

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

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Trinity Sunday, 7th June 2020

Sunday	7th June	10.30am	Rex Lloyd b'day
Monday	8th June	9.00am	Ann Hitchcock RIP
Tuesday	9th June	9.00am	Madie Devaney Anniv.
Wednesday	10th June	7.30pm	Theresa Coonan RIP
Thursday	11th June	9.00am	Eddie Blake RIP <i>St Barnabas</i>
Friday	12th June	9.00am	John Devaney b'day
Sunday	14th June	10.30am	Lou Costello & Ronnie Dickenson

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,



ALL who have died recently, especially Ann Hitchcock and Vincent Fanning

ALL whose anniversaries occur at this time: James Murphy, Philomena Hambley, Brian Sproston, Celia Dunn, John McLoughlin, Wilf O'Brien, Tony Evans, Madie Devaney, Martin Groarke, Francis Braniff, Frank McAleer, Rose McHugh, Mary Lannon, Peter McAleer, Patrick Leddy, Mary Hartley, Clarence Costello, Kay Hartley, Canon Joseph Quinn, Rt Rev John Brewer, Mgr John Williams

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

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

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

Deacon Chris will stream the Rosary every Monday at 6.30pm

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 last 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

We have just received from the Diocese official instructions on what is necessary 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. 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. **So far we have only 6 volunteers. As we have to have two present at all times we shall need at least 16, otherwise we shall have to reduce opening times.**

Fr Peter will stream Morning Prayer of the Church at 8.45 every Friday.

the same scale as the other figures – an indication from Masaccio that we ordinary mortals have a right to be in this scene. We can own our place at the foot of the cross, even if we are a little further from its base than the saints.

LIFELIKE

The fresco was much praised by the art historian Giorgio Vasari a century later: he called Masaccio the greatest artist of his generation, especially talented in the way he could paint nature and recreate lifelike figures. He mentioned, too, the artist’s lifelike use of 3-D, and it’s this effective use of perspective (Masaccio apparently drove a nail into the wall at the “vanishing point” of the picture, and worked out the positioning of the image from that) that earned him his place in art history.

Masaccio died just a year after completing this work, still in his twenties; had he lived longer and painted more pieces, he would have rivalled the greatest names of the Renaissance. Instead, his early death gives an extra poignancy to the scene at the very foot of this work in Santa Maria Novella: it shows a skeleton, and the words, in Latin, “As I am now, so will you be; as you are now, so once was I.” It’s a call to value life when we still have it, as well as a reminder to focus on the Trinity.



MASACCIO, HOLY TRINITY

One of the best-known depictions of the Holy Trinity is to be found on the walls of one of the Dominican churches in Florence, Santa Maria Novella, to the left of the nave. The painting is by an artist called Tommaso di Ser Giovanni di Simone, known as Masaccio – which may have started out as a nickname meaning something like “messy” or “clumsy”, in which case it could hardly, by the end of his life, have been less appropriate.

Born near Florence in 1401, Masaccio was probably apprenticed to one of the city’s workshops where he learnt his trade; and in 1422, aged twenty-one, he joined the artists’ guild there. Just five years later, he won the commission to produce a fresco for Santa Maria Novella, probably paid for by a local family called Berti.

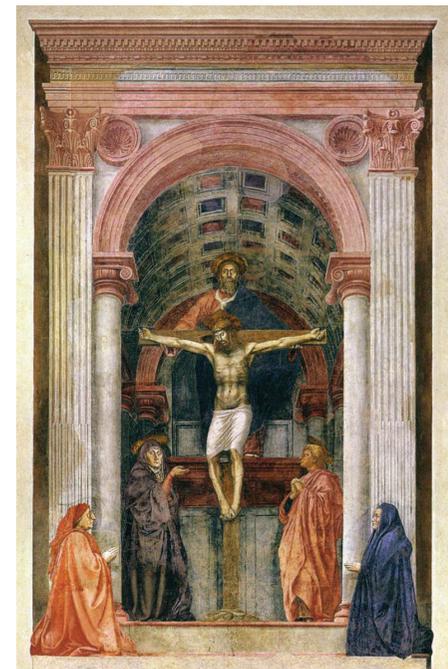
The subject for the painting was the Trinity, and Masaccio created a work like nothing else in the church, and entirely new in the Florence of the time. The painting centres on the three elements of the Blessed Trinity: God the Father is represented as an older male figure at the back of the painting, and his hands are holding the cross bar of the crucifix which is in front of him. His hands are touching the outstretched arms of his Son, who is shown dying on the cross – palms outstretched, nails protruding. Between the heads of God the Father and God the Son is what at first glance looks like a collar attached to the figure in the background. On closer examination, though, this is the Holy Spirit, in the shape of a white dove; the bird is swooping downwards, connecting the heads of Father and Son.

As well as the three divine figures, there are four fully human creatures in the piece: Mary the Mother of God and St John stand at the foot of the cross, and outside the main frame are two further figures who represent the donors who paid the artist’s bills. They are probably members of the aforementioned Berti family, although it’s been impossible to verify this. But whoever they are, they clearly represent not only the artist’s patrons but all of us; the ordinary folk who were not part of the immediate story within the frame, but are absolutely connected to it and should, like the two figures here, be attentive and tuned to it. Unusually, in a Renaissance painting of this era, the patrons are painted to

Divine images



Joanna Moorhead continues this series looking at religious art.



Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Blest be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love.

FIRST READING Exodus 34:4-6. 8-9

PSALM Daniel 3

RESPONSE To you glory and praise for evermore.

1. You are blest, Lord God of our fathers. **R.**
Blest your glorious holy name. **R.**
2. You are blest in the temple of your glory. **R.**
You are blest on the throne of your kingdom. **R.**
3. You are blest who gaze into the depths. **R.**
You are blest in the firmament of heaven. **R.**

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, the God who is, who was, and who is to come. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 3:16-18

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Since you are children of God, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

Next Sunday’s Readings:
Deuteronomy 8:2-3. 14-16
1 Corinthians 10:16-17
John 6:51-58

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