

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 21st May 2023: THE SEVENTH 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

Today we have a **second collection** for **World Communications**. A message from the diocese:

"Each year, the Vatican and many dioceses mark World Communications Day on the Sunday before Pentecost; this year May 21st. The Pope's theme for this year is: "Speak with the heart: Veritatem facientes in caritate" (Speaking the truth in love).

Until 30th May, Parishioners may give to this collection using their gift aid envelope or online at

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/world-communications-day-2023>."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FATHER PAUL!

Tuesday, 23rd May, is Father Paul's birthday. We might remember him especially in our prayers on this date and thank God for the great gift of his life, his faith and of course his vocation!

Fr Marinko Sakota, OFM, wrote an article in the recent edition of The Children of Medjugorje publication in which he says:

'People seem to be turning a blind eye to the wrong direction we as humanity have gone. Admittedly, many are becoming more and more aware that we have to make a big turn in our relationship with nature... However, the first and most important turn we must make is not about our relationship with nature, but our relationship with God. We have moved away from God – this is the cause of all our serious problems. Moving away from God causes the loss of personal peace, peace between people and an unacceptable relationship with nature. That is why the most important call of Our Lady, both in Fatima and in Medjugorje, is: "Convert!".'

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our Spring fair – an incredible £820.90 was raised for the parish, a truly magnificent effort for the benefit of our community!

Along with Pope Francis, Bishop Philip urges us to pray the Rosary daily – "The Rosary, which developed in the High Middle Ages period, is a wonderful prayer to say, praying to Our Lord for protection from all danger, sickness and evil." Here is a link to some information provided in eNews to support anyone new to the Rosary:

[The Rosary – FREE Download! \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

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:

21st: Irene Mitchell (2010) Margaret Hall-Patch (2013)

22nd: Edward Burroughs (1990) Douglas Sharpley (1995) Mary-Anne Cotton (2014) Roberto Miscione (2021)

23rd: William Dare (1998) Margaret Sparling (1999) Eileen Shotter (2002) Clara Hamilton (2002)

24th: Margaret Franklin (2015) Anna Hayes (2016)

25th: Josephine Robinson (1980) Alfred Stubbings (1982)

26th: Jane Phillips (1990) Ernest Thompson (1995) Sheila Pullin (1995) Michael Moran (2000) William Power (2008) Anne Wilton (2012) Georges Raffray (2014)

27th: Bernard Parkins (1994) Douglas Smith (2001) Esther Dempsey (2001) Desmond Cranny (2005)

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."

PENTECOST

Next Sunday, **28th May**, is Pentecost Sunday – the birthday of the Church. The ancient Veni Creator will be publicly recited at Mass which makes a plenary indulgence available to the faithful who meet all of the usual conditions.

CCC 1471 'The doctrine and practice of indulgences in the Church are closely linked to the effects of the sacrament of Penance. What is an indulgence?

"An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints."

"An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin." The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead.'

A plenary indulgence can be gained only once a day. In order to obtain it, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:

- * have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin;
- * have sacramentally confessed their sins;
- * receive the Holy Eucharist and
- * pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.

Confessions are available after Mass next Saturday morning (9am at St Michael's) in preparation for the Pentecost indulgence.

Collections 14th May 2023:

St Michael's £100.20
St Bernard's £91.51
Envelopes £157.00
Donations received directly into the parish bank account for **April** amounted to **£1,277.**

On 15th May Pope Francis said:

"The #family is the main antidote to material and spiritual poverty, and to the problem of the demographic winter. Family-friendly social, economic and cultural policies need to be promoted in every country, as well as policies that welcome life." @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 has been taken up into heaven as we begin today's First Reading. His disciples—including the Apostles and Mary—return to the upper room where He celebrated the Last Supper (see [Luke 22:12](#)).

There, they devote themselves with one accord to prayer, awaiting the Spirit that He promised would come upon them (see [Acts 1:8](#)).

The unity of the early Church at Jerusalem is a sign of the oneness that Christ prays for in today's Gospel. The Church is to be a communion on earth that mirrors the glorious union of Father, Son, and Spirit in the Trinity.

Jesus has proclaimed God's name to His brethren (see [Hebrews 2:12](#); [Psalm 22:23](#)). The prophets had foretold this revelation: a new covenant by which all flesh would have knowledge of the Lord (see [Jeremiah 31:33–34](#); [Habakkuk 2:14](#)).

By the new covenant made in His blood and remembered in every Eucharist we know God as our Father. This is the eternal life Jesus promises. And this is the light and salvation we sing of in today's Psalm.

As God made light to shine out of darkness when the world began, He has enlightened us in Baptism, making us new creations (see [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)), giving us knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ (see [Hebrews 10:32](#); [2 Corinthians 4:6](#)).

Our new life is a gift of “the Spirit of glory,” we hear in today's Epistle (see [John 7:38–39](#)). Made one in His name, we are given a new name—“Christians”—a name used only here and in two other places in the Bible (see [Acts 11:16](#); [26:28](#)). We are to glorify God, though we will be insulted and suffer because of this name.

But as we share in His sufferings, we know we will overcome (see [Revelation 3:12](#)) and rejoice when His glory is once more revealed. And we will dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives.

Pentecost Novena

“The Pentecost Novena is the first of all novenas, nine days of prayer that naturally fall between the Ascension of the Lord Jesus into heaven and the feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles “together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers” whom we are told had been in continuous prayer since their return to Jerusalem from Mt. Olivet (Acts 1:14). When on that day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit comes it is in fulfilment of the promise of Jesus last repeated just before his Ascension to the Father. (Luke 24:49).

On 15th May 1897, Pope Leo XIII gave to the Church the first major teaching document (at least in modern times) on the Holy Spirit in which he declared: “We decree and command that throughout the whole Catholic Church, this year and in every subsequent year, a novena shall take place before Whit-Sunday (Pentecost), in all parish churches.”

Here is a link to the full text of the novena from the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/05/Pentecost-Novena.pdf>

MASS READINGS FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 1:12-14

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the apostles went back from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a sabbath walk; and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Responsorial Psalm: I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:13-16

If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer; but if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one.

Gospel Acclamation: cf. John 14:18 Alleluia, Alleluia! I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 17:1-11

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was. I have made your name known to the men you took from the world to give me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now at last they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you: all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified. I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.'