

24 MAY

Sunday Message

7TH SUNDAY OF

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 3



On this Sunday between the feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost, the Church puts before us the final prayer of Jesus from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus is aware that his departure is imminent, as his first words are, "Father, the hour has come". His leaving the disciples will be by way of the cross, but this is the means by which he and the Father will be glorified. For John, all the aspects of the paschal mystery take place at the crucifixion, and the crucial meaning of the resurrection is not that Jesus comes back to life (as Lazarus did), but that his existence is radically transformed and glorified.

Jesus' work of revealing God is nearing its end. He prays for his disciples, that God will be a Father to them and care for them in the midst of a hostile world. He has made known God's name, that is, all that can be known about God: it is this which makes possible the gift of eternal life. He asks that they be kept in the Father's name and so experience the unity that Jesus and the Father enjoy. Jesus' prayer ends with his declaration that he is returning to the Father, which is the meaning of the ascension, but there is still the final act of the paschal (or Easter) mystery to come – the sending of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

LEARN

For John, the Fourth Evangelist, eternal life consists in knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent.

No one has to believe in any particular apparition of a supernatural figure.

In biblical thought, to know the name of a person is somehow to have access to that person's deepest being: hence the name of God YHWH is never pronounced in the Hebrew Bible.

DO

Look up at the sky; then look at a crowded street; where do you think Jesus is more likely to be found today?



SAY

**Eternal life is this:
to know you, the only
true God, and Jesus
Christ, whom you
have sent**
(John 17:3)

REFLECT

In the Gospel passage, Jesus says that he has made God's name known: that is, he has revealed all we can know about God. The tradition of the Church is the reflecting of the people of God on the word and what it means for the life of Jesus' disciples today. Our understanding of what the word signifies develops: the manner in which it is expressed has to adapt to changing circumstances while preserving the essential teaching; this is what we mean by tradition. In the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, we find that the most frequent references to the Holy Spirit occur in the chapter on tradition.

The same document teaches officially that no new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Throughout the history of the Church, there have been groups which have claimed secret or mystical knowledge which is denied to run-of-the-mill Christians. Individuals have alleged that they have been given privileged information through visions or other experiences. The Church always treats such assertions of personal supernatural communications with a high degree of caution, if not suspicion.

No one, and no particular group, has any advantage over anyone else when it comes to knowledge of God. The teaching of Jesus is available to anyone who is open to accepting it: in this way, eternal life is offered to all. It is the Holy Spirit who will lead us into the complete truth.

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,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 1:12-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles After
Jesus was taken up into heaven, the
apostles went back from the Mount of Olives,
as it is called, to Jerusalem, a short distance
away, no more than a sabbath walk; and when
they reached the city they went to the upper
room where they were staying; there were
Peter and John, James son of Alphaeus and
Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. All
these joined in continuous prayer, together
with several women, including Mary the
mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 26

Response:

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the
land and the living.

or

Alleluia!

The Lord is my light and my help; whom
shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this
I long,
to live in the house of the Lord, all the days
of my life, to savour the sweetness of the
Lord, to behold his temple. (R.)

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have
mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken: " Seek his
face." (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:13-16

A reading from the first letter of Peter.
If you can have some share in the sufferings
of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy
a much greater gladness when his glory is
revealed. It is a blessing for you when they
insult you for bearing the name of Christ,
because it means that you have the Spirit of
glory, the Spirit of God resting on you.
None of you should ever deserve to suffer
for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or
an informer; but if anyone of you should
suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to
be ashamed of it; he should thank God that
he has been called one.
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 17:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

" Father, the hour has come: glorify your

Son so that your Son may glorify you;
and, through the power over all mankind
that you have given him, let him give
eternal life to all those you have entrusted
to him.

And eternal life is this: to know you,
the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom
you have sent.

I have glorified you on earth and finished
the work that you gave me to do.

Now, Father, it is for you to glorify me with
that glory I had with you before ever the
world was.

I have made your name known to the men
you took from the world to give me.

They were yours and you gave them to me,
and they have kept your word.

Now at last they know that all you have
given me comes indeed from you;

for I have given them the teaching you gave
me, and they have truly accepted this, that I
came from you, and have believed that it was
you who sent me.

I pray for them;

I am not praying for the world but for those you
have given me, because they belong to you:

all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and
in them I am glorified.

I am not in the world any longer,
but they are in the world, and I coming to you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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 the glory of heaven. Through
Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, I pray that they may be one as we are
also 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 has 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
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 9am-12pm Monday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
We live stream most services (the 10.15am Mass on the first Sunday of every month is not live streamed).
Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office is closed until further notice. More information as we get it.

THANK YOU: The response to the live stream camera appeal has been absolutely amazing! We are **deeply** grateful to all those who were able to make a contribution and so help our parish to reach out near and far with the blessings of the Mass.

LAUDATO SI' WEEK: All the information you need is on the *News* and *Blog* pages of our website. The week ends on *Sunday 24th May* with a worldwide day of prayer at 12 noon. The prayer can be downloaded from our website.

Loving God,

Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
You created us in your own image and made us
stewards of all your creation.
You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.



Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.
Help us to be conscious that our common home
belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and
to all future generations, and that it is our
responsibility to preserve it.
May we help each person secure the food and
resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being
left behind.
Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope
and fraternity so that we may experience a true
conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the
consequences of this global pandemic.
Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are
needed in search of the common good,
Now more than ever may we feel that we are all
interconnected and interdependent,
Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth
and the cry of the poor.
May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a
more fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians, we
make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen

SEVENTH WEEK OF EASTER

All these Masses are live streamed only

- Sunday 24 May (Seventh Sunday of Easter)**
10.15am Mass (Kearney & Dix families, RIP)
- Monday 25 May (St Bede the Venerable)**
9am Mass (Intentions of parishioners)
- Tuesday 26 May (St Philip Neri)**
NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/thames-isis-pastoral-area for other masses
- Weds 27 May (St Augustine of Canterbury)**
7pm Mass (Ann Goodwill, RIP)
- Thursday 28 May**
9.30am Mass (Sylvia Brown, RIP)
- Friday 29 May**
7pm Mass (Pat Cox, RIP)
- Saturday 30 May**
9am Mass (John Keyes, RIP)

FOODBANKS: The Foodbank at Northcourt Road is open on Tuesday and Friday Mornings. Donations can be brought there between 9.30 and 1.00 pm, and parcels can be collected between 11.00 and 1.00 pm. On Wednesday the South Abingdon Foodbank is open between 1.00 and 2.30 at Preston Road Community Centre.

You can either drop donations off at Northcourt Road **or** contact us to pick them up from your doorstep by emailing: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk

ABINGDON COMMUNITY FRIDGE: The Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, is open each weekday 10.30 - 11.30 am. It distributes surplus food from supermarkets.

THE PRAYER AND LISTENING SERVICE:

Sometimes it is difficult to pray when we are exhausted or in stressful situations or by ourselves. The diocese is offering a service where people fill in a short form on the diocese website requesting a phone call, of 10-15 minutes usually. Additionally, we are asking key workers if they would like to give us their name and work place and we will pray for them by name each day. Please go to the home page of the diocese website and under "Coronavirus" you can click on a box called "Prayer Support".

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER DURING MASS:

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 now 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.

WORKING AND PRAYING TOGETHER:

- **Praying the Rosary** together is happening throughout the month of May at 8pm. For information on how you can join in, whenever you can, please email: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
- **Mothers' Prayers** continues through video conferencing or social networking. Email clare@claresimpson.com if you would like to join in. For **Mothers' Prayers in Spanish** on Mondays at 11.30am, please email mamakolb@gmail.com
- There is a new page on our website for this year of **"The God Who Speaks"**. From there you are able to access ten **Sycamore** videos made by Fr Stephen Wang. **Sycamore** is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It gives you space to explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. The page can be found in the 'What's On' section.
- The friendly **Cake and Conversation** group for those whose first language is not English has been continuing to meet via Zoom each Wednesday while the Parish Centre is closed. If you would like further information about the group please phone Anne on 525997, Angela on 532296 or email abingdoncakeandconversation@gmail.com
- A five week course started on Thursday evenings, using Zoom, from 7th May, 7.45pm - 9pm. Called **"No Greater Love"** it is filmed in the Holy Land and presented by a number of speakers. If interested, please register by emailing clare@claresimpson.com
- **The Gift** course, via Zoom, is available for parishioners only, in preparation and to make the most of **Pentecost**. This is a well-known Catholic course, aimed at people of all ages and stages, to help them encounter the Holy Spirit in a deeper way. It is six sessions and if interested, you need to register first by emailing clare@claresimpson.com

Parish Events for the Week

NO EVENTS IN THE PARISH CENTRE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Future Diary Dates

No events at the moment.

Youth Events

YOUTH GROUPS

The Saturday youth groups will stop meeting for now. We will let you know when they resume through our parish newsletter.

*Reminders of future events are always included in the parish weekly newsletter and the full programme can be viewed in the youth section on our parish website at: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/events
More info: bhabayeb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk*

LENTEN FUNDRAISING DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- All events are postponed.

WE PRAY FOR:

The repose of the souls of:

- Ron Moss
- Rosemary Payne
- James Ryce
- Raimondo Raimondi
- Richard Claridge
- Michael & Mary Haughton



We also pray for the families of the recently deceased

NO INTERNET? CAN'T ACCESS LIVE STREAM MASS?

St Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough have a 'Dial-a-Mass' system. When someone phones the number, they hear a brief message welcoming them and then a recording of the Sunday Mass said by the Bishop of Middlesbrough in his cathedral then begins. The Knights of St Columba Council 29 is funding the service, which the diocese believes is the first in England that doesn't require special access codes.

If you know of anyone who could benefit from this service, please pass on the number to them: **01642 130120**. Please let them know that call charges are at local rates - or 'free' if included in the person's allocated minutes. Also, the Mass can be listened to at any time and day **from midday on Sundays**, but it is always the same Sunday Mass for that week.

If you are aware of anyone who cannot access the Internet, please let us know so that the parish can find an alternative way to get information to them. You can do this by leaving a message on the parish office phone number.