

## Bulletin 11 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A couple of important pieces of news for you this week.

I am sorry to tell you that Fr. Michael Butler has tested positive for the Coronavirus. He is being cared for in the nursing home and his symptoms are slight at present. Even so in someone of his age and frailty it is worrying. I spoke with him on Friday and he was very cheerful, though a little confused. The dementia has progressed somewhat, which was confirmed by my conversation with the staff at the home, yet he is in the best place and being very well cared for. I ask you to do two things: first, please keep Fr. Michael in your prayers, he and those caring for him need our especial prayers at this time; secondly please do not ring the home the very last thing they need is to be inundated with telephone calls, I am in contact with the management there and will keep you informed. A get well card or a letter will I am sure be very well received.

My other news is that if all goes to plan the equipment to live stream services from our church will be installed on Friday this week. I hope that we will go live on Pentecost Sunday. We will start with live streaming the 10am Mass on Sundays only and Adoration on a weekday. Please continue to read these Bulletins which will give you details of services and a link to the live streaming. We will all of course be able to “visit” the church at any hour of the day or night. I know this is not the same as actually being in church, but for the present it’s the best we can do.

God Bless you all

Fr. John

.../continued

## Pentecost Sunday

**May 31<sup>st</sup> – National Rosary Rally 9am to 9pm**

**England, Wales, Scotland**

Pope Francis is encouraging Catholics to pray the Rosary in their family homes during the month of May, especially when the Pandemic is making us aware of the value of our families and making it possible for us to pray together in lockdown at home. He encourages simple Rosaries and joining online Rosary initiatives to pray to Our Lady for deliverance from Covid-19 and he has composed two prayers for this intention. I invite you to join in an initiative that follows on the Pope's request, the **Pentecost Sunday National Rosary Rally**, from 9.00am to 9.00pm across Scotland England and Wales.

### **Proposed timetable for across the Dioceses**

9.00am	Arundel & Brighton, Northampton and HM Forces
10.00am	Birmingham, Nottingham & Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy
<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Brentwood &amp; Plymouth</b>
12 Noon	Cardiff, Portsmouth & Dunkeld
1.00pm	Clifton, Salford & St. Andrews & Edinburgh
2.00pm	East Anglia, Shrewsbury, Aberdeen
3.00pm	Hallam, Southwark, Glasgow
<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Hexham &amp; Newcastle, Wrexham, Ordinariate OLW</b>
5.00pm	Lancaster, Westminster, Argyll & the Isles
6.00pm	Leeds, Polish Catholic Mission & Glasgow
7.00pm	Liverpool, Middlesbrough & Motherwell
8.00pm	Menevia, Galloway, Paisley & Syro Malabar Eparchy
9.00pm	Rosary Rally will end with a final online Rosary & Blessing from Bishop John Keenan at St. Mirin's Cathedral in Paisley.

This is to be led in the form of a [Rosary relay Rally](#) where the Dioceses designated in their **Rosary Hour** encourage the peoples across their Diocese to pray the Rosary either, individually, in families, as online prayer groups, parish groups, and where possible led online by their parish priests and Bishop. It does not matter what time during the specified hour that the Rosary is prayed.

Then on the hour the next Dioceses take up the Rosary relay Rally and so on until 9pm.

At 9pm the Rosary Rally will end with a Rosary being led by Bishop John Keenan from St. Mirin's Cathedral in Paisley.

**Come Holy Spirit & Renew the Face of the Earth**

**[Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us](#)**

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	– Seventh Sunday of Easter	– People of our Parish
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	– St Bede	– Kay Hill (RIP)
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	– St Philip Neri	– Jo Gallagher
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	– St Augustine of Canterbury	– Tess Hogan (RIP)
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	– Easter feria	– Jennifer Ryan (RIP)
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	– Easter feria	– Jim Birchall (RIP)
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	– Easter feria	– Norah Green (RIP)
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	– Pentecost Sunday	– People of our Parish

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION**

Easter begins in joy but Eastertide ends with a hint of sadness. Just as Good Friday is the day of great sorrow, which makes way for the joy of Easter, so the feast of the Ascension of the Lord can bring a different sort of feeling of sadness, which makes way for the joy of Pentecost. The hint of sadness of the feast of the Ascension of the Lord is something like that of our first (or last) day in school, a change of job, or, for some, perhaps, ordination or entry into religious life. It is not the sadness of death, but of the many separations we endure in this life if we are to grow as people. The difference with the departure of Christ is that we are called not just to grow as people; we are to grow in Christ himself.

If we do leave something behind – a school, place of work, family or friends – we often find that the greater the love we had there, the more present the past places and people are to us. Memory is as much an act of love as intelligence. Or to put it another way, love never really leaves anything behind. We take it with us on the road to the new things.

There is a subtle difference about how we react to the past. People who just want to be in the past don't really love the past; they hate the present. We should love the past, out of hope for the future. In that love, we want to be on our way to the future where all will be one. We take the past with us, remembering with love the people and the places God gave us to live with and in. Even if we have a terrible past, we can still have some hope that out of the evils of the past, God will prepare a greater good.

Faith tells us that all is prepared. There are many days when we do not know what is to happen or what we are to do. We feel that, like the disciples on the day of Christ's ascension, we are still standing on the road looking up at the sky where Christ has ascended. We forget that Christ is the road. It is in his life that we live. So prayer is not just a way of receiving instructions about what to do next. Prayer lets us go further down the road, without needing to know where it leads. The priestly prayer of Christ, as it is called, of which we hear part in today's Gospel, is a conversation with the Father where Jesus explains that his leaving us behind is an act of love. It is love because perfect love always means trusting the person we love. We might say that the Father knows this, but this prayer is an attempt to put in human terms the perfect conversation between the Father and the Son, in which all things are said, in a sort of silence.

There is a silence which is saying nothing, but there is also a silence which says everything. We sometimes experience that in love, where we are suddenly silent because we know that we are sharing great things. The infinite love of the Father and the Son is something like that. Yet we need this to be broken down into words, and this is what the Gospel of John does. These words, as St Peter says, are the words of eternal life.

One thing that impressed the Romans about the Jews was the fact that so many of them could read. They learned to read because they had their holy scriptures, and they read them constantly. They did not always understand them in the same way. Yet without that knowledge of their scripture, Jesus could not have begun his ministry. He was the key to their scriptures. If you read at all, read the Bible. We will never pray well if we ignore the great prayer of Christ in the Gospel of St John. Even the simplest of the saints were always eager to hear more about the word of God. So read, think, pray; and then you will know Christ's call to you, and you will learn what to do next.