

FIRST READING

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 65

Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

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| 1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: "How tremendous your deeds!" | 3. He turned the sea into dry land.
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. |
| 2. "Before you all the earth shall bow.
shall sing to you, sing to your name!"
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. | 4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul :
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. |

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him." Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

"If you love me you will keep my commandments, I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit or truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commands and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him."

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St Anthony of Padua

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Deacons: Rev. John Kilshaw (07759 943667)

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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Love is His Meaning

Today's gospel passage is part of a larger text known as the Farewell Discourse, (John Ch14-16), and it is Jesus' goodbye speech to his disciples. The preacher Fred Craddock captures today's scene in a memorable image, likening the disciples to children playing on the floor, who happen to look up and see their parents putting on coats. Their questions are three (and they have not changed): Where are you going? Can we go? Then who is going to stay with us? [1]

No doubt the disciples found it difficult to understand Jesus' words. Even with our gift of hindsight we struggle when he talks about leaving and coming, absence and presence, seeing and not seeing. It is only when with love we hold these realities together in tension that we will experience that paradoxically they are not mutually exclusive. [2]

In her song 'Love Always' Carrie Newcomer sings:

It takes some starts and stops to hold a paradox.

I keep trying to understand, and to hold it in both hands

How to know what can't be done and still envision all that can.

That 'starting and stopping' involves a willingness to be open to a constant dislodging of our perception of Love. It involves a growing awareness that our actions do not earn us God's love: they help make us present to the eternal, unconditional loving presence of God within us. It involves being at the correct starting point. We are familiar with the story of the traveller who stopped to ask someone the directions to his destination. "If I were you, I wouldn't start from here," was the reply.

Jesus' starting point was his awareness that 'I am in the Father and the Father is in me.' (John 14:11) The Spirit of Truth abiding in us will help us grow in awareness of our abiding in God who is Love. Love is who we are. When we get the 'who' right and realise that who I am is Love, then we will love God and love all that God has created. [3]

Adapted : [1] Kelly Anne Donahue [2] Michael Marsh [3] R.Rohr

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A 17th May 2020

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 16th May 2020

Sat	Eileen Terrins	
Sun	For our parish	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>
Mon	Lesley Morris	
Tue	Sandra Webb	
Wed	Bill Lawley	
Thur	Jenny Bryson	<i>Feast: The Ascension of the Lord</i>
Fri	Bob Garlington Graveside Service for Bob Garlington	
Sat	Special Intention	
Sun	For our parish	<i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>

Masses received this week:

Jenny Bryson, Lesley Morris, Sandra Webb, Robbie & Patricia Hasson, Bill Lawley.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge donations of £30 and £20 for CAFOD and £25 for the SVP. Also £500 for Parish Funds from the late Margaret Mary Turner. May she rest in peace.

Church is closed - but our parish lives!

Grandparents tell of their distress at not being able to hug their grandchildren. People worry about elderly parents. Love binds us together but events conspire to keep us apart. Jesus speaks about love in the Gospel: 'Anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.' Jesus' words and actions continually bear witness to his love for all God's people, and especially his apostles. And yet he must leave them, be set apart from them as he ascends to his Father. And they don't feel abandoned. It is very different to their feelings at the crucifixion. Now their minds are fixed on the future and how he will be with them always. May our disappointment at separation from those we love serve to deepen our love and our longing to appreciate them even more.

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

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

... for those who have died recently: Bob Garlington, John Lovatt, Bill Lawley;

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Eric Welsby, John Dwyer, Peter Kevill, Dorothy Hedley, May Dickinson, Veronica Chanter, Maria Garlington, Gerard Walsh, Richard and Mary Murphy, Marie McCartney.

Laudato Si

On 24th May 2015 Pope Francis sent his special letter LAUDATO SI, on the care of our common home, to the whole Church. From May 16 -24th this year, all over the world, the fifth anniversary of LAUDATO SI is being celebrated. If you go on YouTube and type in Pope Francis invitation to LAUDATO SI WEEK you can see and hear him for yourself. You can also find out more through www.laudatosiweek.org. We may be in lockdown but we can still think and pray. Please join the global Catholic family praying for a more sustainable and just world at 12 noon on May 24th, the final day of this important week.

First Holy Communion

This weekend we should have been celebrating the first holy communion of our children. Sadly that has had to be suspended. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

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** is suspended while he recovers from his injuries.

- **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 please contact Fr. Peter. 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