

Refreshments are available after 9am Sunday Mass in the St Bernard's hall. Thank you to the volunteers who facilitate this.



Office and Presbytery Tel. No: 02380 891866

Email: office@watersideparish.org.uk

www.nfwp.org.uk

Waterside Parish NEWSLETTER

Sunday 7th May 2023: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday Masses: 9am at St Bernard's and 11am at St Michael's

Weekday Masses: Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday - 9am at St Michael's
Wednesday – 9am at St Bernard's followed by Adoration and Grandparents' Group

Confessions: Saturday after 9am Mass (St Michael's) "Confession is an act of honesty and courage - an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God." Pope John Paul II

100 Club

The next draw for the 100 club will be **today, Sunday 7th May**, after the 9.00am Mass at St Bernard's church.

A POLITE REMINDER

The reorganisation works at St Bernard's now being complete, please can we all remember that the church is no place for food and that socialising after Mass should take place in the hall. Please let us take care of the new carpet in the church which has been provided and fitted at no cost to the parish.



Plant Sale and Spring Fair – next Saturday, 13th May, 10am to 12pm

*** Plants and cakes for sale. ** Refreshments. ** Hamper raffle. ** Tombola table, homemade cards and table for bric a brac items. ** With music from Mike Slipper and his band. ***

The hall will be open from 3.00 pm on Friday 12th May for all donations.

All proceeds from the day will go to parish funds. The sale is from **10.00 am to 12.00 pm on Saturday 13th May**. Everyone welcome and if anyone can lend a hand on the day this would be very much appreciated.

Exciting new parish activity starting next week!

On **Tuesday, 16th May, at 10am** Fe is launching a new monthly **cookery demonstration/social club** running in the church hall at St Bernard's. The cost will be **£5 per session**, meeting every third Tuesday of the month.

This will be a superb opportunity for anyone – parishioners are welcome to invite friends and family along – to benefit from Fe's skills and to enjoy a new social activity in the parish.

Thank you to Fe and to those who have supported this new initiative within the parish.

Thank you!

The parish Easter Gift for Father Paul has now been counted; the overall total is **£1901.62 (including Gift Aid and £140 online donations)!**

This generosity is a great demonstration of our appreciation for Father Paul and his ministry in our parish.

We keep in our prayers the sick and housebound members of the parish:

John Allen and Pauline Moore

Please note that a GDPR issue has been drawn to our attention. We must now have express permission from the sick person to name him or her in this section of the parish newsletter. If we don't have a signed Parish Registration Form, it will be very difficult to include the sick in this section of the newsletter.

We pray for the dear departed of the parish and for those whose anniversaries occur this week:

7th: John Williams (1991)

8th: Celia Martin (2004) Maria Oliphant (2009)

9th: Denis Duffner (1974) Joyce Ely (1980) Peter Cocking (1996) Molly Kennedy (2007)

10th: Constance Wallis (1985) Margaret Fuller (1995)

11th: Colleen Allen-Burns (2017)

13th: Veronica Twiss (1995)

Pious tradition holds that Jesus promised St. Gertrude that a thousand souls would be released from purgatory each time the following prayer is said devoutly: "Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

This year has been dedicated by the Bishop to the Holy Spirit. Here is a pertinent extract from the Catechism of the Catholic Church upon which to reflect in terms of our cooperation with the Church, the Body of Christ:

'797 "What the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to the Body of Christ, which is the Church."²⁴³ "To this Spirit of Christ, as an invisible principle, is to be ascribed the fact that all the parts of the body are joined one with the other and with their exalted head; for the whole Spirit of Christ is in the head, the whole Spirit is in the body, and the whole Spirit is in each of the members."²⁴⁴ The Holy Spirit makes the Church "the temple of the living God";²⁴⁵ ...

'798 The Holy Spirit is "the principle of every vital and truly saving action in each part of the Body."²⁴⁷ He works in many ways to build up the whole Body in charity:²⁴⁸ by God's Word "which is able to build you up";²⁴⁹ by Baptism, through which he forms Christ's Body;²⁵⁰ by the sacraments, which give growth and healing to Christ's members; by "the grace of the apostles, which holds first place among his gifts";²⁵¹ by the virtues, which make us act according to what is good; finally, by the many special graces (called "charisms"), by which he makes the faithful "fit and ready to undertake various tasks and offices for the renewal and building up of the Church."

**Collections 30th April
2023:**

St Michael's £71.05
St Bernard's £62.71
Envelopes £189.00
2nd Collection: £220.95

Donations received
directly into the parish
bank account for **April**
amounted to **£1,277.**

**On 1st May Pope
Francis said:**

"Saint Joseph teaches us that, in the midst of life's tempests, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course."

@Pontifex

We keep our First Holy Communion candidates in our prayers as they prepare to receive the second Sacrament of Initiation: Daniel, Daniel, Eryk, Jaspar, Santiago, Sofia and Vivienne.

"The Holy Eucharist is the perfect expression of the love of Jesus Christ for man." St Maria Goretti

Some thoughts on this week's Bible readings:

Acts 6 shows how differences and disputes were resolved in the church's early days. The solution to the Hellenist (converts whose language was Greek), complaint shows two important dimensions of church life: prayer and service. Each of us is personally called to prayer, to a dialogue of worship with God; and we are also called to service. No matter what we do in life, our work affects others in some way. We should be of service to our neighbours and provided we have an attitude of respect, no task we do is a menial task. Prayer and preaching the word was of primary importance to the apostles, but service to the widows and the needy in the community was also vital, so they appointed seven trusted men to attend to it.

The disciples in Jerusalem consequently increased in numbers; how can this kind of growth in the church be revived in our day? Is the word of the Lord still spreading or the number of disciples increasing? In St Peter's letter, the church is imagined as a spiritual temple, with ourselves as living stones making up a house of God. Every time we say the Lord's Prayer we say 'thy kingdom come.' This implies taking some responsibility for spreading the word and doing something to build up the church? We can work for God's kingdom by our daily conduct and attitudes.

Extracted from www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie

What does 2 Peter chapter 1 mean?

Peter's words are directed towards Christians scattered by persecution.; his first letter addressed the persecution but this letter begins by addressing an issue which remains a focus of the church even today: whether or not believers will be productive and effective servants of God through our knowledge of Him.

By the grace of God, all who trust in Christ have been made partners in God's nature and purpose and endowed with the graces each needs to fulfil God's plan

Peter urges us to demonstrate the reality of our place in God's family. We do this by eagerly exercising the virtues and the gifts bestowed upon us by God in His infinite goodness. Extracted from

www.bibleref.com

The Dominican Sisters are offering the following courses for adults and catechists in the coming weeks. All courses are free (donations gratefully received!).

Confirmation - Anchoring you in the Holy Spirit: 6 sessions, after Pentecost. To (re)discover the meaning and rite of our confirmation in the light of our faith. This course is especially useful to confirmation catechists, but also to everyone who wants to know more about the Holy Spirit and his action in our life. Every Tuesday evening from 7.30 to 9.00 pm on Zoom, beginning on Tuesday 30th May. *PLEASE NOTE THAT OWING TO THE NEW DIOCESAN REQUIREMENT FOR CONFIRMATION PREPARATION TO TAKE PLACE OVER TWO YEARS, WE DO NOT CURRENTLY HAVE A CATECHIST WHO IS ABLE TO COMMIT TO THE PROGRAMME.*

Course for Church Readers: 2 online sessions to help readers proclaim the Word of God with confidence, understanding, conviction and clarity. Saturday 3rd and 10th June in the morning, from 10 am to 1 pm.

You can see everything the sisters currently offer via this link [Join now | Light of Truth](#) or www.lightoftruth.uk

MASS READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.

Responsorial Psalm: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

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 Acclamation: John 14:6 Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.' Alleluia!

Gospel: 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.'