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Fifth Sunday of Easter Sunday 3rd May 2026

Due to the Hall being used for Local Elections there will be no Mass on Wednesday and Thursday

Page 262 Acts of the Apostles 6: 1-7 1 Peter 2: 4-9 Gospel John 14: 1-12

The readings for the last few weekends have been about the Resurrection but the Gospel this weekend takes us back in time to an event in the life of Jesus before His Passion. They bring words of comfort and hope from Jesus who tells His friends not to be afraid. He reminds them that He is the way, the truth and the life. The readings indicate that faith is more than belief, it also needs action and living it, and shows how the early Church worked together in faith, how believers are called to be living stones and how Jesus is the way to the Father. By following Jesus we grow in love and become stronger as a community.

The first reading continues the description of the Early Church in the missionary preaching and activity of St Paul and St Barnabas. Complaints are made concerning their widows from the Hellenists, who were Greek speaking Jews or Jews in other countries, that they were being disfavoured in the distribution of food. It would seem that discrimination and nepotism were starting to creep in. To solve the problem seven men are chosen, one being Nicolaus from Antioch who is a proselyte, a Gentile who has converted to Judaism. These seven deacons have hands laid on them to give them guidance from the Holy Spirit. This was done so that the other disciples could continue the preaching, ministering to the spiritual needs of the people while the deacons cared for the practical needs of the widows, the poor, the elderly, the lonely and the marginalised.

In the second reading Peter encourages believers to stay strong during trials as a chosen race, a holy nation, a royal priesthood. He uses the image of the risen Christ as the cornerstone, the base and binding force, of a spiritual temple. The followers of Jesus are like living stones forming a holy priesthood, striving to glorify Him through their lives. While precious to believers, Christ as the cornerstone, rejected by the builders, is a stumbling block to unbelievers. We are called, as chosen people of Jesus, to proclaim the excellence of God to bring light out of darkness, putting our faith into action

In John's Gospel we see the disciples considering Jesus as nothing more than a man, a great man with power from God. Some thought He would free Israel from the foreign domination of the Romans and set up a new kingdom of God, a prosperous, earthly kingdom with God guaranteeing peace and plenty for all. When he allowed His enemies to put Him to death, all their hopes were dashed. Jesus comforted them, urging trust in Him as in God. He spoke of preparing a place for them in heaven, promising to return for them. The query from Thomas about the way was met by Jesus declaring He was the way, the truth and the life, the sole path to the Father. The request from Philip to see the Father led Jesus to emphasise His unity with the Father, urging belief in this divine relationship and promising greater works for believers. The revelation of the Trinity is in the passage that follows this reading, So as Christians we are called to continue following the example of Jesus with daily sacrifices, being honest, acts of love and service and treating others with kindness. As a community we must be aware of the poor, lonely and marginalised. It is not always easy, but following Him leads to true life closer to God. Malcolm.

Mass times

Feast Days

6pm: Confessions
6.30pm Vigil Mass
15th Birthday of Joseph

Saturday 2nd St Athanasius of Alexandria Born in 297 to a Christian family in Alexandria. Well educated. As a youth was in contact with St Antony of Egypt and desert hermits. Secretary to Bishop Alexander of Alexandria as a deacon. Produced his first literary work. Took part in Council of Nicaea in 325 to oppose Arian heresy that created Nicene Creed. Made Patriarch of Alexandria in 328. Some extreme followers of Athanasius and orthodox beliefs killed some Arians and he was blamed. Emperor Constantine exiled him to Germany. Despite appeals by St Antony, Emperor would not relent. Athanasius returned to Alexandria in 337 after death of emperor. Later Bishop Eusebius of Nicomedia changed to support Arianism and caused him more trouble. In 340 he went to join the desert monks to produce spiritual writings. Returned in triumph in 346. Gradually improved spiritual life. Increased number of monks and nuns in his diocese. Chose sensible mature bishops from the monks. Great preacher and spiritual writer. New Emperor Constantius eventually changed to support Arianism used his army to depose Athanasius in 356. Diocese experienced a reign of terror until death of emperor in 361. Emperor Julian replaced him. When Athanasius returned after two years Julian ordered him to leave Alexandria. When Julian died in 363, Athanasius returned in triumph, but the new Emperor Valens, after a couple of years, exiled him again. After great protest from the people, Athanasius was allowed to return as Patriarch in 366 for the last 7 years of his life. Died 373.

9.30 am Mass

Sunday 3rd April

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Fr John Mullakkara RIP

6.30 pm Mass

Monday 4th St Florian of Lorch A Roman army officer in the 4th century who held an important administrative position in the northern area of modern Austria. He organised and trained an elite group of soldiers whose sole duty was fighting fires. During the persecution of Christians by the Roman Emperor Diocletian, Florian was hunted and gave himself up to the governor's soldiers. He made a bold statement of faith which resulted in him receiving a Roman scourging. He was then sentenced to be burnt at the stake. He challenged the soldiers to light the fire but they thought he had a way of putting it out with his skills in fire fighting. They decided to drown him and threw him from a bridge into the River Enns near its junction with the River Danube with a millstone tied to him. A woman recovered his body and gave it a Christian burial. It was eventually moved and is now in the Augustinian Abbey of St Florin in Lorch which is near Linz in northern Austria..

<p>10 am Mass Thanksgiving Mass for Elsa Joy</p>	<p>Tuesday 5th St Hilary of Arles Born in 401 in southern France to a pagan high class Roman family. A Christian in his youth. Left his honours and riches to join his relative St Honoratus in Lerins Abbey on an island off the coast which followed the <i>Rule of St Pachomius</i>. Hilary led a very austere life style. St Honoratus was made Archbishop of Arles. Hilary went with him to help him. Unfortunately St Honoratus died 3 years later. Hilary was appointed in his place as Archbishop at the age of 29. Known for his kindness and charity. Eloquent preacher. Presided over two Church Councils. Strengthened the discipline and orthodoxy of the Church</p>					
<p>NO MASS Due to use of Hall for Local Election</p>	<p>Wednesday 6th St Petronax of Monte Cassino He was born in 670 in Italy. Encouraged by Pope Gregory II he made a pilgrimage to Monte Cassino destroyed in 581 and joined the group of hermits. Petronax was elected the superior of the monks. He rebuilt the monastery which Benedict had founded and found his tomb in the rubble. Pope Gregory II gave him an autographed copy of <i>Rule of St Benedict</i>. He was known as <i>Second founder of the Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino</i>. He must have been a very holy man as he soon attracted many notable and famous monks including St Willibald from England, nephew of St Boniface, and St Sturm, founder of the Abbey of Fulda in Germany. He died on 6th May 750 aged 80 years old.</p>					
<p>NO MASS Due to use of Hall for Local Election</p>	<p>Thursday 7th St John of Beverley Born in Yorkshire in 7th century. Educated in the monastic school in Canterbury. Benedictine monk at Whitby Abbey double monastery ruled by St Hilda. Made Bishop of Hexham. Retreated at times to the countryside with companions to pray and meditate. Restored speech to dumb boy. Ordained St Bede as a deacon and priest. Appointed Bishop of York. Founded a monastery at Beverley near Hull in Yorkshire. He died on 7th May 721 and was buried there. Tomb became a place of pilgrimage. King Athelstan of the Anglo-Saxons prayed for victory in a battle in 937. King Edward I was a devotee and built a chantry in Beverley Minster in 1295 and later a shrine. In 1415 King Henry V won the Battle of Agincourt after praying to St John.</p>					
<p>NO MASS</p>	<p>Friday 8th Pope St Boniface IV Born around 550 in Italy. Benedictine monk. Appointed treasurer by Pope Gregory I. Elected Pope in 608 after 2 short term papacies. Problems of famine, plague, wars and natural disasters. Converted Roman Pantheon into Christian Church. Hosted Church Council to restore monastic discipline attended by Bishop of London. He still lived as a Benedictine monk and converted his home in Rome into a monastery. Died in 615 aged 65</p>					
<p>6pm: Confessions 6.30pm Vigil Mass</p>	<p>Saturday 9th St Pachomius the Great Pachomius was born in 292 in Thebes, present day Luxor, in Egypt into a wealthy pagan family. Aged 12 he was forced into the Roman army. Galley slave on the River Nile. Met Christians in port who gave help to the troops. Became a Christian. Seven years a hermit with Paloemom who taught him many building skills. Unlike the hermits of St Antony of Egypt, his monks lived in community in large settlements. Pachomius developed the first real monasteries with a strict <i>Rule</i> which defined monastic life. When he died in 348 aged 56 there were nine monasteries for men and two for women. His <i>Rule</i> influenced St Benedict in the West and St Basil in the East and later St Hilary of Arles in France during the 5th century.</p>					
<p>9.30 am Mass</p>	<p>Sunday 10th May</p>	<p>Sixth Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>Winston Eugene D’Cruze RIP</p>			
<p>PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS WHEN RECORDING NAMES FOR MASS INTENTION</p>						
<p>Your prayers are needed for the following people</p>						
<p>Ann Drumgoole</p>	<p>Hazel Sale</p>	<p>Mary Light</p>	<p>Trevor Delves</p>	<p>Pat Sweeney</p>	<p>Phil Boulton</p>	<p>David Keates</p>

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

No weekday Masses this week on Wednesday and Thursday due to the H[all being used for Local Elections.

Special Second Collection last weekend for the Clergy Training fund

The amount donated was £40.95 loose collection and £92,50 which attracted £23.23 gift aid giving a total of £156.58

Next SVP Social is this Wednesday 6th May – 1pm to 3 pm

Another opportunity to meet for refreshments and a chat. Come along with your friends. No need to stay for the whole time, a few minutes or 2 hours, whatever suits you.

Risk Assessment for Glass Breakage and Risk Assessment for suffering Violence

To comply with diocesan guidance and national guidelines the parish has undergone two risk assessments through the Fabric and Finance Committee organised by our administrator Lina Maria. These will be displayed in the porch.

Prayers are still needed for David Keates who is serious ill in hospital.

David, husband of Shirley, had a dizzy spell on Thursday 26th March and fell fracturing his skull, breaking his shoulder and some ribs. He was initially put into an induced coma in the high dependency unit in Southampton General. He is now fully conscious but cannot speak at the moment. He is responding to instructions but is expected to remain in the high dependency unit for some time.

Parish collection for last weekend 25th and 26th April

Parish Collection							Clergy Training Fund		TOTAL of all money
Parish Gift Aid Envelopes	Gift Aid	Parish Loose Collection	Direct debits, standing orders	Gift Aid	Total of Offertory Collection	Candle money	Gift Aid	Loose	
£72	£18	£151.67	£242.54	£51.98	£536.19	£36.26	£92.50	£40.95	£705.90