

St German's Church

17 May 2020 - Easter VI



This passage begins to develop more the key role of the Holy Spirit in binding together Father and Son and, indirectly, us to God. We are consoled and comforted by the desire of God to mind us. It is also a reminder that we need to spiritually prepare ourselves for the coming feast of the Ascension (this coming Thursday) and after that Pentecost, when we celebrate the birthday of the Church. In the midst of this lockdown and pandemic it could be reminded of how God's Spirit always endures in the Church, that is, in us the people of God who make up the body of Christ.

Parish Notes:

Christian Aid Week - This week many Christians are fundraising and celebrating CA week in a very different way than usual. In addition to our fundraising during Lent, if anyone would like to add something extra to this please let us know or contact Angela Parry. As always, we are very grateful for your continued generosity.

Lockdown Transition - Currently our government in Wales and Westminster are looking at ways to help society transition out of this time of lockdown, in as safe a way as possible. Churches too are beginning to look at how we might begin to open our buildings and resume some services in a socially distant and careful way. If you'd like this to happen 'safely' sooner rather than later we'd appreciate your views and suggestions as to how we might do this. Please Email or call Fr Phelim.

Zoom Coffee - This coming Wednesday at 10:30am. If you'd like to participate please let Fr Phelim know. It is very easy to join: all you need is a computer or phone with camera and the link we send by email explains the next steps. If you need help on the day and time please call Fr Phelim on the landline. Once members are able to connect we will publish dates of other meetings.

Lift Up Your Hearts - Spiritual Support during the pandemic. This week's reflections are from the dean of Westminster Abbey, David Hoyle. Copies available online.

Easter Course - Continues this coming Wednesday when we ask 'why on earth do bad things happen to good people?'. We will host a zoom meeting on this issue on Wednesday at 7pm. Ask Fr Phelim for details and an invitation.

Tackling Loneliness - YourNeighbour.org is running a national helping for people who need help during the lockdown. Our parishes have joined this national network which seeks to support all who are struggling locally. Telephone: 0300 323 9952.

Thy Kingdom Come - Join our Prayer Novena from Ascension to Pentecost (see website).

Foodbank - Please continue to donate food locally. Please see Cardiff Foodbank website for details of open collection sites and how and when to drop off food for those in need.

Recently Departed - Gordon Vaulter, Elizabeth Mary Morris (RIP)

Llandaff Diocese Prayer Cycle:

Sun 17

5th Sunday of Easter

Cwmafán, Elaine Jenkyns (PinC), Anglican Church of Kenya

Mon 18:

Deanery of Neath, Chris Coles (AD)

Tues 19:

Cilybebyll, Jayne Shaw (R)
10:30 Coffee Morning on Zoom (St S)

Wed 20:

The Mothers' Union
10:30 Coffee Morning on Zoom (St G)

7pm Easter Course on Zoom

Thur 21:

Accra, West Africa
ASCENSION DAY

Friday 22:

Dulais Valley

Saturday 23:

Cadoxton-Juxta-Neath & Tonna, Andrew Meredith

Sun 24

7th Sunday of Easter

Duffryn, Stephen
Bodycombe (V) Anglican
Communion Worldwide,
ACC, Justin Welby (+ +
Canterbury)

Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,
02922 411229,
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(Day off - Friday)

Churchwardens:

Peter Lovitt 02920 763754
Richard Hill 07519 352840

READINGS THIS WEEK

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7,
16+20
1 Pet 3:15-18
John 14:15-21

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Acts 1:12-14
Ps 27:1, 4, 7-8
1 Pet 4:13-16
John 17:1-11a

PSALM:

**Cry out with joy to
God, all the earth.
(4vv)**

COLLECT

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Acts.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Acts 8

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

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! **R/**

'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. **R/**

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. **R/**

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. **R/**
Psalm 66

SECOND READING

A reading from the 1st letter of Peter

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

1 Peter 3

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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:

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
'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 of 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 commandments 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.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

John 14