

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor

Registered Charity no. 234025

Father Peter Cryan

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Newsletter for the week of 15th May 2022

Sunday Readings Cycle C

Weekday Readings Cycle II

Readings for 5th Sunday of Easter: Acts 14:21-27; Psalm 144; Apocalypse 21: 1-5; John 13: 31-35

Saturday 14th May 5.30pm 1st MASS of the 5th SUNDAY of EASTER

Sunday 15th May 10.30am MASS: 5th SUNDAY of EASTER

Monday 16th May 9.30am Mass

11th Anniversary of Fr. Jack Murphy RIP

Tuesday 17th May

Day of Prayer for the Survivors of Sexual Abuse

Wednesday 18th May 11.00am Mass (St. John I, pope, martyr)

Thursday 19th May St. Milburga, abbess

Friday 20th May 12noon Mass (St. Bernardine of Siena, priest, religious)

Saturday 21st May 5.30pm 1st Mass of 6th Sunday of Easter

Sunday 22nd May 10.30am Mass: 6th Sunday of Easter

Readings for 6th Sunday of Easter: Acts 15: 1-2,22-29; Psalm 66; Apocalypse 21:10-14,22-23;; John 14:23-29

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

This Mon 16th May 7.30pm in-person meeting in the Community Room

BISHOPS' STATEMENT: RETURN TO MASS AT PENTECOST

The Conference of the Bishops of England & Wales have issued an invitation: "Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person." The full text of the invitation is printed below.

A FACE MASK/ COVERING & HAND SANITIZING ON ENTRANCE ARE REQUIRED BOTH IN CHURCH AND IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GIVING

Last Sunday's Offertory £117.00

INVITATION TO ST. ALBAN'S BI-CENTENNIAL MASS WITH CARDINAL NICHOLS

Sat 11th June at 2.00pm – Open Air Mass at St Alban's Pr. Sch. Priory La. celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols to celebrate St. Alban's 200 years - with a picnic to follow. Entry is by ticket only, but Fr. Peter Burke invites St. Edward's parishioners to join them in the celebration. A £5 per adult suggested donation goes to the Church roof repair. Reserve a ticket now for later collection in order to know numbers from St Alban's website <https://stalbanmacc.org.uk/>. Note: there will no parking at the primary school.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES:

As all Covid restrictions have been eased, we can now return to Lourdes. Our Diocesan Pilgrimage will take place 29th July – 4th Aug by air and 28th July – 5th Aug overland. Prices start from £440 which includes travel, full board accommodation & full pilgrimage programme. Download details & booking form from the pilgrimage site www.shrewsburypilgrimage.co.uk or the Pilgrimage Office, Curial Offices, 2 Park Rd South, Wirral, CH43 4 UX

BISHOPS' CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON MIGRANT ISSUES

'In his 2014 message for the World Day for Migrants and Refugees Pope Francis wrote: "We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees... are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved."

1. This plea of Pope Francis is as urgent as ever. Given the events of recent weeks it is of particular relevance for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Our appeal for refugees and asylum seekers to be welcomed and respected is based on the fundamental principle of the dignity of every person, created in the image and likeness of God. Every nation should recognise this dignity and the rights which flow from it.
2. We appreciate the complexity and magnitude of the challenges being faced in the ongoing migration crisis. With over 80 million people across the world displaced by war, poverty, persecution and the effects of global warming, this challenge requires collaborative international action. Although resources are limited and there are many competing demands, wealthy countries, including the UK should give leadership in this endeavour.
3. The value we attach to each person and the compassion which the afflicted deserve demands that we welcome asylum seekers, treating them justly and honouring their dignity as human persons.
4. The Nationality and Borders Act fails to do this. Those seeking refuge in the UK should be provided with safe routes for travelling, have the opportunity to tell their story, be listened to and have their cases assessed justly. We keep in mind that there is no illegal asylum seeker; to claim asylum is a human right.
5. People smugglers and modern-day human traffickers profit from the desperation and misery of refugees. We fully support their prosecution. It is imperative however to make a clear distinction between victims and those who exploit them. Crime is defeated by confronting the perpetrators not by punishing the victims.

Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference

Friday 6th May 2022

GET IN TOUCH QUICKLY –IF YOU ARE SICK If you or your relative enters Macclesfield Hospital let Fr. Peter know as soon as possible tel: 01625 423576 or by e-mail st.edmacc@gmail.com

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND & WALES



Returning to Mass at Pentecost

An Invitation from the Bishops of England & Wales

This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity - "The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist." It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as "the Sunday Obligation."

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. "Virtual viewing" of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person.

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference

Friday 6th May 2022



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 15th May 2022 - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

1 Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 15th May 2022 - The Commandment of Love (John 13:31-35)

When Judas had gone Jesus said, "Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples."

3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

From now until Pentecost the readings from St John's Gospel are taken from the great final teaching of Jesus at the Last Supper about the future of his Church and his disciples. From the sayings of Jesus the evangelist has composed a great discourse of Jesus about the obligations, duties and dangers which will come upon his disciples after his own death and resurrection. There were probably slightly different versions of this discourse, which were handed down by word of mouth; the impression of repetition in the discourse probably results from the evangelist recording three versions one after another. As we approach the Birth of the Church at Pentecost we need to listen to how Jesus envisaged his community. Today's reading gives the essentials. At the head of the Christian community stands the glorified Son of Man, in whom God is glorified. But this Son is no distant figurehead, for he will come to be present among his disciples. How will this happen? Answer: in the love which his disciples show for one another. One is reminded of the legend about the aged St John, wheeled into the church at Ephesus. When asked for the message of Jesus, all he would say was, 'My little children, love one another.'

How has Jesus shown his love for us? How do you show that same love for someone else?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.



*The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph*

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 15th May 2022



First Reading: *The End of Paul's First Missionary Journey*

Acts 14:21-27

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. "We all have to experience many hardships," they said, "before we enter the kingdom of God." In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

Antioch was a big city, one of the largest in the ancient world. On the Mediterranean coast of the Roman province of Syria, it was at the end of the trade-route from the east. So it had a busy commercial life with a large colony of Jews among the traders. A considerable group of them accepted Jesus as Messiah and Lord, and it was at Antioch that the followers of Jesus were first called 'Christians' or 'Messianists'; other Jews thought that the Messiah had not yet come. It was at Antioch that the well-trained and eloquent Paul was appointed to accompany Barnabas (who at this stage was the leader) in spreading the Good News about Jesus as the Messiah. At the end of their journey they reported back to the community at Antioch. It is significant that Barnabas and Paul appointed elders in each community they visited; this was the normal way in which a Jewish community was constituted. A synagogue is still today ruled by a body of elders, one of whom is chosen to preside at services. Obviously, in spite of the bad reception Paul and other Christians sometimes received (as we read last Sunday), these Christian communities felt themselves to be like the other Jewish communities, though accepting Jesus as Messiah, and living by his Spirit.

To what extent (as a Christian) should my behaviour be different from that of other people?

Second Reading: *The New Jerusalem*

Revelation 21:1-5

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, "You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone." Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: "Now I am making the whole of creation new."

Like so much of the Book of Revelation, this prophecy of the New Jerusalem is heavily dependent on the prophets of the Old Testament. In the dark days of the Babylonian Exile the prophet Ezekiel had foretold that God would rebuild Jerusalem as a new city where God would dwell, a city named Hephzibah, that is, 'My pleasure is in her'. The prophets had long spoken of the relationship of Israel to God as that of a bride to her husband, a bride who was often unfaithful. Isaiah, however, had foretold a joyful marriage feast in which God would be the bridegroom and Jerusalem the bride, the final wedding of God to his people. God's bride, Israel, who had so often been unfaithful, would at last be wedded to him for ever in fidelity and happiness. This was the intended meaning of the marriage-feast at Cana and of the parables of Jesus about a wedding-feast of the great king, to which the poor and the outcasts would be invited. Here the Book of Revelation promises just such a festival to those who have sustained the grimness of Roman persecution. Now, as we celebrate Christ's triumph over death at Easter, we look forward to this same unalloyed happiness experienced in God's presence and his love.

If God lives among us now, where and how can I most clearly find him?

“We look forward to the happiness of God's presence and his love.”

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*
w: www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org