

# THE PARISH OF ST DUNSTAN AND ST JUDE

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020

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**"To those who gave so much, we thank you" were words we were encouraged to say** last Friday at 3pm when we marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. We remembered the millions of people of the United Kingdom and across the world who came together as Allies in World War II to defeat a common enemy. People remembering that time speak of a great sense of community and common purpose. Common adversity and joy brought them together. These celebrations had been planned as a coming together of the nations of Europe and beyond. It was an opportunity to thank all those, both living and departed, who played their part in this fight against the forces of darkness. As we well know, history has taken a different turn. We are learning to celebrate and gather in different ways. In this time of adversity and peril may we play our part in a new 'coming together' and help our nation and community to grow stronger through this time of testing and difficulty for so many.

**Sunday Mass** will be available today at 11am. **On Tuesday, at 6pm** there will be **Holy Mass with prayers used:** 'In time of Pandemic'. **On Thursday at 6pm** we shall celebrate the Feast of Apostle St Matthias with Holy Mass and on **Friday at 7pm** there will also be a **Holy Hour**. All these will be available via our website and Social Media pages.

**During this week, Holy Mass will be offered for:** Noreen Cody (RIP); Eddie Walsh (RIP); Bridget O'Connor; Brid Hurley (Ints); Packie Doherty (RIP Anni); Kathleen Delaney (RIP); O'Neill family (Ints); Lee; Margaret Watts (RIP); Mrs Glenn (RIP); Anne Moriarty (RIP); Special Intention; Carole Rowlands (RIP); Kathleen Conneely (RIP); Ricardo Victoria Snr (RIP); Catherine Sugrue (RIP); Tomás Donohoe; Edward Jena (RIP); Aileen Gallagher (RIP 1<sup>st</sup> Anni); Kathleen Clarke (RIP); Ricardo (Jnr) and Lily Victorio (RIP).

*Masses will be offered privately each day by the priests, and all intentions which have been previously booked will be honoured and fulfilled.*

**This Friday at 7.00pm** there will again be a time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Benediction. During this time, we would encourage everyone to join us in the praying of the Holy Rosary. This Friday we will be contemplating the Sorrowful Mysteries.

**Weekly offerings** can be posted through the St Dunstan's Presbytery letterbox. Please place offerings in either the usual Gift Aid envelopes or a plain envelope marked 'St Dunstan' or 'St Jude'. **Standing Orders** or **Paypal** donations are a great way of giving in times such as these which helps us to keep paying parish bills. **Details available on our Parish website.**

**Many thanks** to those who are continuing to support the parish financially. For many of you there is not the opportunity or freedom of getting out, but do not worry, the Archbishop has asked that when we return to public Mass, there will be an opportunity for those who haven't had chance to contribute to these collections.

**If you need to speak** to either one of the priests, it is encouraged to do so via a phone call or email. Similarly, if you should require a priest in an emergency, please do not hesitate to call the Presbytery.

**Queen Elizabeth Hospital:** If you, or family members are in hospital, please let the ward know that the chaplain is notified. In these high-pressured times, he won't have the time or freedom to go around searching. People will be missed if the hospital staff are not informed. In non-urgent cases you can leave a message for him on 0121 371 4568.

**Care Homes in the Parish:** If you have a family member in one of the Care Homes in the Parish, and they need a visit from the priests in an emergency, this needs to be requested through the staff at the care home.

**Baptisms:** due to rules concerning gatherings, baptisms (apart from those in *periculo mortis*) are to be delayed until such a time as the church building reopens.

**A Prayer of Mary's Month of May:** Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother; to thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

**It is with great sadness** that funerals cannot be held in churches at the moment. Until such time as the present restrictions are lifted, the Archbishop has stated that funeral services must be held at the graveside or in the crematorium chapel with close family. On the day of a funeral the Priest will offer a Requiem Mass privately for the deceased. As soon as we can gather once more, there will be an opportunity for a public Requiem Mass with family and friends at request.

As a parish community it is particularly sad when we can't be present at the Funeral Masses of those whose who have been part of the fabric of our parish and express our sorrow and affection. However, do please then make a special effort to bring them in prayer to the Lord in whom we are all one.

The dates below in brackets are the day of the funeral. This is so that those, apart from close family attending, can remember them in their own prayers that day.

**We pray for those who have died from the parish:**

Tim Crowley (12<sup>th</sup> May); Mary Black (11<sup>th</sup> May), Elizabeth Creasy (22<sup>nd</sup> May), Pauline Conmee, Thomas Carew, Helena Komisarczuk (7<sup>th</sup> May), Winifred Clarke (6<sup>th</sup> May), Margaret McLaughlin, Francesco Di Maria (30<sup>th</sup> April), Pat Fitzpatrick (6<sup>th</sup> May), Peter Marshall (19<sup>th</sup> May), Mary Reddington, Norman Hough (5<sup>th</sup> May), May Shuttleworth (1<sup>st</sup> June), Martin Shaughnessy (12<sup>th</sup> May), Ronald Marsh (20<sup>th</sup> May).

**Our prayers have also been asked for others who have died recently:** Fr Andy Kenny (15<sup>th</sup> May), Bishop Leo McCartie (12<sup>th</sup> May), Fr Antony Conlon (5<sup>th</sup> May), Fr David Duggan.

**A Prayer written by Bede Jarrett, a Dominican friar:**

We seem to give them back to Thee, O God who gavest them to us. Yet as Thou didst not lose them in giving, so do we not lose them by their return. Not as the world giveth, givest Thou O Lover of souls. What Thou givest Thou takest not away, for what is Thine is ours also if we are thine. And life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only an horizon, and an horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight. Lift us up, strong Son of God that we may see further; cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly; draw us closer to Thyself that we may know ourselves to be nearer to our loved ones who are with Thee. And while Thou dost prepare a place for us, prepare us also for that happy place, that where Thou art we may be also for evermore. Amen.

**The Easter Season** continues for another forty-two days until the feast of Pentecost.

**Easter Duties 2020 from the Bishops Conference:**

"Many of you will be aware of performing your "Easter Duties"; that is, to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season and by custom, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation beforehand. 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 have 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."

**Our planned day trip** to the Shrine at Holywell and Llandudno has been cancelled. Thank you to those who were interested in this event and paid deposits for coach seats. We will hold onto the deposits until such a time as they can be returned.

**Walsingham Pilgrimage 2020:**

Sadly, the shrine has announced that they are unable to open the pilgrim accommodation during the pandemic and will remain closed until at least the end of July. This means that our pilgrimage will not now be able to go ahead. Although we have paid just the deposits, they will carry these over to the following year. Thanks to Isobel O'Connell for all the work she has done in organising the pilgrimage – and we look forward to returning to Walsingham again!

Also, the priests and brothers based at the shrine at Walsingham do live stream Mass and devotions each day. If you google 'Walsingham National Shrine' you should find a link.

**Lourdes Pilgrimage 2020:**

Although the decision was made to cancel the forthcoming Diocesan Pilgrimage, the Diocese is instead inviting us to the opening Mass on Sunday 24 May at 3pm, from St Chad's Cathedral. The Mass is available to anybody, but especially for those who would have been making the pilgrimage this year. The Diocese aim to provide a daily programme of reflection for the week that we would have spent in Lourdes so, like Bernadette, we will make a spiritual pilgrimage: "Every day I go in spirit to the Grotto. I make a pilgrimage there."

Please continue to join us in prayer via the Diocesan webpage, as we pray for the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes at this difficult time.

**Magnificat Magazine** is an excellent resource for us currently. Each edition contains the prayers and readings for Mass each day, a meditation on the theme of the readings each day, a shortened form of Morning and Evening Prayer for every day, and a number of articles concerning our faith, the Saints, and Christian art. It is a monthly publication and can be delivered directly to your home. To subscribe, you can phone 020 7448 3607.

**Let us pray for one another at this time, and especially for the sick and those in our hospitals, care homes and local surgeries who care for the sick:** that through the prayers we offer both privately and individually, we may soon be united once more together around the altar of God.

**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.

**A parishioner has passed on to us a prayer to St Roch, a saint invoked in times of plague and pestilence:** O most merciful God, who through an angel, promised St Roch that all who invoked his name will be preserved from pestilence and contagious diseases. Grant that through his intercession we may be preserved from all dangers both of soul and body. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion:** My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment 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.

**Prayer to our Guardian Angel, for when we cannot attend Holy Mass:** O holy Angel at my side, go to Church for me, kneel in my place, at Holy Mass, where I desire to be. At Offertory, in my stead, take all I am and own, and place it as a sacrifice upon the Altar Throne. At Holy Consecration's bell, adore with Seraph's love, my Jesus hidden in the Host, come down from Heaven above. Then pray for those I dearly love, and those who cause me grief, that Jesus' Blood may cleanse all hearts, and suffering souls relieve. And when the priest Communion takes, oh, bring my Lord to me, that His sweet Heart may rest on mine, and I His temple be. Pray that this Sacrifice Divine, may mankind's sins efface; then bring me Jesus' blessing home, the pledge of every grace. Amen.

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

### 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.

### 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 cornerstone 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.

### GOSPEL READING

**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 going now 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 even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'



## READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May** *Easter Feria*  
Acts 14: 5 – 18; Psalm 113b; John 14: 21 – 26

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May** *Easter Feria*  
Acts 14: 19 – 28; Psalm 144; John 14: 27 – 31

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May** *Easter Feria*  
Acts 15: 1 – 6; Psalm 121; John 15: 1 – 8

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May** *St Matthias*  
Acts 1: 15 – 17; 20 – 26; Psalm 112; John 15: 9 – 17

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May** *Easter Feria*  
Acts 15: 22 – 31; Psalm 56; John 15: 12 – 17

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May** *Easter Feria*  
Acts 16: 1 – 10; Psalm 99; John 15: 18 – 21

**In place of the Angelus during the Easter Season we sing or say the Regina Caeli – traditionally at 6am (or when you get up!), Noon and 6pm.**



Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

## LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE FAITHFUL FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020  
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist*

### PRAYER TO OUR LADY

“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God”.

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.