



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

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Diocese of Northampton

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29 th May 2022 Psalter Week 3	Seventh Sunday of Easter	
First Reading	Acts of the Apostles 7:55-60 <i>I can see the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	The Lord is king, most high above all the earth	
Second Reading	Apocalypse 22:12-14. 16-17.20 <i>Come, Lord Jesus!</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia, alleluia! I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy. Alleluia!	
Gospel	John 17:20-26 <i>May they be completely one.</i>	
Saturday 28 th May +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 29 th May +	10.30am	Mass – (Michael Tarrant RIP)
Monday 30 th May Bl Richard Newport, Martyr – op. memoria	10.00am	Mass – (Jack Robbins RIP)
Tuesday 31 st May THE VISITATION OF THE BVM - feast		No Parish Mass Today
Wednesday 1 st June St Justin, Martyr - memoria		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 2 nd June Ss Marcellinus & Peter, Martyrs – op. mem.	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Annie Tubman RIP)
Friday – 3 rd June Ss Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs – memoria	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Catherine Bott Int.)
Saturday – 4 th June Feria	10.00am 10.30am	Mass (Clare Archer RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
PENTECOST		
Saturday – 4 th June +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday – 5 th June +	10.30am	Mass – (Jack Robbins RIP)
So Eastertide Ends		

There is Second Collection this weekend for 'Catholic Use of the Media'

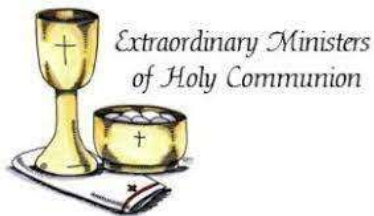


Platinum Jubilee Celebration

As you will know, this year Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be celebrating her Platinum Jubilee. To mark this very special occasion, we invite parishioners to join us for tea/coffee & cake after the **Sunday morning Mass next Sunday, 5th June** (Pentecost Sunday). If you would like to offer your help then please contact **Áine Cooper on 07714 347880**.

Prayer for the Queen

Almighty God, we pray,
that your servant Elizabeth, our Queen,
who, by your providence has received the governance of this realm,
may continue to grow in every virtue,
that, imbued with your heavenly grace,
she may be preserved from all that is harmful and evil
and, being blessed with your favour
may, with the royal family,
come at last into your presence,
through Christ who is the way, the truth and the life
and who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Bishop David invites all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to join him in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament on **Sunday 12th June from 3pm – 4pm at Northampton Cathedral**



Magnificat is a spiritual guide to help you develop your prayer life, grow in your spiritual life, find a way to a more profound love for Christ, and participate in the holy Mass with greater fervour. Magnificat is a monthly publication designed for daily use, to encourage both liturgical and personal prayer. It can be used to follow daily Mass and can also be read at home or wherever you find yourself for personal or family prayer. Further details, including how to subscribe, can be found on: <https://catholicerald.co.uk/magnificat/>



Blessed Richard Newport

Blessed Richard Newport was an English martyr, born at Harringworth in Northamptonshire.

He studied in Rome and was ordained priest in 1597. Returning to England, he worked in London for a number of years before being arrested and banished twice, but he returned each time. His third arrest was with Blessed William Scott. Both were hanged, drawn, and quartered at Tyburn for being Catholic priests.



St Justin, Martyr

Born of a pagan family in Nablus in Samaria at the beginning of the second century. He was a philosopher and on his conversion to the faith he wrote in defence of religion, though the only works now extant are his two *Apologies* and his *Dialogue* addressed to Trypho. He opened a school in Rome and he took part in public disputations. He suffered a martyr's death with his companions during the time of Marcus Aurelius, about the year 165.



Ss Marcellinus & Peter - Martyrs

The account of the death of these two martyrs, who died in the persecution of Diocletian, comes from Pope Damasus who in turn obtained it from the executioner. They were beheaded in a wood and then buried in the cemetery called 'The Two Laurels' on Via Labicana. When peace came to the Church a basilica was erected over their tomb.



St Charles Lwanga & His Companions - Martyrs

During the years 1885 to 1887 many Christians were killed in Uganda by the king Mwanga in hatred of religion. Some of those put to death served in the king's palace and some even were the king's personal attendants, and among these was Charles Lwanga and twenty-one of his companions, who were fervent Catholics. Because they would not acquiesce in the impure desires of their king some of them were killed by the sword while others were burned to death.

Reflection on the Sunday Readings

Acts of the Apostles 7:55-60

This reading fulfils a dual purpose. It reflects both on the position of Jesus after the resurrection, seated at the right hand of God, and on his first martyr, Stephen. These are the two inspirations of the life of the Church, here combined. The martyrdom of Stephen closely reflects the passion of Jesus: just as Jesus proclaims to the High Priest that he will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of the Father, so Stephen now sees Jesus standing at the right hand of God. This image to describe the glory of the Risen Christ is drawn from Psalm 110 (Greek 109). In other writings of the New Testament, e.g. the Book of Revelation, the exalted Christ shares the very throne of God: there is one throne and one godhead. It is fitting that on the Sunday before Pentecost these two inspirations of the life of the Church should be combined, for the Church relies upon this vision of the glory of Christ, and in that confidence, bears witness to the truth of the Gospel even to the extent of martyrdom, a word which in itself means 'witness'.

Apocalypse 22.12-14, 16-17, 20

The hope of a speedy second coming of Christ was especially vivid in the first generation of the Church. Paul envisaged (in 1 Thessalonians 5) that in his own lifetime Christ would appear 'on the clouds of heaven' in a triumphal procession, to be joined by those Christians who were still alive. The final words of today's reading may be translated either 'the Lord is coming' or 'Come, our Lord', depending on how the words of the Aramaic expression Maranatha are divided; in either case the expectation of Christ's return is vivid and pressing. In the later writings of the New Testament the accent has changed, so that 2 Peter 3.8 says that for the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and the stress is on the suddenness and unexpectedness of the final coming, 'like a thief in the night'. The coming of the Lord which, in today's reading, is to happen very soon is the coming of the Lord in the Spirit at Pentecost, for which we need to make ready and 'have our robes washed clean'

St John 17:20-26

The final chapter of Jesus's sayings at the Last supper is a prayer which both gives meaning to the sacrifice which Jesus is about to make and at the same time is a meditation on the Lord's Prayer. In today's portion Jesus speaks to his Father (also 'Our Father') with that perfect love which he will express most fully in his acceptance of torture and death on the cross. The story of the Crucifixion is not a story of rejection, but is the story of the most perfect union of Father and Son in love and willing obedience. It will make the Name, that is the love, of the Father fully known ('Hallowed be thy Name'). It will also grant Jesus that 'glory which he had before the foundation of the world' (Thy Kingdom come). But the kingdom is not complete without those who believe in Jesus and belong to him. The completion of the Kingdom is the work of the Spirit which is to come upon the Church at Pentecost. The story of its completion is, with all its twist and turns, its failures, its chastisements and its recoveries, the history of the Church.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Peace, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Edmund, Blessed Richard Newport, St Justin, Ss Marcellinus & Peter, St Charles Lwanga & Companions, pray for us all as we continue to bask in the joys of Easter.

With our love and prayers, Fr David and Deacon Peter