

DEANERY OF ST EDMUND CAMPION

ENGLISH MARTYRS—

VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE PASTORAL AREA

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

East Hendred Catholic Parish

Sixth Week of Easter

9th-15th May 2021



SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

9th – 16th May 2021

All masses live-streamed www.churchservices.tv/easthended
please book for Sunday masses: hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Church is open from 9am until late afternoon

SIXTH SUNDAY IN EASTERTIDE			[White]
9th May	9.30am	Parish Mass	Pro populo
	6pm	Holy Mass	Private Intention
Monday 10th May	<i>in the Sixth Week of Easter</i>		[White]
	<i>St Amand's Chapel 1056</i>		
	9.15am	Holy Mass	
	<i>FM Ida Mary Stafford-Northcote 1954</i>		
Tuesday 11th May	<i>in the Sixth Week of Easter</i>		[White]
	9.15am	Holy Mass	
	<i>RIP Hilary Unsworth (The Barror Family, Dublin)</i>		
Wednesday 12th May	<i>in the Sixth Week of Easter</i>		[White]
	12 noon	Funeral (RIP Gail Ann Jones)	
		VIGIL OF ASCENSION	[Gold]
	6pm	Holy Mass	
Thursday 13th May	ASCENSION DAY		[Gold]
	9.30am	Solemn Mass	<i>FM Albert A Dearlove 1942</i>
Friday 14th May	St Matthias, Apostle		[Red]
	No Mass		
Saturday 15th May	<i>in the Fifth Week of Easter</i>		[White]
	No Mass		
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN EASTERTIDE			[White]
16th May	9.30am	Parish Mass	<i>(Cel: Fr Martin Flatman)</i>
	6pm	Holy Mass	<i>(Cel: Fr David O'Sullivan)</i>

CONTACT DETAILS

Fr Andrew: 01235 835038 or 07976 437979

aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk is monitored by the Parish Administrator and her Assistant.

East Hendred Catholic Parish

NOTICEBOARD

CAFOD COLLECTION EMERGENCY COLLECTION FOR INDIA. EITHER IN THE BASKET AT CHURCH, USING SPECIAL ENVELOPES, OR www.cafod.org.uk/give

ASCENSION DAY 13th May 2021

Ascension Day, Thursday 13th May is Forty Days after Easter and, once again, a Holy Day of Obligation, as formerly. However the Obligation remains suspended. Mass on the day will be at 9.30am but, particularly for those who work, there will be a Vigil Mass the night before, (Wednesday 12th May) at 6pm.

CHURCH SERVICES LIVESTREAM

On Sunday 2nd May, there were 260 hits from 91 machines, with 103 remaining on-line long enough to take part in Mass. 61 viewers were from the UK, 19 from Ireland, and 9 from the rest of the world.

BOOKING FOR MASS AT ST MARY'S

Please book for 9.30am and 6pm Sunday Masses before 12 noon on Fridays hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk On Saturday contact Fr Andrew on aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Space limited. Book early. Masks and social distancing required.

PENTECOST 23rd May 2021

On the Feast of Pentecost, there will be an extra Mass –11.15am at St Mary's. We hope very much that people who have felt unable to return to Church, will feel able to come to one of the three masses that Sunday. More details soon.

CHILDREN'S PAGES

- (1) Have you tuned into '**Morning Prayer for Children**', 9am on Sundays? It's ten minutes on Church Services TV.
- (2) **Special stuff for Sunday** 9nd May, Sixth Sunday of Easter, follows on the next couple of pages.

ROSARY

The Pope is asking us to join worldwide in the saying of the Rosary each day in May. He will lead the Rosary each day at 6pm (Rome Time), 5pm here. We shall say a daily decade after Mass. The intention is for the ending of the plague and for those who are suffering or caring for the sick. There is a note on the Rosary immediately following the Children's Pages below.

YEAR B

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 9th May 2021

Love each other.

John 15:9-17

One day Jesus said to his disciples: "I love you just as my father loves me. If you do as I then you will always be close to me, and my father will love you too. I want you to love each other in the same way that I have loved you. I have chosen you to be my friends and am sending you out to share this love with the rest of the world".

Reflection

Jesus asked his disciples to love one another as he had loved them. Jesus reminded his disciples many times that the greatest commandments were to love God and to love each other.

What does it mean to love another person?

To love someone else means that you care about another person and their happiness. You want only the best for them to grow in love and goodness.

Sometimes if there is a disaster people will put their own lives before others to save them. Jesus' love for us was so great that he did an extraordinary thing for us.

How can we put our love into action?

By spending time with someone, helping and sharing.

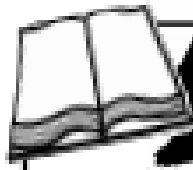
How can we put our love into words?

By praying, saying thank you and by telling someone you love them.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, our hearts are brimming over with your love. Help us to be generous and always ready to share this love with everyone we meet.

Amen



Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
 Psalm 97
 1 John 4:7-10
 John 15:9-17

Speak, Lord



SUNDAY LITURGY FOR CHILDREN

Year B — 6th Sunday of Easter



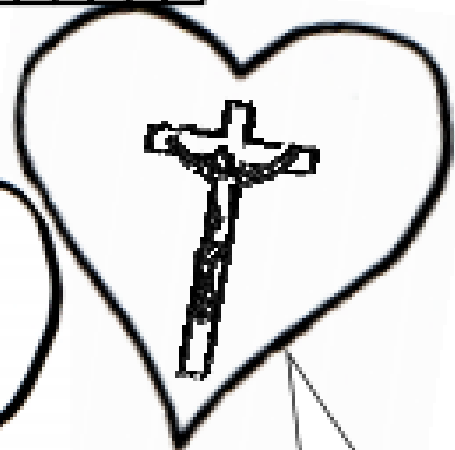
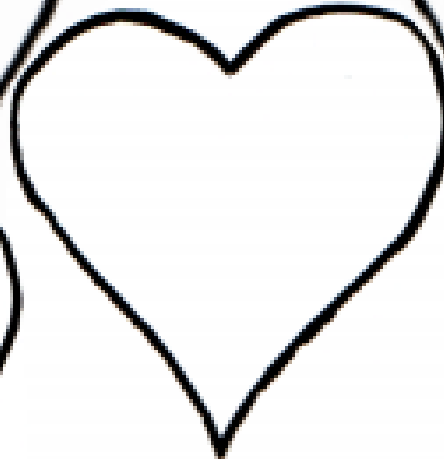
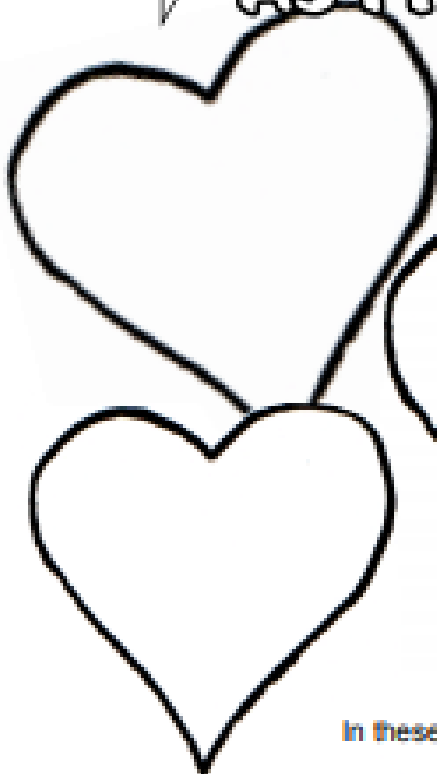
Jesus says:

**"THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT:
 ONE ANOTHER,**

What are the missing words?

AS I HAVE

YOU."



This is how much Jesus loved us.

In these hearts draw pictures of how you love others.

**REMEMBER
 THIS
 THURSDAY**

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

J _____ goes back to his F _____.

The Rosary

The Rosary has five sets of ten beads each preceded by a separate bead. The Our Father is said on the separate bead, a Hail Mary on each of the ten beads, and a Glory be... whilst holding the chain before proceeding to the next separate bead. It is customary to begin, on the short chain, with the Creed (holding the crucifix), an Our Father, three Hail Marys and a Glory be... At the end of the chaplet (set of five mysteries), hold the medal and say the Hail Holy Queen....

The Five Joyful Mysteries (Monday and Saturday)

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | The Annunciation | <i>Luke 1:26-38</i> |
| 2 | The Visitation | <i>Luke 1:39-46</i> |
| 3 | The Nativity | <i>Luke 2:1-7</i> |
| 4 | The Presentation | <i>Luke 2:22-32</i> |
| 5 | The Finding in the Temple | <i>Luke 2:42-52</i> |

The Five Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesday and Friday)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | The Agony in the Garden | <i>Mark 14:32-38</i> |
| 2 | The Scourging at the Pillar | <i>John 18:33 – 19:1</i> |
| 3 | The Crowning with Thorns | <i>Mark 15:16-20</i> |
| 4 | The Carrying of the Cross | <i>Matthew 27:31-34</i> |
| 5 | The Crucifixion | <i>Luke 23:33-48</i> |

The Five Luminous Mysteries (Thursday)

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | The Baptism in the Jordan | <i>Matthew 3:13-17</i> |
| 2 | The Wedding at Cana | <i>John 2:1-12</i> |
| 3 | The Proclamation of the Kingdom | <i>Luke 4:14-21</i> |
| 4 | The Transfiguration | <i>Mark 9:2-8</i> |
| 5 | The Institution of the Eucharist | <i>1 Corinthians 11:23-26</i> |

The Five Glorious Mysteries (Wednesday and Sunday)

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | The Resurrection | <i>Luke 24:1-6</i> |
| 2 | The Ascension | <i>Luke 24:50-53</i> |
| 3 | The Gift of the Holy Spirit | <i>Acts 2:1-4</i> |
| 4 | The Assumption of Our Lady | <i>1 Corinthians 15:20-26</i> |
| 5 | The Coronation of Our Lady and the Glory of the Saints | <i>Revelation 12:1-6</i> |

HAIL HOLY QUEEN, Mother of mercy! Hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we lift up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

CHARITY

Didcot

To help with supplying the Didcot Foodbank, contact Veronica Paget: veronicapaget@hotmail.com or leave suitable food outside her front door.

Wantage

Jackymattam@btinternet.com helps with the poor locally. Contact her about what practical help she needs. It is usually children's clothes, push chairs &c. At present she is looking for a play pen.

Annie@thehilltribe.com is collecting scarves (for headcovering), socks for men, women, and children, and suitcases to take all this to Afghanistan.

RIGHT TO LIFE

Earlier this year, the Northern Ireland Assembly voted on the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill and it passed Second Stage by 48 votes to 12. The Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill will remove the current grounds in the Northern Ireland abortion regulations that were imposed on Northern Ireland that allow abortion for 'severe fetal impairment'. Under these grounds in the regulations, babies with disabilities including Down's syndrome, cleft lip and club foot can currently be singled out for abortion in Northern Ireland because of their disability and can be aborted right up to birth.

The Northern Ireland Health Committee is now undertaking a consultation on the Bill and is seeking submissions from the public. It is important that as many people as possible submit to the consultation in support of the Bill to clearly show that there is widespread support for this important change. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool on their website that makes it simple to complete your submission. This tool can be accessed [here](#).

Right to Life continues to value support through prayer, and so are reaching out again in request of prayers:

9th - We pray for all unborn children diagnosed with disabilities, we pray for protection for them and their mothers from the pressures of society to have an abortion, and that they would instead experience overwhelming support by all who surround them. Lord hear us.

GIVING TO THE PARISH BY REGULAR STANDING ORDER OR GIFT

BANK DETAILS: PRCDTR East Hendred, St Mary

Sort Code: 309304 Account Number: 00877183

To arrange Gift Aid, contact : hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

A donation to the parish may be made on www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

HOLY FATHER'S MAY PRAYER INTENTION

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

FIRST COMMUNION GROUPS

Pray for children who have just begun First Communion Preparation through St Amand's School: Felicity, Keeleigh, Elijah, Anna, Eamonn, Luca, Mia, Isobel, Julia, Stephen, Thomas. Pray also for George and Toby from Hendreds Primary School, undertaking preparation with Mary Harrison.

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Baby Martha, John Castle, Petal Connell, Daniel Cuevas, John Stringer, Louise Woodhouse, Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Angus Clark, Karen Greig, Kitty Teasdale, Mary McNichol, Andrew Gunn, Elizabeth Gunn, Des McNichol, Christine Robinson, Rose

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Gail Ann Jones. Week 9th-15th May: Ida Mary Northcote, Mary Flannery, Albert A Dearlove.

CARMELITE CONFERENCES

Scripture and Spirituality Conferences are run from Carmelite Friary on Boar's Hill (which has been local to us and will be again once we get beyond the Zoom-only stage).

Key dates at present are 10th-11th July for a Conference on St John of the Cross and 7pm on 11th July for an event called 'Teresa's Four Waters in Word, Image, and Song'.

Booking for these events by 15th May attracts a 10% discount for those who quote the reference SSC10.

For further details, contact: ruth.preston@carmelite.org.uk

East Hendred Catholic Parish



Sixth Sunday of

Easter (B)

9th May 2021

Antiphons,

Prayers and

Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Vocem iucunditatis (cf Is 48:20; Ps 66:1-2)

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia. *Ps* Cry out with joy to God, all the earth: O sing to the glory of his name; O render him glorious praise.

Collect

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen..

First Reading

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 (RSV)

²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshipped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, 'Stand up; I too am a man.' ³⁴ And Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation any one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him... ⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying this, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ 'Can any one forbid water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Psalm 98

R/

The Lord has made known his salvation to the nations.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders.

His right and hand his holy arm
have brought salvation. **R/**

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
and his truth 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,
and sing out your praise. **R/**

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-10 (RSV)

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins.

Gospel Acclamation

R/ 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.'

R/ **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel

John 15:9-17 (RSV)

Jesus said to his disciples: As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ This I command you, to love one another.

Prayer over the Offerings

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface

(De vita nova in Christo)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when

Ant.
6.
R

E-gí-na cáeli * læ-tá-re, alle-lú-ia: Qui- a
 quem me-ru- ísti portá-re, alle-lú-ia: Re-surréx-it,
 si-cut dix-it, alle- lú-ia: Ora pro no-bis De-um,
 alle-lú- ia.

Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluia.
 he whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia.
 as he promised hath arisen, alleluia.
 pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia.

V/ Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia:
R/ for the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia.

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FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

10th – 16th May 2021

Monday in the Sixth Week of Easter

10th May 2021

Collect

GRANT, O merciful God, that we may experience at all times the fruit produced by the Paschal observances. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reading

John 15:26 – 16:4 (RSV)

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to the Risen Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Counsellor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me; **27** and you also are witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning.

16 'I have said all this to you to keep you from falling away. **2** They will put you out of the synagogues; indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. **3** And they will do this because they have not known the Father, nor me. **4** But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you of them.'

Reflection

The Spirit of Truth

TODAY'S Gospel continues with the Lord's teaching about the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete – translated variously as Counsellor, Comforter and Advocate. I think we can see once more that 'Advocate' is probably the closest translation because the Holy Spirit is the one who 'bears witness to' Christ and assists Christ's followers also to be 'witnesses'. This is not a new idea.

We recall a phrase from the Advent Prose. 'You are my witnesses,' says the LORD, 'and my servant whom I have chosen' (Isaiah 43:10). The vocation of God's servant-people is to be witnesses to the Gospel. It is a costly vocation. As the Lord makes clear, some will lose their lives bearing witness in this way.

The three days – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday – leading to Ascension Day, which is now on Thursday, used to be known as 'Rogation Days', days originally part of the Calendar of Pagan Rome, praying for good weather and a successful harvest. Many of us, living, as we do, in a rural parish, will want to remember this older meaning, especially as we reflect, more than we usually have to, on how dependent we are on the natural world in which we live.

Tuesday in the Sixth Week of Easter

11th May 2021

Collect

Grant, almighty and merciful God, that we may in truth receive a share in the resurrection of Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reading

Acts 16:22-34 (RSV)

Paul and Silas escape from jail

²²The crowd in Philippi joined in attacking Paul and Silas; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. ²⁴Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul cried with a loud voice, 'Do not harm

yourself, for we are all here.' ²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ and brought them out and said, 'Men, what must I do to be saved?' ³¹ And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. ³⁴ Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

Reflection

'Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved'

THE 'Lockdown' has drawn attention to a particular term – the household – not usually in very common use. Married couples, families, and various domestic arrangements are part of everyday experience but how often have we drawn attention to 'the household'? It is a biblical term – maybe 120 references, a third of them in the New Testament – and usually referring to a decidedly patriarchal arrangement in which a man presides over his household. On three occasions we are interested to discover that 'household' is a term for the Church. The Church is 'the household of faith' (Gal 6:10). It is 'the household of God' (Eph 2:15 and 1 Tim 3:15). This sense of us all being together in God's household is a major incentive for looking after one another – and others. 'As we have opportunity', says Gal 6:10, 'let us do good to everyone, especially to those who are of the household of faith'.

So, as we focus on the 'household' – those with whom we share a house at present – we need to look beyond to 'the household of God' with whom we long to share the gift of Holy Communion, itself a major fruit – but not the main or sole fruit – of Holy Mass. But we need also to reflect on our own households – whether there are many or few – and, if we live alone, on our less visible links with others, our families and friends, our loved ones living and departed.

But a word about the patriarchy bit... We notice that, though things are cast in a pre-modern understanding of patriarchy – with the man having the franchise, the ownership, and the revenue, the Bible is always careful to talk about the duties of marriage partners to each other and to those who depend on them. Furthermore, as the story of the Jailer this morning

shows, the conversion of a man is the salvation of his household. Neither is this just that way round. As I used to look round the congregation, before the 'Lockdown' and, as I pray, I shall once more soon look round again, I see quite a few women whose faith is – or will be – , please God, the salvation of their household.

Wednesday in the Sixth Week of Easter

12th May 2021

Collect

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as we celebrate in mystery the solemnities of your Son's Resurrection, so, too, we may be worthy to rejoice at his coming with all the saints. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.. Amen.

Reading

Acts 16:22-34 (RSV)

Paul in Athens

¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed....²² So Paul, standing in the middle of the Are-op'agus, said: 'Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one every nation of men to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel after him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for

'In him we live and move and have our being';

as even some of your poets have said,

'For we are indeed his offspring.'

²⁹ Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the Deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, a representation by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will

judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead.'

³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, 'We will hear you again about this.'³³ So Paul went out from among them. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among them Dionys'ius the Are-op'agite and a woman named Dam'aris and others with them. **18** After this he left Athens and went to Corinth.

Reflection

PAUL'S preaching to the Men of Athens is a scene in which a Jewish prophet confronts, and engages in dialogue with, the cultured philosophers of the Gentile world. 'Areopogus' might be the place – Mars Hill – or it may be the meeting-place of the learned. These include Epicureans and Stoics. Both schools had about three centuries of learning: the Epicureans were happy to disregard religious explanations; the Stoics were pious but not in ways which would lead them to take seriously the claims of a crucified Jew.

What is fascinating about the encounter is, first, that, in neither the Jewish academic world nor in Gentile circles, does Christianity cut through. We are familiar enough nowadays with clever people discounting the Gospel message but it is rather astonishing to see how influential Christianity has been, throughout the known world since the fourth century. The second thing that is fascinating is that St Luke, the author of Acts, hardly grapples with pagan philosophy beyond reflecting that the 'statue to an unknown God, on which Paul bases his message, is the one 'in [whom] we live and move and have our being'. Typical of Jewish thought, the thing that Paul fixes on is the idolatry of the Gentile world. 'Being God's...offspring, we ought not to think that the Deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, a representation by the art and imagination of man.'

The crisis point in the encounter with the Men of Athens is when Paul mentions the Resurrection of the Dead. Some mock. Others reserve judgment until they hear more. A group – presumably small, because we hear no more about them, and they are sufficiently small for a couple of names to be singled out – repent and believe the Gospel.

What we can take away from this encounter is that there is nothing new under the sun. Our proclamation of the Gospel will be hard going when we are with those whose academic defences are in place. Some will mock. Many will profess to be agnostic – not knowing what to make of it and perhaps thinking that it is not possible to be anything other than uncertain of what to make of it. A few will hear the Gospel and take its Good News to heart, especially its Good News that, in Christ, we share the hope of the Resurrection.

East Hendred Catholic Parish



The Ascension of the Lord (A)

13th May 2021

Antiphons, Prayers and Readings

Entrance Antiphon

Viri Galilæi

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

Acts 1:11

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who believe that your Only Begotten Son, our Redeemer, ascended this day to the heavens, may in spirit dwell already in heavenly realms. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11(RSV)

In the first book, O Theoph'ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, 'you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Sama'ria and to the end of the earth.' And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, 'Men of Galilee,

why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Alleluatic Psalm

Ps 47

R/ Alleluia

Clap your hands, all peoples, alleluia.

Shout to God with loud songs of joy! alleluia. **R/**

For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, alleluia.

a great king over all the earth, alleluia. **R/**

God has gone up with a shout, alleluia.

The Lord with the sound of a trumpet, alleluia. **R/**

Sing praises to God, sing praises! alleluia.

Sing praise to our king, sing praise! alleluia. **R/**

For God is the king of all the earth, alleluia.

Sing praises with a psalm, alleluia. **R/**

God reigns over the nations, alleluia.

God sits on his holy throne, alleluia. **R/**

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23(RSV)

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ which he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come; ²² and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fulness of him who fills all in all..

Gospel Acclamation

R/ Alleluia, alleluia.

Go, make disciples of all nations;

I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

R/ Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20 (RSV)

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

Reflection

What comes down must go up...

IT WAS all very simple when the Gospels were first written down: heaven is up there and earth is down here. At Christmas we sing ‘He came down to earth from heaven’ and today, Ascension Day, we sing ‘Hail! the day that sees him rise, to his throne beyond the skies. Christ, the Lamb for sinners given, enters now the highest heaven.’ We often say ‘what goes up must come down’ – a bit of a comfort when a ball gets temporarily stuck in the branches of a tree. Perhaps we ought also to say that, ‘when it comes to God, what comes down must go up’. God came down from heaven and became a human being – just like us, without the sins and the mistakes – so that we can go up to heaven – just like God, so without sins and mistakes.

What’s made this very simple message a bit harder to understand is that – unlike Mrs Alexander and Charles Wesley who wrote those old and much-loved hymns a very long time ago – we do know that it’s not all about coming down and going up. If a football team does badly, it faces ‘relegation’ – a posh word for ‘going down’. If it does well, it faces ‘promotion’ – a posh word for going up in the league tables. The ‘going up’ and ‘coming down’ work well as images. Prices go up and come down. The marks we get for our work go up and come down.

How we deal with this change of understanding about how the universe works does depend on other things too. I am old enough to remember who orbited the earth in a space capsule in April 1961: the first man in space. He was a Russian. Eight years later I watched Apollo 11 in 1969 do the first manned moon landing. The crew got out and walked about on the surface of the moon. If I remember rightly, the Russian mission ‘proved’ that there was no heaven up there. The Americans, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, looked out from their space craft at the earth, some distance away from them in space and recited the first verse of the Bible. ‘In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth’. So we are not going to get to the bottom of things with science and exploration. They teach us what there is and how it works. What we need to find out is why things are as they are and why they work that way.

There is a very good word for the fact that God became fully human in Jesus’ incarnation and we become fully divine in Jesus’ ascension. That word is ‘atonement’ – ‘at-one-ment’. If you make French dressing, there is no hiding the fact that oil and vinegar are very different and you start out with them being different, and without a bit of care, they separate out again. But, mixed together, they become a very nice dressing for your

salad, with a few fancy bits thrown in. In the ascension of Jesus we are made one with God. Like the prayer the priest says at the altar during mass: 'by the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity'. What comes down must go up....

Prayer over the Offerings

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord, to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son: grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface

(De mysterio Ascensionis)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For the Lord Jesus, the King of glory, conqueror of sin and death, ascended to the highest heavens, as the Angels gazed in wonder. Mediator between God and man, judge of the world and Lord of hosts, he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before. Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise, and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim: Holy, holy, holy &c.

Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori (18th cent.)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus: there is room in my heart for you.

Communion Antiphon

Ecce ego vobiscum sum

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you. Through Christ our Lord.

St Matthias

Friday 14th May

Collect

O God , who assigned Saint Matthias a place in the college of Apostles: grant us, through his intercession, that, rejoicing at how your love has been allotted to us, we may merit to be numbered among the elect. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, you Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reading

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 (RSV)

The Lot Fell on Matthias

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the brethren (the company of persons was in all about a hundred and twenty), and said, ¹⁶ 'Brethren, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David, concerning Judas who was guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ For he was numbered among us, and was allotted his share in this ministry. ¹⁸ (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹ And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Akel'dama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰ For it is written in the book of Psalms,

'Let his habitation become desolate,
and let there be no one to live in it';
and

'His office let another take.'

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.' ²³ And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsab'bas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthi'as. ²⁴ And they prayed and said, 'Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside, to go to his own place.' ²⁶ And

they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthi'as; and he was enrolled with the eleven apostles.

Reflection

Plan B

The story of the choice of Matthias is the first reading at Mass today. The Lectionary misses out verses 18-19 – the traitor Judas coming to a sticky end – but that disaster is not really something to pass over without comment. It's a mess and it tells us a great deal about the Church, and indeed about how God operates, to see that, right at the beginning, the Church needed Plan B. Plan A was for twelve apostles, each the symbolic head of one of the tribes of Israel. What should they do if they found that one of the twelve pillars on which the Plan relied had crumbled away?

The Jewish High Priest wore the Urim and the Thummim on the breastplate to be worn in the Holy Place (Exodus 28:30). These sacred objects were used to cast lots, thereby discovering God's will. Within the Jewish culture, what could be more normal than to cast lots? It seems that the selection process for the twelfth man – that's probably the origin of the cricketing term for the spare player – involved both votes (they settled on two candidates) and the solemn casting of lots. It wasn't about luck – as in 'heads or tails'? – but belief in something like a sacramental process, whereby God could work.

We know very little about Matthias, but he was clearly a witness of the Resurrection appearances and present on the Day of Pentecost. He went on to preach in Judaea, Cappadocia, and Ethiopia. Tradition, and representation in art, says that he was martyred by axe or halberd. Whatever we think our Plan A is, God may have different ideas. Indeed, whatever God has in mind for us, his will may be frustrated by our sin and our stupidity. Plan B comes into play, with God's help and succour.

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THE GOD WHO SPEAKS-

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST MARK,

Chapter by Chapter

This week we repeat the final chapter, Chapter 16, the narrative of the Resurrection and Ascension of the Lord.

Mark 16 *Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition*

The Resurrection of Jesus

16 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Mag'dalen, and Mary the mother of James, and Salo'me, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ And they were saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?' ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶ And he said to them, 'Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.' ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

⁹ Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Mag'dalen, from whom he had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰ She went out and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and

wept. ¹¹ But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

Jesus Appears to Two Disciples

¹² After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. ¹³ And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

Jesus Commissions the Disciples

¹⁴ Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they sat at table; and he upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵ And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.'

The Ascension of Jesus

¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.

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