

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.
For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.
The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.
May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Second Reading

I Peter 2: 4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied." "Have I been with you all this time, Philip," said Jesus to him, "and you still do not know me?" "To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, 'Let us see the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. "I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father."

Reflection

from **Pope Francis**, *Regina Caeli Address*, St Peter's Square, 18 May 2014

Today the Reading from the Acts of the Apostles enables us to see that the first tensions and the first dissension also arose in the early Church. There are conflicts in life, the question is how we confront them. Until that time the unity of the Christian communities had been fostered by belonging to one single ethnicity, and to one single culture, that of the Jews. But when Christianity, which by the will of Jesus is destined for all peoples, opened up to the Greek cultural atmosphere, this homogeneity is lost and the first difficulties arose. At that time, discontent was spreading, there

was grumbling, rumours of favouritism and unequal treatment circling. This happens in our parishes too! The community's help to those in need — widows, orphans and the poor in general — seems to favour Christians of Jewish extraction over others.

And so, faced with this conflict, the Apostles take the situation into their own hands: they call a meeting that is also open to the disciples, and they discuss the matter together. Everyone. Problems, in fact, are not resolved by pretending that they do not exist! And this frank and open exchange between pastors and the other faithful is beautiful. They then come to the subdivision of some of the tasks. The Apostles make a proposal that is welcomed by all: they will dedicate themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word, while seven men, deacons, will provide for the service of the tables for the poor. These seven men are not chosen because they are experts in business, but because they are honest men of good repute, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom; and they are established in the service through the imposition of hands by the Apostles. So from that malcontent, that grumbling, from those rumours of favouritism and unequal treatment, they arrive at a solution. Conflicts in the Church are resolved by facing one other, by discussing and praying. By facing each other, by discussing and praying, with the certainty that gossip, envy, jealousy can never bring us to concord, harmony or peace. There, too, it was the Holy Spirit who crowned this understanding, and this enables us to understand that when we let ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit, he brings us to harmony, unity and respect for various gifts and talents. Have you understood well? No gossiping, no envy, no jealousy! Understood? May the Virgin Mary help us to be docile to the Holy Spirit, so that we may be able to esteem one another and converge ever more deeply in faith and love, keeping our hearts open to the needs of others.

Prayers of Intercession

For the Church, here and throughout the world:

May our life together bear witness that Jesus is indeed for us
the way, the truth and the life.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

For people all over the world who long to see the face of God:

May they see and experience God's loving care for them.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

For those who suffer as a result of the coronavirus

may they find strength in Christ who had first to suffer before entering into glory.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

For the widowed members of our community,
for the hungry and for all who are in need:

May our devotion show itself in generous deeds of practical love.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

For our departed:

May they be happy forever in the Father's house
and in the place Jesus has prepared for them.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

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.