

# Parish of St Mary, Middlewich & St Margaret Ward, Holmes Chapel

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**Sixth Sunday of Easter, 17th May 2020**

Sunday	17th May	10.30am	<b>Stephen Barton b'day</b>
Monday	18th May	9.00am	<b>Birthday Ints.</b>
Tuesday	19th May	9.00am	<b>Terence Hopton, Anniv. St Milburga</b>
Wednesday	20th May	7.30pm	<b>NHS &amp; Care Workers</b>
Thursday	21st May	9.00am	<b>Mary Hannon b'day</b> <i>The Ascension of the Lord</i>
Friday	22nd May	9.00am	<b>John Stoneley b'day</b> <i>Dedication of the Cathedral</i>
Sunday	24th May	10.30am	<b>Lily Costello Anniv.</b>

**Sacrament of Reconciliation : On request in extreme need**  
**Sacrament of Baptism On hold until further notice.**

## Please Pray for

ALL who are sick at home and in hospital: Stephen Grey, Margaret McCallum, Sara O'Brien, Jamie Connor, John Bomford, Nathan Carter, Larry Porter, Gillian Robinson, Tim Bradbury, Roy Yearsley, Peter Hannon, Stan Rosiak, Sadie Everard, Alex Randall, Jenny Ogden, John Evans, Shirley Gaskell, Joan Upton, Karen Potts, Mary Morris, Michael McCluskey, Jan D, Margaret Scarlett, Fr Paul Hughes, Deacon Philip White, Martin Armitt, Fr Jim McGrath, Ursula Finn, Elaine Trower, Glyn Maddock, Vincent Fanning



ALL who have died recently.

ALL whose anniversaries occur at this time: Philip Gregory, James Moore, George Edward Fisher, Tom O'Connor, Rose Campbell, Patrick McCarthy, Mark McEnaney, Ivan Singleton, Thomas Thwaites, Mary Williams, Edward Horne Jnr., Mary Cecilia Lea, Cyril Cooper, Frank Clarke, Eileen Costello, Agnes Shackleton, Rev Gerald T Courell, Rev James Farrell, Rev John Brady, Rev Francis Yates, Rev Benedict Fenlon.

CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at [cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal](http://cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal)

## ONLINE MARRIAGE COURSES

Yet another night in? Make yourselves comfortable on the sofa after the children are in bed; a kind of a date-night. Sign up for FREE to explore the MARRIAGE COURSE by the team that created the Alpha Course. A 7-week programme designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage. [htb.org/marriage](http://htb.org/marriage). Also, Care for the Family offers 4 sessions .THE MARRIAGE SESSIONS [www.careforthefamily.org.uk/themarriage](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/themarriage) sessions

This is Christian Aid week. Holmes Chapel Ecumenical C A Group have set up a just giving page [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/holmes-chapel-ecumenical-christian-aid-group](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/holmes-chapel-ecumenical-christian-aid-group).

You can also donate at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CAWeek2020>

Dear Parishioners,

It is becoming increasingly obvious that it will be some considerable time before our parish life returns to "normal". Whilst we are all missing the support of our parish family, we are very aware of the power of prayer to unite us, as we pray for the physical safety and mental strength we all need at this time. As this Easter season continues, let us remain confident in our faith.

Fr Peter will be saying Mass privately in the church at the normal times so please join him in spiritual communion. Masses will be offered for the intentions requested on specific dates Any new requests for Masses should be put through the presbytery door. Fr Peter will put our daily Mass on St Mary's RC Parish Middlewich Facebook page. He will also put Exposition on there on Monday evening 7.00-7.30pm. You can also follow us on @stmarysparishmiddlewich. Thank you those who are tuning in and sending appreciative comments, it helps to make celebrating Mass alone a little less strange. There are various other ways to participate in Holy Mass. There will be live streams available from Shrewsbury Cathedral (details at <http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/live-masses>) Wythenshawe:<http://wythcc.co.uk/> and in our own deanery at St Alban's Macclesfield [www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/stalbanslivestream.html](http://www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/stalbanslivestream.html), also from several other parishes in the diocese. Go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy> for a **virtual children's liturgy each week**. Cafod also provide weekly learning resources if you follow the schools/youth tab on the site. You can also read all the prayers and scriptures for daily Mass at: [www.magnificat.com/free](http://www.magnificat.com/free) and the scriptures for Mass at: [www.universalis.com/mass](http://www.universalis.com/mass). Other useful sites: The National Catholic Shrine to Our Lady at Walsingham has a full broadcast schedule – including Mass, Rosary, Vespers, Exposition, Mass in Latin and even some talks. Visit its [Livestream area](http://www.livestreamarea.com). The producers of the Magnificat have kindly provided [complimentary access to its online version](http://www.livestreamarea.com) to help people follow the Mass and pray from home. The website, [www.ChurchPaper.co.uk](http://www.ChurchPaper.co.uk), contains over 600 editions of the many newspapers.

If anyone requires the Sacrament of the Sick, please ring the presbytery. It is not permitted to take communion to the sick, except in danger of death.

If you are aware of any elderly or self-isolating people who need help with shopping or picking up prescriptions please ring the presbytery as we have a list of volunteers who can help.

Thank you those who have put collection envelopes through the presbytery door. This week's envelopes yielded £345. If you have not received your envelopes you can put offerings in a plain envelope and write your number or name on it. If you have received your envelopes and wish to continue giving, but are not able to get the envelopes to us, please ring and let us know. If you wish to change to giving by standing order, either permanently or during the "no public Mass era," please see the information below. Thank you those who have already done this.

We would also ask that those of you who are able, continue to donate items for the Food Bank, as there will be more clients needing help as the crisis continues. Whilst church is not open, please use the collection points at supermarkets or search Middlewich Food Bank on line and tick the "donate" box.

Please pray for our Parish Community and for those affected by this pandemic and do not be downcast. Remember, "Jesus is risen, he is risen indeed, Alleluia"

Fr Peter, Deacon Tony, Deacon Chris

## Online giving to the Parish

For those Parishioners who normally give in the collection at Mass and wish to help the Parish at this time, an online donation page to allow you to donate to the Parish has been added to the Parish website. Please be aware that a minimum donation of £5 is requested if giving in this way. You can also Gift Aid your donation to help the Parish further. If you want to Gift Aid your donation, please tick the box shown on the screen even if you have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration form in favour of the Parish for regular giving made by Offertory Envelope or Standing Order. Thank you for your support.

If you wish to set up a Standing Order either permanently or in order to continue to make your regular Offertory giving to the Parish during the period when Mass is not being celebrated in public, please contact Ken Worthington on 01606 737070



**AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS**

Perhaps Bacon regretted the fact that he never got round to painting the cross, but I feel the paintings are more powerful for standing alone. This piece shines the spotlight on the viewers of the crucifixion, and allows us to examine this both alone and in relation to other grief in our lives. It is a bridge between the grief experienced by those who stood at the foot of the cross and the grief we all know, or will know eventually. Because we are all at the foot of the cross, whether or not we see a crucifix and whether or not we are paying attention to the Gospel story.

The piece, which is now in the free collection displays at Tate Britain in London, was created in a fortnight's burst of energy in 1944; it was first exhibited the following year, coinciding with the discovery of the horrors of the Nazi concentration camps and giving it a terrible, and topical, meaning. But its message is rooted in Bacon's own story as well as the wider events; his own rocky existence, punctuated by wild living and reckless drinking, meant he was experiencing the reality he was painting; later in his life, he said he only ever painted for himself, and in an attempt to work through the presence of violence and suffering in his own (but also everyone's) existence. None of his works does a finer job of achieving that than this piece.

**Mass text**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.**

**FIRST READING** Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

**PSALM** Psalm 65

**RESPONSE** **Cry out with joy to God all the earth.**

Or **Alleluia!**

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise. Say to God: "How tremendous your deeds!" **R.**
2. "Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!" Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**
3. He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod. Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. **R.**
4. Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul: Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Peter 3:15-18

**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** John 14:15-21

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.**

**Next Sunday's Readings:**

Acts 1:12-14  
 1 Peter 4:13-16  
 John 17:1-11



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**FRANCIS BACON, THREE STUDIES FOR FIGURES AT THE BASE OF A CRUCIFIXION**



**Divine images**



Joanna Moorhead looks at a striking work of modern art.

The first thing to say about Francis Bacon's crucifixion triptych is this: there is no crucifixion. No cross; no figure of Christ; no nails. No guards; no loincloth; no INRI. The word is that Bacon intended to paint, one day, the crucifixion to go above the triptych, but he never did. So the piece exists alone, a series of figures at the foot of the cross, but with no crucifix to be seen – despite the fact that Bacon was fascinated by the crucifixion as an image and as a symbol, and returned to it time and again throughout his career.

But what extraordinary figures these three are; and how much their presence reveals. Because their body language – and really, all they are is precisely that, body language – cries out to the heavens of their grief, their agony, their desolation, their suffering. Bacon has painted them against a burnt orange backdrop and there is something searing about that; the urgency of the colour emphasises the terrible vitality of the emotions. This is a tragedy so visceral that all it is is visceral: each figure betrays her or his grief in a different contortion, a different twist of the body, a different desperate lunge. The creature on the left is bent over double; the middle figure is blindfolded and open-mouthed; the form on the right is simply an ear and a screaming mouth.

What are we when we suffer so deeply? Bacon's figures are as animal-like as they are human; a timely reminder that we humans are animals too, and it is our animal instincts that come to the fore in the dreadfulness of grief. Loss is more than in the mind; it actually hurts to lose someone you love. You feel it in your heart, in your gut, in your lungs. You cry out with the pain; you are driven half-mad with the impossibility of it. There is nowhere to escape; and Bacon's figures have realised this, and are demonstrating it.

**17 MAY 2020**

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II