

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



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Waterside Parish NEWSLETTER

Sunday 14th May 2023: THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Monday to Friday: NO WEEKDAY MASSES OR ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Tuesday 16th May: 10am in St Bernard's church hall - Cooking with Fe

THURSDAY 18th MAY IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – A LIST OF LOCAL MASSES WILL BE DISPLAYED AT BOTH CHURCHES AS SOON AS THE TIMES ARE AVAILABLE

Saturday 20th May: 9am Mass at St Michael's and

10am in St Bernard's church hall - Icons of Mary

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

Exciting new parish activity starting this week!

Cooking with Fe

On **Tuesday, 16th May, at 10am** Fe is launching a new monthly **cooking 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.

Advance notice: next **Sunday, 21st May**, we have a **second collection for World Communications**

A reminder from the Dominican Sisters in Sway:

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.**

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.

100 Club

Congratulations to the winners in the May Draw:

1st Prize	Jo Culver	£97.50
2nd Prize	Holly & Emily Welsh	£58.50
3rd Prize	Angela Slattery	£39.00

Thank you to those people who are able to support the parish each month through the 100 Club. If one more person can join up, then the monthly first prize would be £100! Forms are at the back of both churches for anyone who would like to participate.

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:

14th: John Gauci (1975) John Dillon (1979) Cecil Cleak (2007) Iris Bolton (2019)

15th: Patricia Dufty (2007) John Taggart (2015)

16th: Kevin Blore (1965) Brendan Eagers (1972) Alfred Hamond (1984) Margaret McGuigan (1996)

17th: James Cummings (2003) Raymond Insuli (2016)

18th: Gertrude le Jeune (1972) James de Gaies (1978) Louise Vivet (1981)

19th: Laura cotton (2001) Mary Witchell (2022)

20th: Charles Cruise (1964)

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 7th May
2023:**

St Michael's £61.00

St Bernard's £50.80

Envelopes £106.90

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

**On 6th May Pope
Francis said:**

"Praying the
#HolyRosary daily in
the family guarantees
that in that family the
oil of faith and joy
never runs out, but
flows out of the life of
its members who are
in communion with
God."

@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

From Scott Hahn, as recommended by the Bishop's eNews:

Jesus will not leave us alone. He won't make us children of God in Baptism only to leave us "orphans," He assures us in today's Gospel (see [Romans 8:14-17](#)).

He asks the Father to give us His Spirit, to dwell with us and keep us united in the life He shares with the Father. We see the promised gift of His Spirit being conferred in today's First Reading.

The scene from Acts apparently depicts a primitive Confirmation rite. Philip, one of the first deacons (see [Acts 6:5](#)), proclaims the Gospel in the non-Jewish city of Samaria. The Samaritans accept the Word of God (see [Acts 17:11](#); [1 Thessalonians 2:13](#)) and are baptized.

It remains for the Apostles to send their representatives, Peter and John, to pray and lay hands on the newly baptized—that they might receive the Holy Spirit. This is the origin of our Sacrament of Confirmation (see [Acts 19:5-6](#)), by which the grace of Baptism is completed and believers are sealed with the Spirit promised by the Lord.

We remain in this grace so long as we love Christ and keep His commandments. And, strengthened in the Spirit whom Jesus said would be our Advocate, we are called to bear witness to our salvation—to the tremendous deeds that God has done for us in the name of His Son.

In today's Psalm, we celebrate our liberation. As He changed the sea into dry land to free the captive Israelites, Christ suffered that He might lead us to God, as we hear in today's Epistle.

This is the reason for our hope—the hope that sustains us in the face of a world that cannot accept His truth, the hope that sustains us when we are maligned and defamed for His name's sake. Put to death in the flesh, He was brought to life in the Spirit, Paul tells us today. And as He himself promises: "Because I live, . . . you will live."

The St Paul Centre for Biblical Theology (where Scott Hahn's presentations are recorded) is a rich resource - [St. Paul Center \(stpaulcenter.com\)](http://stpaulcenter.com)

As we continue through May, a month dedicated to Our Lady, here are two prayers recommended by Pope Francis:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. "Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

MASS READINGS FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8,14-17

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.

Responsorial Psalm: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

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.

Gospel Acclamation: John 14:23 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: John 14:15-21

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.'