


5th Sunday of Easter (B)

Mass Times and Intentions

Divine Office – Psalter Week 1



Saturday 27 th April	5.30pm	Fr Barry McAllister
Sunday 28 th April	11.00am	People of the Parish
Tuesday 30 th April	9.30am	J Guiler
Wednesday 1 st May	7.00pm	L & K Kamel
Thursday 2 nd May	9.30am	Holy Souls
Saturday 4 th May	5.30pm	Ann Wilson
Sunday 5 th May	11.00am	Teresa Johnston (Anniversary)

Sunday Liturgy

Proper of the Mass		p. 264
Profession of Faith	Apostles's	p. 12
Preface	Easter III	p. 60
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 2	p. 25

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention



For the role of women. We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

April is the month of the Holy Spirit. To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess that the Holy Spirit is one of the persons of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial with the Father and the Son: "with the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*)



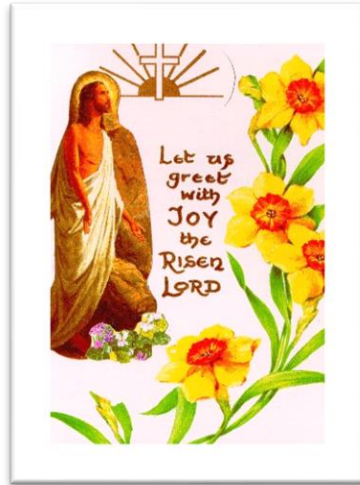


**The Roman Catholic Parish of
Our Lady Help of Christians**
Portico Lane, Prescott, L34 2QT

Administrator: Fr Andrew Rowlands VF
Deacon: Rev Tom Simms
Email: smaa@rcaol.org.uk Tel. 0151 546 9687

5th Sunday of Easter (B)

28th April 2024



In last Sunday's Readings we heard how Jesus presents Himself to His disciples as the "Good Shepherd" which is an easy way of describing a leader who is thoughtful, loving and protective. Today we have another symbolic image of Jesus — that of a living, growing and nourishing vine.

In the First Reading we learn about an incident in the amazing life of Saul of Tarsus, later to become the great St. Paul. He was not one of the original apostles; rather, he was later called by Jesus Himself. At first, the apostles were wary of him; but they soon learned how Jesus was to use him to "grow" the Church in the land of the Gentiles.

The Responsorial Psalm is a continuation of the one that Jesus cries out from the cross that begins with those immortal words: "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" Today we read or hear the

second part of this Psalm, the victory over death. It is a reflection on the resurrection and an assurance that Jesus Christ is risen and still lives among us.

The opening lines of this passage in the Second Reading refer to the sincerity of a loving heart, not a romantic infatuation. If our heart or conscience is free of anxiety, then we will know that we love God and our neighbour in the way we were meant to (the greatest Commandment). The last sentence of this passage speaks for itself. Read it again and see how it fits into the theme of the vine.

The Gospel Reading from John is a great metaphor where Jesus compares Himself to a vine, perhaps a grape vine, where the harvest master, God the Father, prunes the branches in the winter preparing for the spring growth and the summer harvest. If we are truly disciples of Jesus, we won't mind this occasional pruning because it is for our own good. It is the new growth that produces the best grapes.



Offertory Collection/Donations

If you do not have any cash you can donate by scanning this QR code with a smart phone.

Mission Appeal

Each year a different Missionary Society makes an appeal in the parishes of England and Wales. This year the Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver will make the appeal on behalf of the Sisters Missions Committee of England and Wales. One of the sisters will be in our parish for the weekend of 11th and 12th May. They will tell us about their missionary work and will be grateful for your support.

Mass with Sacrament of the Sick

Advance notice that at 2.30pm on Sunday 23rd June all the parishes of the Knowsley Deanery will be celebrating Mass with Sacrament of the Sick at All Saints High School, Kirkby. Nearer the time we will be looking for volunteers to help those who otherwise would not be able to attend.

Music at the Met

During 2024 the Metropolitan Cathedral are celebrating the return of their restored grand organ with a series of concerts and events that will demonstrate the versatility of the instrument:
3.00pm Sunday 12th May Choral Evening Prayer with the Rededication of the Grand Organ followed by the Opening Organ Recital by Martin Baker
7.30pm Saturday 18th May Two Cathedrals' Messiah
11.15am Monday 27th May Organ Recital by Katherine Dienes-Williams
7.30pm Saturday 1st June Organ Recital by Matthew Walters
3.00pm Sunday 7th July Two Cathedral Choirs with Ian Tracey.

Pentecost Two Cathedrals Service

This year, Pentecost will mark 100 years of the Liverpool (Anglican) Cathedral. The theme of the celebrations will be Building God's Church together. The event will start at the Metropolitan Cathedral at 3pm on Sunday 19th May, with Mgr John Devine OBE preaching beforehand, and then move to the Liverpool Cathedral for a final blessing. You are then welcome for a thanksgiving picnic, either bring your own, or dine at the Welsford Bistro.

SVP

The SVP will be holding a short meeting in the dining room in the presbytery after the 11.00am Mass on Sunday 5th May for anyone interested in finding out more about the organisation.

Vocations Sunday

The collection for the Priests Training Fund will be kept open for another couple of weeks in case anyone wants to make further donations. Many thanks for your generosity.

Feast Days This Week

Monday

St Catherine of Siena – She was born in Siena, Tuscany, in 1347, the 25th child of a wool dyer. Catherine Benincasa received the habit of the Third Order of St Dominic at the age of sixteen, continuing to live at home. Her sanctity attracted a number of followers – the *Caterinati* – of who she was a sort of leader. She became known for her work among the poor of Siena and the successful conversion of hardened sinners. At heart she had a special care for the unity and welfare of the Church. She was instrumental in persuading Pope Gregory IX to abandon Avignon and return to Rome. She tried to heal the great schism of the West, rallying all Italy around Pope Urban VI. She has left over four hundred letters and a *dialogue*, which is one of the most remarkable mystical works of all time. She was canonised in 1461 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970. She is co-patroness of Europe.

Tuesday

Pope St Pius V – He was born near Alessandria in Italy in the year 1504. He entered the Dominican Order and taught theology. After being made a bishop and a cardinal, he became Pope in 1566. He vigorously carried out the reform of the Church which was begun by the Council of Trent, actively promoting the spread of the faith and restoring the sacred liturgy. He died on 1st May 1572.

Wednesday

St Joseph the Worker - We know no words of his, but God gave him great responsibility as the foster father of the Child Jesus. He accepted with great faith, and in the Scriptures he is described as a just man. In this feast we also acknowledge the fruits of human labour – St Joseph earned his living through his work as a carpenter. He is Patron of the Universal Church and the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Thursday

St Athanasius – He was born in Alexandria in the year 295 of Christian parents. After spending some time in the desert with St Anthony, he accompanied his bishop, Alexander, to the Council of Nicaea and later he himself succeeded as bishop and Patriarch. He fought ceaselessly against the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ, and as a result he had to endure much tribulation and was exiled several times. He wrote outstandingly to illustrate and defend true doctrine, and was the greatest champion of the Catholic belief in the Incarnation

Friday

Ss Philip and St James – Two of the Twelve Apostles. Philip was born at Bethsaida and was a follower of John the Baptist before being the first Apostle to be called by Christ. Tradition has him preaching the Gospel in Phrygia and dying in Hierapolis. James was the leader of the Church in Jerusalem and its first Bishop. He wrote the Epistle that bears his name, and led a life of penance. He converted many of the Jews to the faith before being martyred in the year 62.

Saturday

The English Martyrs – In the New Calendar for English Saints the 40 canonised martyrs (previous feast 25th October) have joined the 85beatified martyrs for today's Feast, with other martyrs from the 16th and 17th Centuries. These are now known as "The English Martyrs". On this day in 1535 there died at Tyburn three Carthusian monks, the first of many martyrs, Catholic and Protestant, of the English Reformation. Of these martyrs, 42 have been canonised, and a further 242 declared blessed, but the number of those who died on the scaffold, perished in prison, or suffered harsh persecution for their faith over a century and a half cannot now be reckoned. They came from every walk of life: there among them rich and poor, married and single, women and men, priests, religious and lay people. They are remembered for the example they gave of constancy in their faith, and courage in the face of persecution.