

Parish of the Assumption of Our Lady

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BULLETIN B 24 – 9TH MAY 2021

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let's look to the future with hope and joy. After over a year we will soon be able to open our hall and enjoy our fellowship together once again. If all goes to plan then alongside hospitality venues opening up on 17th May, we too will be allowed to use our facilities once more. There will be, at least for the first month or so, precautionary measures that we will need to follow; maintaining a social distance, wearing masks except when seated, good ventilation. In order to avoid long queues, the teas and coffees will be placed on a table, on another table milk, sugar, and individually wrapped biscuits will be available. There will be tables for up to six people to sit, and if it's fine you can always take you drink outside.

The first Holy Communion preparation classes will also start in June. There will be an Induction meeting on Saturday 22nd May at 10am in the hall for all parents and the children wishing to make their FHC this year. At this meeting the course will be explained, I will have an opportunity to meet with the children and their parents in family groups, and Clem Williams and I will be able to answer any questions that you may have. All children in Year 3 or above are eligible to join the group, please see me or Deacon Michael for a form and make sure you bring it to the meeting.

In the week leading up to 22nd May we will have to give the hall a really good clean and sanitise everything, we have tried to keep the hall regularly clean, but we need to have a big effort before we open up. Can you help, can you spare an hour at a time to suit you, and if so please have a word with Deacon Michael.

I feel so happy that we have a rare opportunity to rebuild our Parish Family and pray that God will richly bless each and every one of you.

Fr. John

TIMES OF MASS THIS WEEK

Sun	9	6 th of Easter	1000 Mass	Patrick McGrattan (RIP)
			1800 Mass	People of the Parish
Tue	11	feria of Easter	1900 Mass	Nora Green (RIP)
Wed	12	St. Pancras	1000 Mass	Jack Chaplin (INT)
			1030 Adoration and Rosary	
Thu	13	ASCENSION DAY	1000 Mass	People of the Parish
			1030 Adoration and Rosary	
			1900 Mass	Vocations
Fri	14	St. Matthias	1000 Mass	Matthew Navin
Sun	16	7 th of Easter	1000 Mass	
			1800 Mass	

ROSARY AROUND THE WORLD SHRINE LIST AND DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS

8 Our Lady of Luján - Argentina -	For all communication workers
9 Holy House of Loreto - Italia -	For all seniors
10 Our Lady of Knock - Ireland -	For all people with disabilities
11 The Virgin of the Poor (Banneux) - Belgium-	For all the poor, the homeless, and the economically distressed
12 Our Lady of Africa - Algiers -	For all people who live alone and those who have lost hope
13 Our Lady of the Rosary - Fatima -	For all prisoners
14 Our Lady of Health –Vailankanni - India	For all scientists/medical research institution
15 Our Lady Queen of Peace (Medjugorje) Bosnia	For all migrants

GOSPEL REFLECTION

On this day last year a two-minute silence was held at a hospital in Northampton, England, to honour a frontline NHS nurse who died after contracting coronavirus. Father-of-four Augustine Agyei-Mensah – known as Gus – was a highly regarded learning disabilities nurse. Gus had been working with patients at the trust for six years. He collaborated closely with teams in speech and language therapy and psychology to support patients with a variety of complex cognitive and sensory needs. Originally from Ghana, Gus was proud of his heritage and dedicated to his young family. The chief executive of the Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust said Gus cared for some of the most vulnerable people in society, adding that “lives have been transformed because of him; he was committed to making a difference and giving people a second chance”. A co-worker described him as “a truly wonderful colleague who is so missed and shall be remembered for his smile, his energy, and his unwavering care and compassion”.

Gus was one of hundreds of healthcare staff and care workers in the UK who died from Covid-19 in the first few months of the pandemic. They were among thousands of the health workers around the world who died after contracting the virus. In the UK, many had come from other countries to work for the National Health Service. Most were working on the front line and caring for patients; some were retired but continued to work. They were heart surgeons, eye doctors, nurses, midwives, plastic surgeons, porters, paramedics, pharmacists, care home staff, patient transport staff, hospital security staff. And they were loved members of their families and community of friends.

The laying down of life for love is the theme of today's Gospel. In these final weeks of Eastertide we listen once again to the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. Jesus offers himself as the model of love, willing to go so far as to suffer danger and death to express love. The second reading today explains this more fully. John is writing to the early Christian community and tells them, “My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God.” And in the first reading we learn that God loves everybody. Peter has been hesitant to go into the home of Cornelius, because he is a Roman soldier, outside the Jewish faith community. But when he does, then suddenly the Holy Spirit is poured forth upon that home. The people receive the Spirit just as the first disciples did after Jesus rose from the dead. Peter says, “they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have”.

Loving as Jesus loved will require sacrifice. Love is not just a sentimental, warm, fuzzy feeling: it's a conscious decision to share ourselves with others, to give of ourselves for the sake of another.

Probably, most of us are not going to be challenged to lay down our lives for another, but none of us knows what lies ahead. From the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, doctors, nurses and healthcare workers risked their lives working on the front line treating patients with Covid-19. In the UK, and in other countries, people showed their appreciation with public displays of support for healthcare workers. Tens of thousands of volunteers flocked to join community support groups, picking up shopping and delivering medicine to the most vulnerable people. Volunteers from four central London parishes brought food and water into Trafalgar Square each day to give out to homeless people, working alongside the Sikh community. There was an outpouring of solidarity and neighbourliness in many areas.

As followers of Christ today, we are called to love ourselves and others outside our own circle. Following his own example, Jesus taught us to reach out to those who are poor, excluded and marginalized. Let us carry on breaking barriers to reach out to others. Jesus teaches us not just to love to those who love us, but to love our enemies too. It takes great courage and conviction to understand that we must love one another as Jesus loves us. And there is a further dimension. Pope Francis taught us in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* – issued six years ago this month – to hear “the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth”. We are called to care for the whole earth community, described by Pope Francis as “our common home”. All things and all people are connected and united in God's love.

Diocesan Virtual Pilgrimage to Walsingham – Saturday 29th May – Bishop Alan will lead a virtual pilgrimage from the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, which we can join using the Shrine's live-streaming service via their website www.walsingham.org.uk or their YouTube channel 'Walsingham Catholic TV'.

Bishop Alan will be visiting us on Sunday 13th June – more details to follow.