

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

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Pentecost Sunday, 31st May 2020

Sunday	31st May	10.30am	25th Wedding Anniv
Monday	1st June	9.00am	Veronica Barrett RIP <i>Mary Mother of the Church</i>
Tuesday	2nd June	9.00am	Paul Gary Upton b'day
Wednesday	3rd June	7.30pm	Medjugorje Group <i>St Charles Lwanga & Companions</i>
Thursday	4th June	9.00am	Special Int. EJ O L Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest
Friday	5th June	9.00am	Mothers' Prayer Group <i>St Boniface</i>
Sunday	7th June	10.30am	Rex Lloyd b'day

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, Vincent Fanning



ALL who have died recently, especially Ann Hitchcock

ALL whose anniversaries occur at this time: Rose Flynn, William Christall, Stephen Wormald, James Naughton, John Fahey, Catherine Smith, Alfred James Down, Elizabeth Arrowsmith, Paul Upton, Agnes Maria Battersby, Ann Goulding, Mabel Glover, Mary Helena Marmion, Julia Keating, John Entwhistle, John Brunner, Roger Hind, Thomas Shackleton, Initolod Lodziato, Joseph Worsley, Marie Woodward, Rev John Bramley.

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

As a result of a request from Pope Francis, a **Pentecost Sunday National Rosary Rally** has been set up, from 9.00am to 9.00pm across Scotland England and Wales. Our Diocese has been asked to pray a Rosary Hour at 2.00pm and I warmly invite you to take part. Bishop John Keenan will lead a final Rosary at 9pm to which all are invited.

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. Also, Care for the Family offers 4 sessions. THE MARRIAGE SESSIONS www.careforthefamily.org.uk/themarriage sessions

Dear Parishioners,

As we see lockdown restrictions starting to ease many people are wondering when we will be able to come back in to church. Cardinal Vincent and other faith leaders are working with the government on this and we hope to hear something soon. It is unlikely though, that we will return to "normal" in the near future but please God we will be able to open the churches for private prayer and eventually Mass & the Sacraments with some restrictions

What has been a great blessing is the way we have come together as a virtual parish. Fr Peter continues to stream Mass every day and Exposition on Monday evenings. Amy is posting Children's Liturgy each week, Ministers of the Word are recording readings for us to hear and so on. You can join us even if you don't have a Facebook account (just ignore or close the sign in box); simply type @stmarysparishmiddlewich in to a search engine. If you need any help please contact Deacon Chris who will try and talk you through it. The care group and clergy will be contacting as many of our more vulnerable parishioners as we can to check if they need anything. Fr Peter has already made some visits, speaking from just outside people's houses. If you know anyone that we can help please let us know.

If anyone would like to be prayed with or receive a blessing please do contact one of the clergy and we can do this on the phone or by video call.

There are also so many resources online now that it's impossible to list them all here but there is plenty to help deepen our spiritual life at this time. We particularly like the series "The Chosen" which can be found online or via app.

Thank you all those who have continued to support us financially, either by envelopes through the door or in the post, by standing order, or the new on-line giving. Thanks to you we are not one of the parishes having to be "rescued" by the Diocese. The envelopes for the past two weeks were counted this week and yielded a wonderful total of £1,302, including a generous cheque for £500. Thank you also for your on-going support of the Foodbank, Cafod, Christian Aid and Mary's Meals. We can only imagine the situation of the world's poorest communities affected by the pandemic. They need our prayers as well as our help.

Please pray for Cardinal Vincent and other Faith Leaders in their discussions with the Government.

"He lifts up the soul and makes the eyes sparkle; he gives health and life and blessing." Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 34:20

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

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

We have been asked by the Diocese to prepare for future opening of St Mary's for private prayer. In order to be part of the first wave of openings, we need to ask for stewards to be responsible for ensuring social distancing and cleaning door handles and benches etc after each visitor. Details later. Stewards must be under 70 and in good health. We are hoping to open (when allowed) on Monday and Thursday evenings, 7.00-9.00pm and Wednesday and Friday mornings 10.00am —12.00. If you meet the requirements and are willing to help for an hour, please email the parish office stating what time you could cover. Please be flexible if possible so that we can work out a rota

in the sacrifice. We are both above it and below it: our view is the view of the artist and the deity, but we are also the occupants of the solitary boat in the harbour below.



REVERED

In terms of its reception: on the one hand it's been slated as kitsch, on the other hand it's become the most beloved painting of an entire nation. In 2005, the work was voted Scotland's favourite painting; an interesting twist to a story that began with the controversial decision to spend city funds to buy the painting from its artist. The year was 1952, and the work was up for sale for £12,000; but when the director of a leading Glasgow museum, Kelvingrove Art Gallery, negotiated to buy it for £8,200, there was outrage – that money would, many believed, be better spent on providing exhibition space for Scottish artists. The purchase went ahead; and cleverly, the director had paid for the work's copyright as well as the painting itself, which would lead to it paying for itself many times over in the years that followed. The painting itself is now worth upwards of £90 million, although it is unlikely to ever be sold; some years ago the Spanish government decided it would like it back in Spain, and offered USD\$80 million. Unsurprisingly, since it had by then become the country's most revered artwork, Scotland refused.

In 1993 it was moved to the St Mungo Museum of Religious Life in Glasgow; but in 2006, when the Kelvingrove Art Gallery was reopened, it was returned – and today it's the most-viewed work in the gallery, and only rarely do you find it not surrounded by a small crowd of art-lovers.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 2:1-11

PSALM Psalm 103

RESPONSE **Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

Or **Alleluia!**

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are.
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. **R.**
2. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**
3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:3-7. 12-13

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL John 20:19-23

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**They were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Exodus 34:4-6. 8-9
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
John 3:16-18

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SALVADOR DALÍ, CHRIST OF ST JOHN OF THE CROSS

Like all the best Surrealist art, *Christ of St John of the Cross* was sparked by a dream. Its creator, the Spanish maverick Salvador Dalí, said later that he saw the image in his sleep, and that it represented "the nucleus of the atom". The nucleus was Christ, hanging on the cross, viewed from above – a God's-eye view, fittingly.



Dalí had the dream in 1950, and painted the scene the following year. What he cannot have guessed as he worked on it, however, was the place it would later occupy in the heart of Scotland – a nation he never visited. Because the story of the painting, and what happened to it once it was finished, is as surreal as anything else to do with it.

The painting, which also referenced a drawing by the sixteenth-century Carmelite mystic St John of the Cross, shows Christ suspended above the fishing village of Port Lligat in Spain, which was Dalí's home at the time. To get the figure right, Dalí employed a Hollywood stuntman to recreate the pose of Christ on the cross; the angle of the scene means there is no close-up on the elements of the crucifixion that are usually highlighted, namely the agony, the nails, the blood, the thorns. Some have criticised this element of it as "sanitised"; but the Spanish Dalí would have been more than aware of how many "suffering" paintings of Christ there were in his homeland alone. He seems to have wanted to do something different: to portray the scene devoid of its horrors, but making the sacrifice element centre-stage. And not just the sacrifice alone, but its purpose: Port Lligat was Dalí's everyday, and Christ's life and death are in the midst of everyone's everyday. Tragedy and ordinariness are side by side; and we see the beauty

Divine images



Joanna Moorhead continues this series looking at religious art.

31 MAY 2020

PENTECOST SUNDAY

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK I