

Catholic Parish of Walsingham

ST PETER, BLAKENEY ✠ ST HENRY WALPOLE, SJ, BURNHAM MARKET ✠ OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, WALSINGHAM ✠ OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA

(1836)

Parish Mass Book, Readings & Prayers 268-270 Prayer of the Church, 2

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER
YEAR OF ST MATTHEW
MAY 17TH, 2020

As we move through the Easter Season the liturgy leads us to contemplate the Holy Spirit who, in today's gospel, is called an "Advocate". The word in the Greek New Testament is παράκλητος (paraclete) which is sometimes translated as 'comforter'. Clearly, Jesus himself is



an advocate: he intercedes on our behalf, and he comforts us in distress (cf. Mt. 11:28). He has told his disciples that he is going away, that they will, "no longer see him," but promises that they will not, like orphans, feel they have been abandoned. Why? Because he will send them, "another Advocate". Later on he tells them, "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." (16:7) On Thursday we commemorate his going away to make way for this other advocate. When the advocate comes, he

tells them, "You will understand that I am in my Father, and you in me and I in you." But there is a condition: "If you love me." Loving Jesus is not a vague sensation but can be – must be – demonstrated practically: "If you love me you will keep my commandments." At the supper Jesus had told them, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (13:34-35) The love which binds together the community of believers allows the Spirit of Truth, which Jesus tells us 'the world' can never receive (cf. 1:10), to come to them. When the Holy Spirit comes, of course, he enables the disciples to love one another more perfectly, which facilitates his coming to them in what scientists refer to as a positive feedback loop. By loving one another we learn that we are loving Jesus and the Father, and that God himself is within us. The saving work of Jesus, which culminates in the resurrection and ascension is no mere historical event. It has repercussions in the present day world and in our daily lives. Everything we do is coloured by the fact that we are disciples of Jesus. To help us remember, we have an advocate.

....from CHRISTUS VIVIT

"At times, in the attempt to develop a pure and perfect youth ministry, marked by abstract ideas, protected from the world and free of every flaw, we can turn the Gospel into a dull, meaningless and unattractive proposition. Such a youth ministry ends up completely removed from the world of young people and suited only to an elite Christian youth that sees itself as different, while living in an empty and unproductive isolation. In rejecting the weeds, we also uproot or choke any number of shoots trying to spring up in spite of their limitations. Instead of overwhelming young people with a body of rules that make Christianity seem reductive and moralistic, we are called to invest in their fearlessness and to train them to take up their responsibilities, in the sure knowledge that error, failure and crisis are experiences that can strengthen their humanity." (232-233)

PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGY

You can take part in the liturgy via the internet at the Catholic Shrine webpage:
www.walsingham.org.uk

CAFOD

CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. To find out how you can help, see the CAFOD item on the parish webpage (www.catholicparishofwalsingham.org) in the section called *Distanced but Together*.

"I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.."

Because of restrictions imposed by the government in response to the Covid19 virus emergency, there will be no Masses or other services in any of our churches until further notice.



THE YEAR OF THE WORD

Befriending the Scriptures cannot, of course, meet at present. We can, however, keep reading Matthew's gospel and the readings appointed for the Mass of the day even though we cannot meet.

Sunday:	Acts 8:5-17;	Psalm 65;	1 Peter 3:15-18;	John 14:15-21
Monday:	Acts 16:11-15	Psalm 149;		John 15:26-16:4
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34;	Psalm 137;		John 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15-18:1	Psalm 117;		John 16:12-15
Ascension Day:	Acts 1:1-11;	Psalm 46;	Ephesians 1:17-23	Matthew 28:19-20
Friday:	Acts 18:1-18;	Psalm 97;		John 16:16-23
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28;	Psalm 46;		John 16:23-28



ASCENSION DAY

Thursday is the feast of the Ascension. It is a 'holy day of obligation', a term I detest. It sounds as if we are somehow forced to attend church under threat of sanction. In reality, these feasts are occasions when any disciple of Jesus should feel compelled by the fact of being a disciple to share with fellow disciples in the celebration of the Eucharist. Alas, this year, courtesy of Covid 19, the obligation is null and void, but we ought not to let the day pass unmarked. We are challenged to find ways of feeling and sharing our joy at the Ascension of the Lord.

NATIONAL MASSES

Each Thursday, at 7.00pm, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate a live-streamed Mass in his Cathedral for people to join in. By visiting the Cathedral webpage, or the Bishops' Conference Webpage (cbcew.org.uk) links for the live-streaming of these Masses can be found.

21st May	Bishop Mark Davies	Shrewsbury Cathedral
28th May	Bishop Terence Drainey	Middlesbrough Cathedral

ST PETER'S BLAKENEY: REPAIRS

Remember November 1st, All Saints Day? That's right, a bus demolished the entrance to our little church. Well, the building work began on Monday 11th. So the site is off limits. Special thanks to Tim Ambler for 'agitating'.

IGNITE

Looking for a new challenge in September? The Diocesan Youth Service is seeking applications from 18-35 year olds to join the Ignite Team for 2020-2021. Spend a year sharing the Gospel message with children and young people across East Anglia, developing new skills and growing in your faith. Accommodation, food and other living expenses are provided plus a £200 monthly allowance. Ideal as a 'gap year' (can be extended). For more information visit www.rcdea.org.uk/youth or email Ciaran on igniteteam@rcdea.org.uk.



OFFERTORY COLLECTION



You hear it all the time on the news: 'even though we have no money coming in our outgoings continue.' The Church, of course, is no different and it seems there is no end to 'lockdown' in the near future. I draw your attention to 'Offertory Collection' in ***Distanced but Together*** on the website. Please don't forget to keep spreading the word about the fact that we have a website and share information on it with those who are unable to avail of it.

Parish Clergy: Revv. Keith Tulloch, SM, (Parish Priest), Thomas Goonan, SM, Steven Leeder (Deacon)

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