

GOSPEL REFLECTION FOR THE ASCENSION

Abandoned?



The trouble with the Ascension is that we're left with a feeling of abandonment. We imagine Jesus going to some place high above the clouds, or to some faraway place beyond death. If the disciples felt any sense of abandonment that's certainly not how they acted. Notice that the disciples didn't leave the scene of the Ascension in mourning; they returned with great joy and praised God in the temple day after day. It is clear that the disciples did not experience Jesus as absent. It is clear that in everything they did from then on that Jesus was real and present in their lives. It's true that Jesus is no longer with us physically, but he has not left us; he has simply handed over the reins.

Like every good teacher who eventually trusts his students to stand on their own two feet, so Jesus finally trusts his disciples to carry the baton. So too, we need to think of Jesus, not in a far off kind of way, but as part of our lives and part of our daily decisions.

The focus of today's gospel reading is exaltation and mission. It's time for us to stop looking into the sky wondering where Jesus has gone, and focus on the important business of putting his teaching into action. It's time to dismiss any notion of mourning Jesus' physical absence and rejoice in his guiding presence in our daily lives.

Bite Size

"When you run a part of the relay and pass on the baton, there is no sense of unfinished business in your mind. There is just the sense of having done your part to the best of your ability. That is it. The hope is to pass on the baton to somebody who will run faster and run a better marathon." – N. R. Narayana Murthy

**PARISH PRAYER - Father, pour out your Spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service; that your love might grow among us and your Kingdom come.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen**

Useful links: Diocesan Website: <http://www.rcdea.org.uk>
Notre Dame High School, Norwich: Website <http://www.ndhs.org.uk>

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART AND ST MARGARET MARY [Reg. Charity 278742]

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SUNDAY, 8TH MAY 2016 – ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Sunday Masses – Page 277 of Parish Mass Book

Saturday 6.00 pm

Sunday 9.00 am

11.00 am

Music for Sunday Masses - *Setting: Dom Gregory Murray Mass*

Entry 6pm – *Regina Coeli (said)*; Hymn 292 – New praises be given to Christ newly crowned

Offertory Hymn 289 – Praise him as he mounts the skies, alleluia! ...

Communion *Instrumental Interlude/Sacred silence ...*

Recessional 11am – *Regina Coeli (said)*; Hymn 767 – Majesty, worship his Majesty ...

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION - Saturday at 5.30 - 5.55 pm

Weekday Mass Times (7th week of Easter) [*Psalter Week 3*]

Mon. No Mass today Easter Feria

Tues. **11.00 am** Easter Feria - **Service of the Word**

7.30 pm Queen of Peace Prayer Group – in Emmaus Room

Weds. **2.30 pm** Easter Feria - **Mass for the Sick & Housebound**

Thurs. No Mass today Easter Feria

Fri. No Mass today Easter Feria

5.45 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Silent Prayer

6.15 pm Evening Prayer (Vespers)

Sat. No morning Mass St Matthias, Apostle

6.00 pm - PENTECOST

The Parish Newsletter (incl. back copies) is available to view on the parish website from Friday onward each week.

Anniversaries this week: Molly Herbert, Trixie Gibbons, Frederick Dance, Eric Atkinson Brown, Ann Dent, Margaret Kingsbury and Paul Theocleous. *May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.*

Hospital Visits – If you or family members are admitted to the Norfolk & Norwich Hospital (NNUH) or Queen Elizabeth II Hospital (QEII), King's Lynn, and would like a visit from the Roman Catholic Chaplain, please call either St John's Cathedral, Norwich (01603 624615) for visits to NNUH, or Fr Peter Rollings (01553 772220) for visits to QEII. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the sick before going to hospital, please contact Fr. Brendan on 01362 694066.

Sick List - Please pray for: Joan Blakiston, David Peek, Michael Reavey, Robert Nicol, Doreen Kanssen, Shirley Liebenhals, Sarah Chaudri, Anne & Derek Williams, David & Anna Thompkins, Michelle Smith, Rita Smith, Rhonda Darby, Eileen Brockleby, Pat Howe, Kathleen (Jenny) Rudd and Pat Grout.

Money Matters – The collection last weekend was £470.35 and the special collection for Ukraine was £286.98. Thank you all very much. This weekend there is a retiring collection for the Catholic Communications Network.

Diary Dates for this week –

- Fri. 13th May – Altar Servers meeting – 7.15pm in Emmaus Room
- Sat. 14th May – Saturday Club meets – 11.00am in Emmaus Room.

World Communications Day - Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter - Sunday 8th May - This year's theme was decided in order to coincide with the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, the Holy Year called by Pope Francis to announce the Mercy of God, and gives us an opportunity to think about the connection between communication and mercy. We are asked to think about the language we use when we reach out to others. How well do we express welcome, availability and forgiveness. Could we for instance use social networks to heal memories and build peace and harmony. Once again, Pope Francis is reminding us that, in its essence, communication is a profoundly human achievement. Good communication is never merely the product of the latest or most developed technology, but is realized within the context of a deep interpersonal relationship.

MASS FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND – Everyone is invited to a Mass for the sick and housebound of the parish on **Wednesday, 11th May at 2.30pm**, and afterwards to tea and chat in the Emmaus Room, organised by the SVP and UCM. Anyone wishing to attend but in need of transport, please telephone Deacon Martin on 01362 822590 for assistance.

Pope Francis Prayer Intention for May - This month we focus on the stark reality that women in developing countries suffer disproportionately from poor access to health services, discrimination, the effects of war, and, at times, victimization by harmful traditions and trafficking. Women around the globe



should be celebrated for their extraordinary contributions in all areas of society – as professionals, as bread-winners, and as carers. This month Pope Francis asks us to join in his prayer intention for May, “...**That in every country of the world, women may be honoured and respected and that their essential contribution to society may be highly esteemed.**”

Mary's Month - There is a sense amongst some people that since Vatican II, Mary has been demoted, especially in the liturgy. A familiar lament is, "We don't sing Mary's songs at Mass anymore, not even during her month of May." This may be true, but not without good reason. The Easter Season lasts from the Easter Vigil until Pentecost Sunday, and depending on the date of Easter, we can be celebrating this 50 day festival until at least mid May. The music chosen for Eucharistic Liturgy would reflect the Easter Season scripture readings. A song like 'Immaculate Mary' probably would not fit. But this doesn't mean that Mary has been 'demoted'. Today the Church tells us that whilst honouring Christ's mother, these devotions should not overshadow her Son this after all, is the last thing Mary would have wanted. **This month Pope Francis asks us to pray the Holy Rosary for evangelisation and peace.**



Justice and Peace Commission, May 2016 – The latest newsletter from the Justice & Peace Commission covering the Diocese of East Anglia is available on the J & P noticeboard at the back of church. It contains information on Syrian refugees, Laudato Si', news from local groups and purchasing fair trade products, as well as dates of forthcoming events.

Diocese of East Anglia: Deputy Director of Schools – The Diocese is seeking to appoint a practising Catholic as Diocesan Deputy Director of Schools to join a small team of four staff supporting Catholic schools in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. For full details visit www.rcdea.org.uk or contact Jane Austin at ssc@east-angliadiocese.org.uk Closing date for applications is noon on 19th May. See the poster at the back of church.

In Eastertide, we recite REGINA COELI in place of the ANGELUS :

Queen of heaven, rejoice, Alleluia.

For he, whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia,

Has risen as he said, Alleluia.

Pray for us to God, Alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

For the Lord has truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray: O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech you that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.