

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor

Registered Charity no. 234025

Father Peter Cryan

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Newsletter for the week of 29th May 2022

Sunday Readings Cycle C

Weekday Readings Cycle II

Readings for 7th Sunday of Easter: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 96; Apocalypse 22:12-14, 16-17, 20;; John 17:20-26

Saturday 28th May 5.30pm 1st MASS of the 7th SUNDAY of EASTER Day of Prayer for Communications

Sunday 29th May 10.30am MASS: 7th SUNDAY of EASTER Day of Prayer for Communications

Monday 30th May 9.30am Mass

Tuesday 31st May

Feast: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 1st June 11.30am Mass

St. Justin, layman, apologist, martyr

Thursday 2nd June

(Ss Marcellinus & Peter, martyrs)

Friday 3rd June 11.30am Mass

St. Charles Lwanga & Companions, martyrs of Uganda

Saturday 4th June 5.30pm 1st Mass of Pentecost Sunday

Sunday 5th June 10.30am Mass: Pentecost Sunday

Readings for Pentecost Sunday: Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 103;; John 17:20-26

A face mask/ covering is **optional** in the church & community Room. Hand sanitizing continues to be **desirable**.
Care for **safe physical distancing** for oneself & fellow worshippers is more than ever needed.!

ARRANGEMENTS AT MASS

- church benches & statues restored ; - individual invitation & response at Holy Communion is restored;
- the offertory collection restored; - the offertory procession returns;
- Sunday 10.30am Mass the entrance procession returns; - the non-tactile sign of peace continues.

WEEKDAY MASS

Mass on Wednesday & Friday is at 11.30am this week.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GIVING

Last Sunday's Offertory £138.50

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

With the return of the offertory collection in the church, small baskets, as well, will be put out at the entrances for anyone who would like to make an individual contribution. With the financial challenges so many are facing at the moment, the parish will be contributing £100 for each special collection, but you are warmly welcomed to supplement this with your own individual contribution.

WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY SPECIAL COLLECTION

This collection is towards the running of the Bishops' Conference Media Office (CCN). This helps journalists with their queries to better understand the Church's activities & witness & actively promotes the Church's & the Bishops' message in the media. It also runs the Bishops' Conference website www.cbcew.org.uk which has been used by record numbers over the 2 years of the pandemic as a principal means of Church communication and is a provider of Church information & resources.

MEETING on OUR MISSION TOGETHER (OMT)

Mon 13th June 7.30pm in the Community Room. The Parish Pastoral Council are organising a special meeting to discuss how to use the money available for St. Edward's parish project(s). Invitation is especially extended to those who have given continuously over nearly five years. Those contributions by 31st March '22 had come a total of £55,191 of which **£18, 634** is available - much of which is yet to be allocated to St. Edward's parish project(s).

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 200 years of a parish for the Macclesfield area- 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. Take a ticket at the church entrances leaving name & phone no or go to St. Alban's website <https://stalbanmacc.org.uk/>. Note: there will no parking at the primary school.

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

Pope Francis on Praying to the Holy Spirit

Between the Ascension & Pentecost is the time to pray to the Holy Spirit



Pope Francis said in an address :

“The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church. He gives life, he brings forth different charisms which enrich the people of God and, above all, he creates unity among believers: from the many he makes one body, the Body of Christ.

It is true that the Holy Spirit brings forth different charisms in the Church, which at first glance, may seem to create disorder. Under his guidance, however, they constitute an immense richness.

The Church and other Churches and ecclesial communities are called to let themselves be guided by the Holy Spirit, and to remain always open, docile and obedient.

He it is who harmonized the Church. The beautiful saying of St. Basil the Great comes to mind, “*Ipse armonia est*”. *He is harmony.*

In our journey of faith and fraternal life, the more we allow ourselves humbly to be guided by the Spirit of the Lord, the more we will overcome misunderstandings, divisions and controversies and be a credible sign of unity and peace. A credible sign that our Lord is Risen and alive!"

No sooner have the disciples regained their Lord in the resurrection than he is gone again. “And as they were looking on,” writes Luke, Jesus “was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9). And yet, their reaction is one of rejoicing! “And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the Temple blessing God” (Lk 24:52-53).

Within his address, Pope Francis voiced two prayers to the Holy Spirit, offering guidance for how to ask for the help we need to pray.

Come, come Holy Spirit, warm my heart. Come and teach me to pray, teach me to look to the Father, to look to the Son. Teach me the path of faith. Teach me how to love and, above all, teach me to have an attitude of hope.

He also prayed:

Holy Spirit, I do not know your face – we do not know it – but I know that you are the strength, that you are the light, that you are able to make me go forth, and to teach me how to pray. Come, Holy Spirit.

“This,” he said, “is a beautiful prayer: ‘*Come, Holy Spirit.*’”

The pope said that our first task as Christians is to keep the flame of the Spirit alive in our hearts:

The first task of Christians is precisely to keep alive this flame that Jesus brought to the earth (see *Lk 12:49*), and what is this flame? It is love, the Love of God, the Holy Spirit. Without the fire of the Spirit, His prophecies are extinguished, sorrow supplants joy, routine substitutes love, and service turns into slavery.

The image of the lighted lamp next to the Tabernacle, where the Eucharist is reserved, comes to mind. Even when the church empties and evening falls, even when the church is closed, that lamp remains lit, and continues to burn; no one sees it, yet it burns before the Lord. This is how the Spirit is in our heart, always present like that lamp.





Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 29th May 2022 - The Seventh Sunday of Easter

1 Relax & Remember

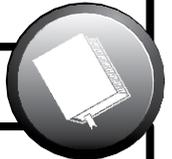
Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture 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 29th May 2022 (John 17:20-26): The Glory of Christ

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Holy Father, I pray not only for these, but for those also who through their words will believe in me. May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me. I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so completely one that the world will realise that it was you who sent me and that I have loved them as much as you love me. Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may always see the glory you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you, but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. I have made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and so that I may be in them.'



3 Reflect

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

The final chapter of Jesus's sayings at the Last supper is a prayer which both gives meaning to the sacrifice which Jesus is about to make and at the same time is a meditation on the Lord's Prayer. In today's portion Jesus speaks to his Father (also 'Our Father') with that perfect love which he will express most fully in his acceptance of torture and death on the cross. The story of the Crucifixion is not a story of rejection, but is the story of the most perfect union of Father and Son in love and willing obedience. It will make the Name, that is the love, of the Father fully known ('Hallowed be thy Name'). It will also grant Jesus that 'glory which he had before the foundation of the world' (Thy Kingdom come). But the kingdom is not complete without those who believe in Jesus and belong to him. The completion of the Kingdom is the work of the Spirit which is to come upon the Church at Pentecost. The story of its completion is, with all its twist and turns, its failures, its chastisements and its recoveries, the history of the Church.

Which petition of the Lord's Prayer is most important to you?

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 29th May 2022

First Reading: *The Martyrdom of Stephen*

Acts 7.55-60

Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's right hand. 'I can see heaven thrown open' he said 'and the son of Man standing at the right hand of God'. At this all the members of the council shouted out and stopped their ears with their hands; then they all rushed at him, sent him out of the city and stoned him. The Witnesses put down their clothes at the feet of a young man called Saul. As they were stoning him, Stephen said in invocation, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and said aloud, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them'; and with these words he fell asleep.

This reading fulfils a dual purpose. It reflects both on the position of Jesus after the resurrection, seated at the right hand of God, and on his first martyr, Stephen. These are the two inspirations of the life of the Church, here combined. The martyrdom of Stephen closely reflects the passion of Jesus: just as Jesus proclaims to the High Priest that he will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of God. This image to describe the glory of the Risen Christ is drawn from Psalm 110 (Greek 109). In other writings of the New Testament, e.g. the Book of Revelation, the exalted Christ shares the very throne of God: there is one throne and one godhead. It is fitting that on the Sunday before Pentecost these two inspirations of the life of the Church should be combined, for the Church relies upon this vision of the glory of Christ, and in that confidence bears witness to the truth of the Gospel even to the extent of martyrdom, a word which in itself means 'witness'.

How do I witness to Christ?

Second Reading: *The Final Coming of Christ*

Revelation 22.12-14, 16-17, 20

I, John, heard a voice speaking to me: 'Very soon now, I shall be with you again, bringing the reward to be given to every man according to what he deserves. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Happy are those who will have washed their robes clean, so that they will have the right to feed on the tree of life and can come through the gates into the city.' I, Jesus, have sent my angel to make these revelations to you for the sake of the churches. I am of David's line, the root of David and the bright star of the morning. The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' Let everyone who listens answer, 'Come.' Then let all who are thirsty come; all who want it may have the water of life, and have it free. The one who guarantees these revelations repeats his promise: I shall indeed be with you soon. Amen; come, Lord Jesus.

The hope of a speedy second coming of Christ was especially vivid in the first generation of the Church. Paul envisaged (in 1 Thessalonians 5) that in his own lifetime Christ would appear 'on the clouds of heaven' in a triumphal procession, to be joined by those Christians who were still alive. The final words of today's reading may be translated either 'the Lord is coming' or 'Come, our Lord', depending on how the words of the Aramaic expression Maranatha are divided; in either case the expectation of Christ's return is vivid and pressing. In the later writings of the New Testament the accent has changed, so that 2 Peter 3.8 says that for the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and the stress is on the suddenness and unexpectedness of the final coming, 'like a thief in the night'. The coming of the Lord which, in today's reading, is to happen very soon is the coming of the Lord in the Spirit at Pentecost, for which we need to make ready and 'have our robes washed clean'.

If Christ knocked on my door today, would I be ready?

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We need to make ready and 'have our robes washed clean'.”

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