

# YOU ARE CALLED TO BE HOLY

(JOHN 17:11-19)



Our Gospel passage today is an extract from what is called “Jesus’ Priestly Prayer”, during which he speaks directly to the Father on behalf of his disciples, who are present with him at the Last Supper.

Jesus is about to leave them, and knows that they are not in a fit condition, so will need the Father’s help in the face of what is to happen in the future. Jesus sums up his care for the disciples, acknowledging that one has been lost, but through that one’s deliberate choice. Jesus asks the Father to make the disciples “holy”, that is, that they identify themselves with God’s purpose, just as Jesus did. His final act of holiness will be to give himself completely to God’s will, and in this will reveal to them the love of the Father. Holiness is rooted in the unity of the disciples with the Father, and it is on the basis of this that Jesus is sending them out to continue his work of revealing God to human beings. ■

## REFLECT

The text of our Gospel reading presents Jesus as praying, “Consecrate them in the truth”. The underlying meaning is “to make holy”. This notion can be confusing for some people, as it conjures up images of individuals whose lives are totally dedicated to praying and serving others, perhaps wearing distinctive clothing or emblems of one sort or another: they are different from normal or ordinary folk.

The Second Vatican Council, in its document on the Church, rejects the idea that holiness is something reserved for special individuals, but is the calling of all baptised disciples of Jesus. To be a disciple of Jesus is the fundamental vocation of all Christians: how each one lives this out will depend on their circumstances; most are called to marriage and family life, others to a different path, but no one way of living out our baptismal commitment is better or higher than any other. Everyone is called to live as best they can by the teachings of Jesus, and, in that, each person can be said to be holy, to be committed to the Gospel values.

One religious sister, when she read the chapter entitled “The Universal Call To Holiness” in the document on the Church, said to herself that the bishops at the Council had just written the death sentence for religious life: no longer would people feel that they necessarily had to become a priest, a nun or religious sister, or a member of a teaching order of brothers to be someone totally committed to the Christian life. There would be no spiritual advantage in entering the convent or monastery. Her insight may go a long way to explaining the present dearth of what we traditionally called vocations: it is, perhaps, not due to a lack of generosity or the refusal of young people to answer the call, just that the Holy Spirit is calling us all in a different way. The “typical” Christian is sitting in the pew. ■

## DO

As you go about your daily routine, remember that holiness is found in the little, everyday things of life.



## LEARN

The official teaching of the Church is that all Christians are called to be holy.

Holiness consists in our being committed to living out our baptismal promises as best we can in our daily lives.

No state of life in the Church is necessarily holier, better, or higher than any other: each is appropriate to the person concerned.

## SAY

**Teach us, good Lord,  
to serve you as you  
deserve.**

(Ignatius of Loyola)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;  
of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face;  
hide not your face from me, alleluia.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,  
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of  
the human race  
is with you in your glory,  
may experience, as he promised,  
until the end of the world,  
his abiding presence among us.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

One day Peter stood up to speak to the brothers – there were about a hundred and twenty persons in the congregation: “Brothers, the passage of scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, foretells the fate of Judas, who offered himself as a guide to the men who arrested Jesus – after having been one of our number and actually sharing this ministry of ours.

“In the Book of Psalms it says:

Let someone else take his office.

“We must therefore choose someone who has been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling round with us, someone who was with us right from the time when John was baptising until the day when he was taken up from us – and he can act with us as a witness to his resurrection.”

Having nominated two candidates, Joseph know as Barsabbas, whose surname was Justus, and Matthias, they prayed, “Lord, you can read everyone’s heart; show us therefore which of these two you have chosen to take over the ministry and apostolate, which Judas abandoned to go to his proper place.” They then drew lots for them, and as the lot fell to Matthias, he was listed as one of the twelve apostles.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 102

Response:

The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

or

Alleluia!

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord;  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins. (R.)
3. The Lord has set his sway in heaven  
and his kingdom is ruling over all.  
Give thanks to the Lord, all his angels,  
mighty in power, fulfilling his word. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

1 John 4:11-16

A reading from the first letter of St John.

My dear people,  
since God has loved us so much,  
we too should love one another.  
No one has ever seen God;  
But as long as we love one another  
God will live in us  
and his love will be complete in us.  
We can know that we are living in him  
and he is living in us  
because he lets us share his Spirit.  
We ourselves saw and we testify  
that the Father sent his Son  
as saviour of the world.  
If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son  
of God,  
God lives in him, and he in God.  
We ourselves have known and put our faith in  
God’s love toward ourselves.  
God is love  
and anyone who lives in love lives in God,  
and God lives in him.  
The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;  
I will come back to you, and your hearts will  
be full of joy.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

John 17:11-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“Holy Father,  
keep those you have given me true to your  
name,  
so that they may be one like us.  
While I was with them,  
I kept those you had given me true to your  
name,  
I have watched over them and not one is  
lost  
except the one who chose to be lost,  
and this was to fulfil the scriptures.  
But now I am coming to you  
and while still in the world I say these  
things  
to share my joy with them to the full.  
I passed your word on to them,  
and the world hated them,  
because they belong to the world

no more than I belong to the world.  
I am not asking you to remove them from  
the world,  
but to protect them from the evil one.  
They do not belong to the world  
any more than I belong to the world.  
Consecrate them in the truth;  
your word is truth.  
As you sent me into the world,  
I have sent them into the world,  
and for their sake I consecrate myself  
so that they too may be consecrated in  
truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
*(all bow during the next two lines)*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful  
with the sacrificial offerings,  
that through these acts of devotedness  
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Father, I pray that they may be one  
as we also are one, alleluia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Hear us, O God our Saviour,  
And grant us confidence,  
that through these sacred mysteries  
there will be accomplished in the body of the  
whole Church  
what was already come to pass in Christ her  
Head.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.



# ***Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon***

## ***1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL***

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375  
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*We live stream all services*  
Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230  
Visits at JR Hospital: Priest/Chaplain 01865 221732  
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office  
Parish Website: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)  
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Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



### **OFFICE CLOSURE DATES**

Please note that the parish office will be closed on from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August.

### **PRIVATE PRAYER**

We are blessed that the church can be open, but for **private prayer only**, on the following days and times:

- ✠ **Tuesdays: 12pm to 1pm**
- ✠ **Fridays: 12pm to 1pm**

### **MASS BOOKINGS:**

**On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May you can book for Masses from Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May.**

**PLEASE** remember to give as many dates and times when you could attend, and book **on** the Monday – otherwise you may be disappointed. Also be clear on the number of people you are booking for and let us know if you would like to attend more than one Mass during the week.

## **HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS**

### **No Internet Access?**

Phone **07395 946827** EACH MONDAY between 10am and 11am ONLY to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

### **Have Internet Access?**

**DON'T** phone. Instead, email: [contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)

EACH MONDAY, to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

### **CONFESSIONS**

By appointment only for now. Please contact the **parish office** to book an appointment.

### **NEWSLETTERS**

We are currently still not able to offer any printed material in church. Please bring your own newsletter with you if you would like to (you can download it from our website).

### **7<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter (Year B)**

**Attendance through booking system only, but also available on our live stream**

#### **Sunday 16 May**

10.15am Mass  
2.00pm Mass in Polish  
6.30pm Mass

#### **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

(Margot Niland, RIP)  
(Private intention)

#### **Monday 17 May**

9am Mass (Janet Cox, RIP)

#### **Tuesday 18 May**

NO Mass See: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse) for other masses

#### **Wednesday 19 May**

7pm Mass  
(Geoff Castle, special intentions)

#### **Dedication of the Cathedral of St John, Portsmouth**

#### **Thursday 20 May**

9.30am Mass (Sisters of Mercy, intentions)

#### **Friday 21 May**

7pm Mass (Stephen Taylor, intentions)

#### **Saturday 22 May**

12pm Mass (Sharon Alison Brady, RIP)



### **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today 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.

## VACANCY

### One Full Time and One Part Time Teacher Vacancies - St Edmund's School

The School is looking for enthusiastic, dynamic and committed teachers, who would be supportive of their school mission statement and the Catholic ethos of the school, from September 2021. The ability to lead a core subject would be desirable in our warm and welcoming school. Calls to discuss this position further with the Headteacher, Mrs Maria Delany-White are encouraged and warmly welcomed.

Please contact The School Business Manager (01235 521558 or [clomas2266@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:clomas2266@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk)) to request an application pack.

**Closing date: Monday, 24th May at 4pm.**

## FUNDRAISER FOR PAX CHRISTI

In the week from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21st May, *Pax Christi*, the Catholic Peace organisation, will be trying to raise funds to make up for lost income due to Covid19. Fausta is having a dance-a-thon, Bruce is delivering a peace message to foreign embassies in London, Matt is cycling 50 miles visiting peace sites, Pat is going on a walk from Victoria to the Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park, Rachel will be cycling for 75 miles, to celebrate Pax Christi's 75th anniversary. Please go to their website: [www.paxchristi.org.uk/register-you-interest/](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/register-you-interest/) for details on how you can sponsor them.



## LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

At the first Pentecost the disciples changed from being fearful and looking inward to being full of joy and looking outward. The Holy Spirit gave them courage, words and great joy. Pope Francis has asked that we bring the *Life in the Spirit* Seminars to all, to enable us all to have a greater capacity to speak about our joy in the risen Lord. The seminars are online using Zoom, and they start after Pentecost (23<sup>rd</sup> May) on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May and run for seven weeks. Timing is to join from 7pm for a start at 7.15pm with an end each time at 8.45.

For more information and to register see [www.pffm.org.uk/lifeinthepirit](http://www.pffm.org.uk/lifeinthepirit)

## CALLED TO CHANGE

The 16<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> May is the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary week of *Laudato si'*, when the Pope called all people of goodwill to change and work together to care for our common home. Across the world Catholics have been encouraged to renew our response to hear "*the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.*" Much has happened, much more needs to happen. There will be announcements from the Vatican and online talks. In our diocese Fr Mark Hogan, with CAFOD and Caritas, invite you on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May from 1pm to 2pm** to gather on Zoom to pray and share some practical ideas to motivate us to action.

Please join us - contact [jlewry@cafod.org.uk](mailto:jlewry@cafod.org.uk) to book for a Zoom place.



## WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

This Sunday is World Communications Day, when we are asked to pray for all communicators and to give generously to a Second Collection for the Holy See to support this area of work. Pope Francis has released his message for the 55th World Communications Day on the theme of "*Come and See*" (Jn 1:46) – *Communicating by Encountering People as They Are*. You can read his message through the News page on our website. Your donations can be made in church using the gift aid envelope or any envelope clearly labelled '*World Communications Day*' – or electronically using the link on the News page of our website.

## MONTH OF MAY

Pope Francis has asked for a marathon of prayer around the world throughout May for an end to the pandemic. The initiative, behind which the Pope has thrown his support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world and it takes place under the theme "*The whole Church was fervently praying to God,*" which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5). The Rosary will be broadcast on *Vatican News* daily at 6pm Rome time (5pm UK time). A link to this online site is available on the News page of our website.

*Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love so that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, and that your Kingdom may come on earth as in heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*