

Our Lady & St Etheldreda, Newmarket
14 Exeter Road CB8 8LT
Our Lady & St Philip Neri,
Kirtling CB8 9PA
Telephone 01638 662492
Email: stetheldreda@btinternet.com
Website:www.olise.co.uk

May 31st 2020

8th Week of Easter

Psalter Week 4

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week.

SUNDAY 31st For the People

MONDAY 1st Leslie Lake † (*Foundation*)

TUESDAY 2nd Kate, David & Simon's Ints. (*D. Bristow*)

WEDNESDAY 3rd Bernie Mc Cormick † Mary Austin †
S. Charles Lwanga & Comps. and Joan Austin. † (Mc Cormick family)

THURSDAY 4th Alex Mc Donnell † (*Sr. Mary Jo.*)
Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High priest.

FRIDAY 5th Pasquale Miniciello † (*J. Coyle*)
S. Boniface BM

SATURDAY 6th Priests Intention

SUNDAY 7th For the People

***All of these Masses will be said privately by
Fr. Christopher at 8.00am in the Church.***

If you have a request for a Mass you would like said please get in touch by either emailing:

stetheldreda@btinternet.com or phone 07813 686857.

Thought for the week, for the celebration of Pentecost

This Sunday the Church celebrates the feast of Pentecost which brings the Easter Season to a dramatic close. The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Church so that with power and conviction she could carry out the task and mission she had been entrusted with by the Risen Christ. The day of Pentecost has never ceased, for the Holy Spirit is given to each Christian in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. With some justification the Holy Spirit is seen as the forgotten person of the Holy Trinity. Because most of us have known our Fathers, by analogy we can picture God as Father. Because Jesus the Son of God lived a human life, we can picture God as Son. It is a little more difficult when we come to contemplate the Holy Spirit. However we are not called upon to speculate, rather we are called upon to open ourselves up to his power and prompting in our lives.

The Holy Spirit is invoked under the following titles which gives a clue to his role and work:

The Holy Spirit is seen as the Advocate. An Advocate is one who speaks up for us on our behalf. St Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians says that no one can call Jesus, Lord, unless they are under the influence of the Holy Spirit. In other words the Holy Spirit helps articulate and forms our faith. In the letter to the Galatians Paul says that the Holy Spirit has been poured into our hearts so that we can cry out 'Abba, Father.' The Holy Spirit helps us in our prayer so that we can, through Christ, approach God with the bold trust that sons and daughters have in their Father.

The Holy Spirit is the Teacher who leads us into all truth. This happens as the Holy Spirit leads the Church to a greater appreciation of all that God has revealed of himself in and through the life of his Son. We see this as the Church has gathered in Council during her long and complex history. On an individual level, the Holy Spirit makes the teaching and example of Jesus come alive for us, so we can root this in our lives as we are conformed to the pattern of life we see in Jesus.

The Holy Spirit is the Comforter. In modern day parlance comfort is a rather weak and flabby word. A child nestles up to his or her comfort blanket when hurt or upset. As adults when the going gets tough we retreat to our comfort zone or indulge in comfort eating. The comfort that the Holy Spirit brings on the other hand is something strong and galvanising. In the famous Bayeux Tapestry, celebrating the Norman Conquest, William's half brother Bishop Odo is seen driving his troops on into the thick of battle. Underneath is the caption, 'Bishop Odo comforts his troops.' This is the comfort the Holy Spirit brings; he drives us on, gives us the courage to continue in our life of faith when left to ourselves we would be inclined to throw in the towel and walk away.

'Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.'

With my prayers and good wishes,

Fr Christopher



Bishop Alan Hopes will lead priests and people across the Diocese of East Anglia in responding to a call from Pope Francis to pray the Rosary during May by taking part in the Rosary Relay on May 31.

On Pentecost Sunday, The London Rosary Shrine, Walsingham Basilica, Carfin Grotto and Rosary on the Coast are jointly organising this 12-hour rosary event, which will take place across England, Scotland and Wales.

The Diocese of East Anglia has been asked to pray the Rosary between 2.00pm and 3.00pm on Sunday May 31. Bishop Alan will lead the Rosary at 2.00pm, and it will be live streamed from St John the Baptist cathedral.

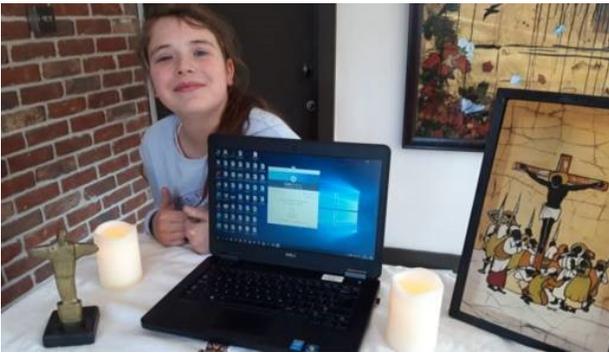
The intentions of the rosary relay are:

- For faith, sanctity of life and peace to prevail in our nations
- For an end to the Covid-19 virus
- For those who have died, and the grieving, for all health workers and carers, for those researching for an anti-virus
- For the poor, homeless and destitute
- For the protection of the common good, and people's livelihoods
- That the Holy Spirit will preserve us from disaster and war



The event will end with final blessings at 9pm from Bishop John Keenan at St Mirin's Cathedral in Paisley

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Virtual children's Liturgy

CAFOD are offering a live stream Children's Liturgy of the Word, for children in the time of lockdown. To find it go to the CAFOD website and follow the links. This takes place on Sundays at 10am.

Weekly Offertory

If you are wondering about the best way to continue with your weekly offering to the Church during the current situation where the Church is closed, there are various ways which you can do this.

- 1) You can send a cheque weekly/monthly to the parish office, payable to **'CATHOLIC PARISH ACCOUNT'**.
- 2) If you have access to internet banking you can set up a Standing Order or Direct Debit from your bank. Church bank details are **sort code 20.60.38. account no. 30244759**,
- 3) if you are more comfortable to continue using your weekly envelopes, then please do, put them to one side each week, until have an opportunity to drop them into the letter box outside the parish centre entrance, (Fr. Christopher empties this box each day) or keep them together until our church reopens.

You can also make your donation gift aided, we can get a further 25% from the government. It doesn't cost you any more money. Please contact our Gift-Aid coordinator Joe Millyard 07920837319 or email JMillyard1@hotmail.co.uk for information on this.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in these difficult times for everyone.

Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 7th June 2020 - The Ninth Sunday of Easter

1) Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.

2) Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 7th June 2020 - God so Loved the World (John 3:16-18)

Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.'

3) Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

At first sight this part of the dialogue with Nicodemus seems to mention only the Father and the Son and not involve the Holy Spirit. A chief concern of the Gospel of John is to show the relationship of loving obedience between Father and Son. The love and equality in a perfect relationship between a human parent and a child is the nearest reflection of such divine love which we can envisage. In complete trust and confidence the parent gives to the child everything that is theirs. The parent's only interest is the advancement of the child. The child's only care is to please the parent and to be as close to the parent as they can be, in word, in action and in relationships. Each has a vibrant and continuous bond of love for the other. Such a relationship may be rare in human family life, but it can model for us a pale reflection of the loving relationship between the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is the love between the Father and the Son, love in person, the living bond which unites them. We must, however, appreciate that any such language limps and belittles the divine relationship, which is of a different order of perfection and intensity. Human language can never fully explain the mystery of God which is beyond our total understanding.

We are familiar with St Patrick's clover-leaf image of the Trinity. Are there any other images of the Trinity which you find helpful? How are Father, Son and Spirit presented in this Gospel passage? How does the Holy Spirit bring us close to the Father? How can we respond to God's love for us?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

4) Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph

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WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 7th June 2020

First Reading: First Reading: The Definition of God's Name Exodus 34:4-6.8-9 With the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood with him there. He called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.' And Moses bowed down to the ground at once and worshipped. 'If I have indeed won your favour, Lord,' he said, 'let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and our sins, and adopt us as your heritage.' This is one of the really very central passages of the Bible. In Judaism

This is one of the really very central passages of the Bible. In Judaism the special name of God is never spoken. For two reasons. It is too sacred and awesome to be pronounced, for the name somehow makes the personality present. It is also too intimate: we do not bandy around in public the special family name by which we are affectionately known by our nearest and dearest. So where the name occurs in the Bible, a conventional 'the Lord' is used. The name itself was revealed to Moses at the Burning Bush, but not its meaning. Here for the first time the meaning is given, 'The Lord, the Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion.' Only when God has to forgive Israel for its first, heinous but rapid, rebellion, is the meaning of the name revealed. And this meaning is echoed again and again down the scriptures, in Deuteronomy, in Psalms, in Jeremiah. Even Jonah has to admit it when, to his fury, Nineveh is forgiven! This is the way Israel loves to picture its God, as a God of forgiveness. The Prologue of St John and the Parable of the Prodigal Son which witness to God as the one who forgives are no new inventions

Is 'God of forgiveness' the most important way in which we can think about God?

Second Reading: A Trinitarian Blessing

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Brothers, we wish you happiness; try to grow perfect; help one another. Be united; live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with the holy kiss. All the saints send you greetings. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**.”the part played by each
Person of the Trinity in
our creation, salvation
and sanctification. “**

This reading, concluding with the Trinitarian blessing, is the finale of this Letter to the Corinthians. The interrelationship of the Three Persons of the Trinity is a theological elaboration which was reached only gradually in Christian meditation. Paul, however, already often mentions the three Persons in parallel, making some distinction between them or at any rate between their functions in the story of salvation. When he mentions one he seems at the same time to be conscious of the influence also of the other Persons of the Trinity. The constant triple mention of each of the Persons in itself suggests equality, each playing a special part, as ‘It is God who gives you a sure place in Christ, giving us as pledge the Spirit in our hearts’ (2 Corinthians 1:21), or ‘You have been justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and through the Spirit of our God’ (1 Corinthians 6:11). Rather than prying, so to speak, into the personal interrelationships of the three, the scripture limits itself to mentioning the part played by each in our creation, salvation and sanctification. God, whom we also address as Abba, Father, is the initiator. It is through the work of Christ that we are justified, saved, redeemed, reconciled. The Spirit is at work in transforming us in holiness

Which three qualities does St Paul wish for the Corinthians in his Trinitarian blessing at the end of this reading? How do you experience the love of the Trinity?

A Prayer For Help & Healing.

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to You today with our fears and concerns. You know what is in our hearts. We love You, we trust You, we need You. We ask You to be with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and sorrow.

We know you are the Divine Physician, the healer of all. We ask you bring your loving touch and healing presence to all who are sick and suffering right now from the coronavirus. Please comfort them.

Please stand at the side of all medical professionals who are putting themselves at risk while they work to bring healing to others.

Please have mercy on those who have died, may they be with You in heaven.

Please be with the grieving families of those who have passed away.

Please be with those who are trying to find a remedy to this pandemic.

Lord, we are afraid and we are sorrowful,. Please heal us. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence.

(If you have a special intention mention it here)

Jesus, we thirst for You. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby.

Be with the most vulnerable now. Help us to continue to return to You with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.

Amen.

Mary, our Mother, Untier of Knots. Pray for us.

St. Anthony the Great, patron of those affected by infectious diseases. Pray for us.

St. Roch. Pray for us.

St. Edmund, patron of the victims of pandemics. Pray for us.

Your prayers are asked

For the sick: Deacon Clive Brooks, Peter Giblin, Joan Heflin, Pat Ward, John Taylor, Dan Stannard, Pat O Malley, Peggy Upton, David McCoy, J. P. McCoy, Kathleen Sheridan, Keith Mc Greavy, Milo Stallman, David Mc Elderry, Susan Stallman. Hazel Wood. Paul Canning, Anii. Sylvia Hick, Chris Donleavy.

Those who have died recently, especially Paddy Garrad and Rosemary Doherty and for those whose anniversaries occurs at this time: Catherine Kennedy, Bernie McCormick, Leslie Lake, Anne Pulford, Leo Mahaffey, William O Gorman, John Callaghan, George Lomas, Bunty Krzus, George Olley, Richard Casey, Mary Faherty, Agnes Fury, Patrick Gallagher, Flo King, Mary Mellon, Allan Hubbard, Tony Pulford, James Lennox, Helen Keutgen, Brenda Thomas, Stephen White, John McGinty, Bernadette Milner, Nora Mason, Patrick Fleming, Peter Moloney, Rosemary Reynolds.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

“Lord Jesus Christ, I believe you to be truly present in the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist. I unite myself with the celebration of Mass throughout the World. As I cannot receive you sacramentally, come to me spiritually. Bless me and all those for whom I have a duty to pray. Make me grateful for your many blessings. Amen”



Calling All Men – Catholic Life! – A journey of personal conversion

What has your journey of belief looked like? Have you looked deeply at the question of your beliefs? Do you even know what you believe? Have you tackled the tough questions of God, the creation of the Universe, the afterlife, the moral life, worship and the like?

If you've pondered these questions and come to some sort of conclusion, then have you also looked deeply at that second question of "Why?" Why do I believe this or that? Do I have a good reason for my beliefs? Or am I embarrassed or fearful to take a stand and make my convictions known?

During this time of social distancing, men of the parish are invited and encouraged to participate in a **weekly small group study exploring the Catholic faith (lasting 1hr)**. The course material is free online but is also available through eBook (free) or paperback. It is available in a variety of **different languages**.

One of the best ways to learn our glorious Catholic faith is through faith-based small group discussion and study. Talking about our faith brings clarity. Hearing what others have to say brings insight.

For further details about the study please Email: mosj@olise.co.uk Support can be given to help people get started with any IT issues.



HELP REQUIRED

Our parish St Vincent de Paul group are continuing to source, assemble, pack and deliver food parcels (at least enough for two main meals plus some extras) for families of children who would have free school meals if they were at school. The

SVP are doing a wonderful job, but as the volume is growing (now 73 boxes) we need more volunteers to help with filling boxes. If you are able to, and can spare 1-2 hours on a Wednesday or Thursday lunchtime, please get in touch with Deacon James on jamesghurst@outlook.com.

We already have a great team, but would love to have a few more parishioners to call on when we need extra hands to help.