

May is Mary's Month...

Each Tuesday to Friday during May there is a posting to our blog - poems, music, art (all with a focus on a Marian theme) and a weekly focus on a Marian shrine...

Parish Zoom-Rosary - every Monday during May.

Join other parishioners this Monday and next at 3pm to pray the Rosary in a Zoom Meeting.

For details: <https://bit.ly/3d0Csoz>

Parish Prayer for the Dead and for Mourners

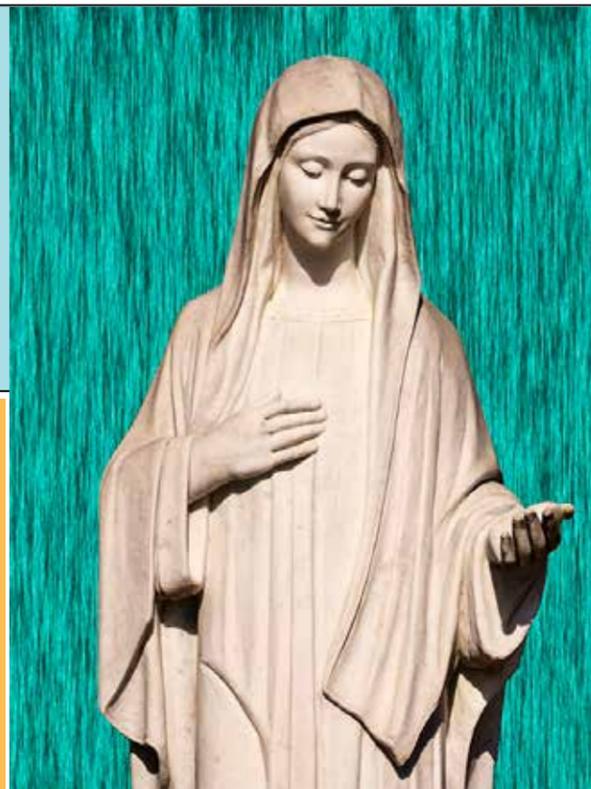
You are invited to join with Fr Allen and other parishioners in praying on Sundays for those who have died recently, and for their families and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Texts are posted on the blog Saturday evening, but of course feel free to pray for these intentions as you choose!



CAFOD has launched an urgent appeal to respond to

the unprecedented global challenge of tackling the spread of coronavirus. They are helping to limit the spread of the virus through prevention messages, health advice, and providing water, soap and toilets.

Donations are welcomed to cafod.org.uk

Loving, ever-living and compassionate God, You understand the pain of loss, the heartache of bereavement,

May we hold in our hearts all those whose families or friends have died.

You are a light that shines in the darkest times, **Guide us and heal us in our sickness and sorrow.**

You comfort us in times of fear, **May we comfort each other, even as we keep apart.**

You console and lead us in times of doubt and confusion, **May we follow the light of your love and spread hope.**

You move our hearts to acts of generosity, **May we be led to share what we have with those in need.**

God of life,
We thank you for the signs of your light in the midst of our darkness.
May we be signs of your compassion in the heart of your world. Amen.

Prayer: Linda Jones/CAFOD

Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism; Confession; Communion & Confirmation

The lockdown came just in time to prevent first Confessions and has remained in place long enough not only to prevent our celebrations of first Communion, but to delay the start to our next Confirmation programme.

This remains a real sadness for all those involved, and our parish.

As soon as it becomes clear when the church will be open again and we can start to have meetings, arranging the new dates will be a priority. It is not yet clear when that will be, but may become clear by the beginning of July.

- The re-arranging of first Confessions and first Communion is something that can be done 'in-parish', and it seems likely that we will be looking for celebrations of first Confessions in September and first Communion at Sunday Masses in October.
- Arrangements for Confirmation will depend on the availability of Bishop-elect David Evans, so may not be agreed until after August.



Pray with Pope Francis

The Pope's prayer intention for May is that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

To find the Pope's other current prayer intentions please visit www.pathwaystogod.org/my-prayer-life/praying-pope



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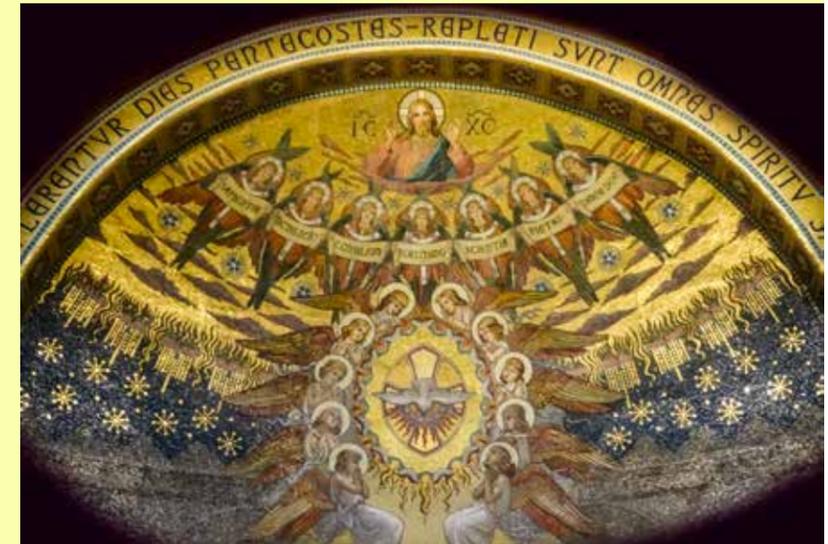
Parish Safeguarding: Ann Foulds (0121 355 7892) and Mary Rose (0121 354 4730)

Our Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12-14

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 and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, 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.



MASSES Fr Allen celebrates Mass 'privately' in the parish church at 0830 each day. A number of parishioners like to spend join themselves with this Mass as they pray at home.

Each morning a brief reflection on one of the day's readings is posted on our parish blog. One way to join with the daily parish Mass is to: make a penitential act (e.g., the I Confess or the Lord /Christ have mercy); read the scripture reading and reflection, and make a spiritual communion

If there are people you would like prayed for at daily Mass, please email or phone them to Fr Allen, or simply add them to the lead post on the parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stnicholasboldmere

Sa	23		Mass intention: Bob Perks RD (Hempenshall)
Su	24	7th Sunday of Easter Psalter Week 3	Mass intention: Ints of O'Brien family (McIlree)
M	25	St Bede	Mass intention: Tommy Kearney RIP (Devane)
T	26	St Philip Neri	Mass intention: Winfred Flaxman RIP (Foulds)
W	27	St Augustine of C'bury	Mass Intention: Patrick Gahan and family Ints (Gahan)
Th	28		
F	29	Feast of Dedication	Mass intention: For the parish
Sa	30		Mass intention: Philip Cassera RIP (Cassera)
Su	31	PENTECOST Psalter Week 1	Mass intention: Mary Kerins RIP (Kerins)

Scripture readings for Trinity Sunday

Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9 / Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55 / 2 Cor 13:11-13 / Jn 3:16-18

Baptism, Reconciliation, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick suspended until further notice.

Nourishing prayer at home: Living Eucharist: <https://livingeucharist.wordpress.com/> Also universalis.com or <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Please pray for sick parishioners including Jenifer Cummings, Betty Barker, Lyn Hunt; Joan James; Thomas Stevenson; Lea Burke, Peggy Gallagher and all who are self-isolating at this time. **Please pray for those in the health and care services.** Please pray also for Joanna Bazen and for all those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries of death are at this time, including George Eaton, Leslie Stuchbury, Zachariah Rutherford, James Dougherty. **Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may they rest in peace.**

Psalm 26(27):1,4,7-8

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?

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.

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.'

1 Peter 4:13-16

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.

Novena to the Holy Spirit

You are invited to pray the prayers below each day from Friday 22nd May until Pentecost Sunday

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
from the clear celestial heights,
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure,
come thou Light of all that live.

Thou, of all consolers best,
thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
pleasant coolness in the heat,
solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay,
all his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew,
on our dryness pour thy dew,
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill,
guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on those who ever more
thee confess and thee adore,
In thy sevenfold gifts descend,

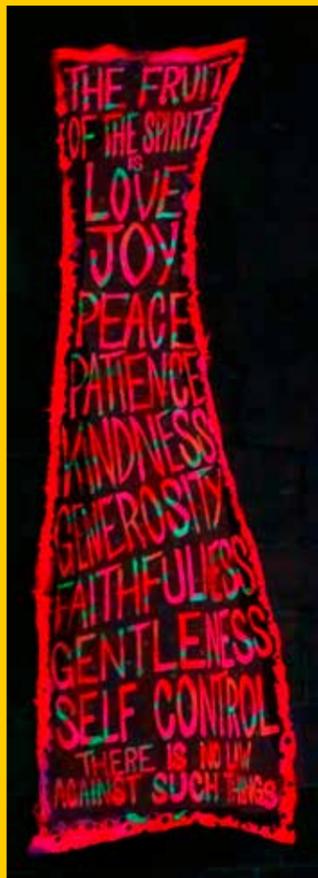
Give us comfort when they die
Give us life with thee on high;
give us joys that never end.

Renew your wonders in this our day,
As by a new Pentecost.

Grant to your Church that, being of one mind
and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus,
and following the lead of blessed Peter,
it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour,
the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace.
Amen.

Come Holy Spirit
in your power and might
to renew the face of the earth.

Holy Spirit, awaken the whole human race
and help us to build bridges of trust
that open our hearts to the Good News of Jesus Christ.
Amen



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!

John 17:1-11

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 time 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 to 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 am coming to you.'

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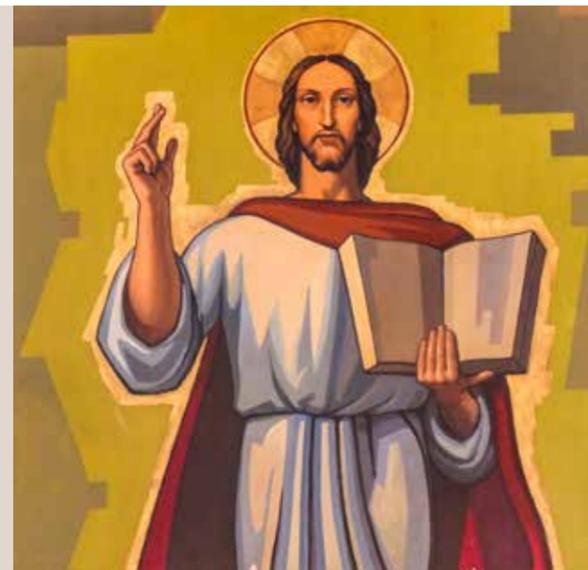


Gathered by the Word

We are beginning a season of Lectio divina on Pentecost Sunday afternoon.

Some may well ask, 'what is *lectio divina*?' It is simply a quiet prayerful engagement with the Lord through holy scripture. We begin by listening -to the reading read to us, and then listening to it in the quiet of our hearts. We then - if moved to do so - share a word or sentence that has particularly struck us - but not discussing it, just noting it. We then listen to the scripture a second time, once more read aloud and then, again, pondered in the quiet of our hearts. The final stage is for those taking part - if they wish - sharing something more about what they have heard the Lord say to them in the scriptures.

In fewer words: *lectio divina*, in this form, is us together, nourished by the Lord in the scriptures, and nourished by each other, in our gath-



The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 14.12-16

ering with the Lord as our Head, and with each other as members of his Body, the Church.

Over the past couple of years when we have had seasons of *lectio*, we have focussed on the Gospels. Over these coming sessions, the food for our prayer will be the first readings of the Sunday, the Old Testament reading (except on Pentecost Sunday when the reading will be one of those offered for a Pentecost Vigil. The reading will be on the blog, and in the newsletter.

If you do not join us on line, you might like to have your own time of quiet prayer with the passage at home.

The sessions will begin at 4pm, and after 15 minutes for sharing virtual coffee and cake and chat, will begin the *lectio* at 3.15, and continue until 5pm.

Dispensation from Easter Duties

In March 2020, the bishops confirmed that 'in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.'

Since it is not possible for the faithful to receive Holy Communion at this time, and into the future, the Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed the Easter Duties for the year 2020.

The Bishops asked that all should make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time. Perfect contrition (or a Contrition of Charity) is true and real sorrow for our sins which is created when we realise the immense love of God for each one of us. We express this contrition when we realise how we offend God by our sinful words, deeds and omissions in contrast to the immeasurable love and mercy that He continually shows us.

This requires us to be contrite of heart for what we have done, know and be overwhelmed by the love and mercy of God for His children, and to approach this grace with humility and resolution not to sin again.

An Act of Contrition

My God,
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong
and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you
whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help,
to do penance, to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ
suffered and died for us.

In his name, my God, have mercy.
Amen.