

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7
About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, "it would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food - you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word". The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 32

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:4-9
The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious corner stone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious - but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone. a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation. a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me." Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples : "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said. "Lord we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him." Philip said. "Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied." "Have I been with you all this time, Philip", said Jesus to him "and you still do not know me? "To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, 'Let us see the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself he will perform ever greater works, because I am going to the Father "

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St Anthony of Padua

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Rev. Tom Butler (retired - 07853777957);

Sunday Masses: 6.00 (Vigil - Saturday Evening) 9.30am (Sunday Morning)

Weekday Mass: Tue, Wed, Fri: 9.15am. (Mon & Thurs 9.15am at Holy Family)

Confessions: Saturday: 5.30 - 5.50pm

Annexe: 725544

Social Centre: 735963

Primary school: 726621

Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591

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Don't let your hearts be troubled

'Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength – carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time. Worrying doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength.'

Corrie ten Boom had plenty of cause for worry over the course of her lifetime. During World War II, she, along with her father and sister, provided a refuge in their home for a number of Jewish friends, playing a pivotal role in the Dutch 'underground' who sheltered Jews. Their home was eventually raided and the entire family arrested, her father dying in prison and her sister in a concentration camp. Corrie was sent to a series of camps but was released, and afterwards told her story in a book called *The Hiding Place*. Corrie's heart must have been troubled, often, but her strong faith sustained her and became the lens through which she viewed her life story: 'Every experience God gives us, every person he puts in our lives is the perfect preparation for the future that only he can see.' None of us knows how the future is going to turn out, and that is precisely why we tend to worry. (Triona Doherty)

Neuroscience can now demonstrate that the brain has a negative bias; the brain prefers to constellate around fearful, negative, or problematic situations. Our negative and critical thoughts are like Velcro, they stick and hold; whereas our positive and joyful thoughts are like Teflon, they slide away. When a loving, positive, or unproblematic thing comes your way, you have to savour it consciously for at least fifteen seconds before it can imprint itself in your "implicit memory;" otherwise it doesn't stick. We must indeed savour the good in order to significantly change our regular attitudes and moods. And we need to strictly monitor all the "Velcro" negative thoughts. (Richard Rohr)

"Just beyond the storms of personal chaos lies the profound indwelling power of love, the Source and true Centre" (Cynthia Bourgeault) Dwelling in that Love we find a new way of being, a new way of seeing what is real and true, a new way of truly living life to the full.

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A 10th May 2020

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 9th May 2020

Sat	Lily Anna Forrest-Cottam	
Sun	For our parish	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
Mon	Hazel Patterson	
Tue	Joan Maxwell	
Wed	For recovery from sickness (Suzy)	
Thur	Vera Swan	<i>Feast: St. Matthias</i>
Fri	Philip Kramer	
Sat	Eileen Terrins	
Sun	For our parish	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>

Masses received this week:

For a sick person, Margaret Baldwin.

Church is closed - but our parish lives!

V.E. Day celebrations were different this year. We have a need to celebrate, to look back, to be reminded, to be thankful, to reflect. Its re-telling of our national story. 75 years is a significant landmark. Captain (Colonel) Tom gave a lead. We draw on the sacrifices, the resolution, determination of previous generation to inspire and encourage us.

But this year there have been no big civic or military gatherings, less bunting and flags, smaller (and socially distanced) street parties. The Queen spoke some memorable lines: The streets are not empty: they are filled with the love and care we have for each other.... Never give up, never despair. A national celebration is perhaps even more important in times of danger and uncertainty.

We are thankful for the sacrifices made by past generations, for the sacrifices still being made today and above all, for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord. We hear Jesus say in the Gospel today: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me... I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' 'Know that I am with you always .. To the end of time.'

Please pray for: Joan Anderton, John Myerscough and Alice Myerscough, Mary Kathleen Kellett, Chris Goldsmith, Frank & Norah Stanton, Teresa Clarkson, Betty Murphy, Marie Gardner, Lawrence Dunnagan, Bill Embery, Karen Hardman, Carole Adnitt, Frances & Les Farrer.

Also the isolated and lonely, all medical staff and carers, those in research, those in Government and all who are assisting the public in any way.

... for those who have died recently:

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Josephine Slater, Eileen Terrins, Gertrude & Francis Dewhurst, John Dwyer, Malcolm Rogerson, Vera Swan, John Kay, Joseph Noon, Joyce Shufflebotham, Marlene Truesdale, Margaret Johnson, James Kinsella.

Repeat notices

CAFOD Emergency Appeal CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30th April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal, or via the Presbytery. Thank you.

The Catholic Voice of Lancaster Our Diocesan newspaper for May is available online—a smaller edition of 12 pages. See: <http://www.catholicvoiceoflancaster.co.uk/>

- **Thursday Mass** The Catholic Bishops of England & Wales are offering Mass for the Sick and their Families, NHS Workers and those working in Social Care every Thursday in their Cathedrals at 7.00pm. See Bishops' Conference webpage <http://cbcew.org.uk/>

- Fr. Peter continues to offer **Mass** on behalf of the parish every morning at 8am. If you wish Mass to be offered for any intention simply ask, either by phone or by e-mail.

- There are **Newsletters** every weekend as usual. Copies will be on St. Anthony's school website (and Holy Family website). If you would like one by e-mail send your e-mail address to parish.priest2@btinternet.com

- We can supply the usual church **Children's Liturgy sheets** by e-mail. Just ask.

- **CAFOD** are producing a Children's Liturgy: See <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

- we have a group of **volunteers** - they are dealing with a whole range of requests ranging from getting shopping to providing reassurance. Ring 724576 for help.

- **Bishop Paul's weekly video message** to the Diocese is on the Cathedral website www.lancastercathedral.org.uk

- **Funerals** may now only take place at the crematorium or the graveside. Attendance is limited to immediate family on government advice and social distancing must be kept. Later it will be possible to celebrate Mass in church for those who have died

- **Offertory Collection.** Please hold on to these unless you are suffering financially. If you want to make a standing order to the parish the parish bank details ask Fr. Peter for details. Thank you

- **Mass is streamed** via the internet as follows:

9.45am St. Kentigern's Blackpool Facebook Group: Parish of Christ the King & St. Kentigern
 10.00am Holy Family Freckleton: Facebook Group: St Anne Westby & Holy Family Catholic
 10.00am, St. Joseph's Lancaster: Facebook Group: St Joseph's Church
 10.00am St. Clare's Preston YouTube Channel: St Clares Church
 10.30am St. Mary's Cleator Facebook Group: St Mary & St Joseph's Catholic parish
 11.00am St. Mary's Barrow. <https://ourladyoffurness.org.uk/2020/03/29>.

Apps for phones or computers:

Laudate is a free app which has the prayers and readings of Mass and lots of other prayers.

Universalis has a one-off fee of £10 but can be customised for England & Wales and for the Diocese of Lancaster.