

# The Parish of St Dunstan and St Jude

Sixth Sunday of Easter

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Philip Harrop  
**Assistant Priest:** Rev. Fr. John Waters  
**Deacon:** Rev. Mr. David Fairbotham  
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**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

[www.stdunstanandstjude.co.uk](http://www.stdunstanandstjude.co.uk)

Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Easter Feria</i>	11.00am	Holy Mass	James McQuillan (RIP) Pro Populo
		11.30am-1.00pm	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
		11.30am-12.30pm 4.45-5.15pm	<i>Confessions</i> <i>Confessions</i>	
		5.30pm	Vigil Mass	Collette Hickey
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	9.15am ( <i>St Jude's</i> )	Holy Mass	Eileen Slattery (RIP)
		10.30am	Holy Mass	Tommy Reidy (RIP)
		12noon	Holy Mass	Mary Power (RIP)
		6.30pm	Holy Mass	John Connolly (RIP)
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Easter Feria</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Noel Stanley
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Easter Feria</i>	10.00am ( <i>St Jude's</i> )	Holy Mass	Anne O'Sullivan (RIP)
		7.00pm	Holy Mass	John and Brigid Naughton (RIP)
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Easter Feria</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Mary Masterson
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b>	6.45am	Holy Mass	Mr Paul McGarry
		9.30am	Holy Mass	Peter Gill
		12 noon ( <i>St Jude's</i> )	Holy Mass	Valerie O'Connell
		7.00pm	Holy Mass	Private Intention
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>St Matthias</b>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Rose Rahill
		7.00pm	Holy Mass	Private Intention
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Easter Feria</i>	11.00am	Holy Mass	Anne O'Sullivan (RIP) Pro Populo
		11.30am-1.00pm	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
		11.30am-12.30pm 4.45-5.15pm	<i>Confessions</i> <i>Confessions</i>	
		5.30pm	Vigil Mass	John Connolly (RIP)
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	9.15am ( <i>St Jude's</i> )	Holy Mass	Aileen Gallagher (RIP Anni)
		10.30am	Holy Mass	Joseph Koziol (RIP)
		12 noon	Holy Mass	Breid Hannigan (RIP)
		6.30pm	Holy Mass	Daniel Campbell (RIP)

**This Thursday is Ascension Day.** Although Holy Days of obligation are suspended at the moment - just in terms of their obligation of course - we want to give a number of opportunities for all to hear Mass on this festive day. We will begin with an extra 'early bird Mass' at 6.45am.

Sometime ago Pope Benedict unveiled the mystery of this feast for us. He reminded us that "heaven isn't a place beyond the stars, but something much greater, something that requires far more audacity to assert: Heaven means that man now has his place in God.... thus, Jesus himself is what we call 'heaven'; heaven is not a place but a person, the person of whom God and man are forever and inseparably one. And we go to heaven and enter into heaven to the extent that we go to Jesus Christ and enter into him. In this sense, 'ascension into heaven' can also be something that takes place in our daily lives." So, when we 'raise our eyes heavenward' we are recapturing the vision of what we are called to – communion and friendship with our Creator and Redeemer. As St Augustine said in his Confessions: 'Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee'.

**'Caritas International' have been on touch regarding an appeal for India.** Caritas is the Catholic Church's international organization for crisis aid, among other things. They have launched an emergency appeal for the work they are doing on the ground in India which is in the midst of a devastating wave of the Covid pandemic. There will be a collection bucket as you leave Mass next Sunday for those who wish to contribute. Some of you may prefer to give online at [Caritas.org](http://Caritas.org).

**The Bishops of England and Wales** have recently published a reflection called '**The day of the Lord**' which reminds us of the essential place the Mass has in our lives as Catholics, and especially of Sunday Mass – the day of the Lord's resurrection. As we work through the pandemic it reminds us that Mass remains at the heart of the practice of the faith. It also seeks to reassure those who are anxious that Mass is as safe as can be. The bishops also thank those Catholics who are working in the care sector during this time, and also volunteer groups like the SVP and foodbanks etc. who have carried on their tasks throughout this time. You can find a link to the letter on the parish website and Facebook.

*Perhaps those who are anxious might find it easier to come to Mass on a Sunday evening or weekday evening when things are quieter.*

**This time last year** Pope Francis wrote some words about the month of May which is still relevant this year: *The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family the restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this 'family' aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.*

*For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow. Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this trial.*

**Also, you might** like to add the *Memorare* as part of your daily devotion to Our Blessed Lady in the month of May:

**Remember, O most loving Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother; to thee I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen**

**Next Saturday morning** a number of the candidates for 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion will be making their first confession. These children will go first to confession before other penitents.

**Holy Communion to the sick and housebound.** Restrictions around us, due to the effects of lockdown and the vaccination programme, are being gently lifted. There are a number of parishioners receiving the Blessed Sacrament at home again. If you or someone you know, would now like to resume this if you would let one of the priests know, or email the presbytery.

**Becoming Catholic?** Two or three people have mentioned the possibility of instruction in the faith. If anyone is interested, could you email the presbytery or speak to Fr Philip or Fr John. For those who desire to be baptised or received into the Catholic Church there will be an expectation of attendance at Sunday Mass at St Dunstan's or St Jude's as well as the instructions. If there is sufficient interest, we will hope to begin in May or June depending on the schedules for the easing of restrictions.

**Whilst at Mass.....please take note of the guidance below** to ensure that we make each other as safe as possible. We remember in our prayers those who are not with us due illness or because they are isolating. They are very much part of the prayers and the sacrifice we offer today.

- Please use hand sanitizer when arriving and leaving.
- Wear face coverings in church unless age (younger children) or medical conditions preclude this.
- Keep social distance at all times – especially being mindful when moving about for Holy Communion or leaving church.

- Please follow the one-way system around church.
- If you will not be receiving holy communion or coming forward for a blessing mention this to a steward and they will find you a seat where you won't block others in.
- Do not leave newsletters you have used in church, but always take them home with you.
- Remove face covering immediately before receiving Holy Communion in the hand and replace after receiving the Sacred Host.
- Do not gather in groups outside church with those outside your 'bubble' for conversation without keeping a good distance.

**Baptisms: Changes in guidance means that we can begin celebrating the sacrament of Baptism from May 17<sup>th</sup> (although numbers permitted to attend will be limited).** If you had already booked a baptism that had to be postponed, could you get in touch as soon as possible to arrange a date. **For those who haven't been along for the preparation meeting, the next meeting (at which we will arrange baptism dates) is this Tuesday at 7.45pm in St Dunstan's church.**

**We pray for those who have died recently:** Maureen Cody and Kathleen Mannion.

**Funerals.** A number of families have been concerned about the length of time it now seems to take (often over a month) between a loved one's death and the funeral. It can be an advantage, when arranging a funeral, to have a week for the funeral in mind, and then look around at different firms to see what they can do.

**SVP Lent Groceries/ Feeding Projects.** Many thanks from the SVP to all the people who contributed so generously to our appeal for groceries and hygiene products during Lent. Thanks also to the kind souls who gave cash donations towards this instead. Thanks to you we've been able to make weekly deliveries to St Jude's school and/or Manningford Hall to support struggling families in that part of the parish. God willing, we have got enough funding to carry on doing this until at least the end of May. Thanks again - and God Bless.

**Queen Elizabeth and Birmingham Women's Hospitals and St Mary's Hospice.** If you know that you (or a family member or friend in the parish) will be going to hospital for significant treatment, it is best to have confession with anointing of the sick before you/they go into hospital as these sacraments are not readily available during a hospital stay. **There is a cover rota provided by some priests from the local parishes. Such visits are arranged from the hospital, however, so that the priest on call will be allowed admission.**

**Confessions** are at the normal advertised times from next weekend. Social distancing means using the side chapel at St Dunstan's. **Please keep the time spent in the confessional to a minimum (5 minutes max) to both make it as safe as possible, and so that others have opportunity for the celebration of this sacrament.**

**Weekly offerings** can be placed in the baskets in church during Mass or posted through the Presbytery letterbox. Please place offerings in either the usual Gift Aid envelopes or a plain envelope marked 'St Dunstan' or 'St Jude'. Standing orders are also a great way of giving. Standing order forms can be requested from the Parish office.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES. If you didn't pick up your box last weekend from either St Dunstan's or St Jude's, could you do so today!**

**St. Jude's Catholic Primary School** has a lovely Nursery which runs five days a week during term time from 9am to 12pm. There are some places available for September 2021. Please contact school on 0121 464 5069 if you would like to find out more.

#### COLLECTIONS

	St Dunstan's	St Jude's
Gift Aid	£ 597.50	£ 105.35
Non-Gift Aid	£ 824.52	£ 127.44
April Standing Orders	£3,562.10	£ 217.00

***If you would like a standing order form, please contact the Parish Office.***

**The Parish Office** will be open from 9.00am until 5.00pm on Wednesday and Friday each week. In order to minimise the number of people in the office and for the safety of those at work, until further notice we ask you to observe the following:

*If you need to see the Parish Administrator or one of the Priests:* we would ask that you phone or email in advance, so that an appointment can be arranged at a convenient time for both. You will not be invited in the office unless you have a re-arranged appointment.

*If you have an enquiry:* please phone or email first to see if it can be sorted in this way.

*For those wishing to book Mass intentions:* please bring a sealed envelope clearly labelled with the intention details (person's name, required date etc) and include the offering inside. This can then be handed in at the office and if requested a Mass card be signed and given.

# READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

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## FIRST READING

*Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

***R: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.***

Sing a new song to the Lord  
for he has worked wonders.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have brought salvation. **R:**

The Lord has made known his salvation;  
has shown his justice to the nations.  
He has remembered his truth and love  
for the house of Israel. **R:**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Shout to the Lord all the earth,  
ring out your joy. **R:**

## SECOND READING

*John 4:7-10*

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**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 READING

*John 15:9-17*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants anymore, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

*In place of the Angelus during the Easter season we would usually sing the Regina Caeli. As congregational singing isn't yet allowed under the regulations, either a cantor will sing it or we will say it together before Sunday Mass.*

**Regina caeli, Laetare, alleluia.  
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.  
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.  
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.**

*Rejoice and be glad, O virgin Mary, alleluia.  
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.  
Let us pray.*

**O God, who has brought joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant, we beseech you, that through his Mother the Virgin Mary, we may be brought to the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**