



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence  
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 Parish Secretary: Denise Wallinger  
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## Christus surrexit vere, alleluia

5 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 Psalter Week 2	Sixth Sunday of Easter	
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48</b> <i>The Holy Spirit has been poured out on the pagans too.</i>	
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.</b>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>1 St John 4:7-10</b> <i>God is love.</i>	
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>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!'</b>	
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>John 15: 9-17</b> <i>A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.</i>	
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Anthony &amp; Eddie Bagg RIP)</b>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Feria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass - (Raymond Whysall RIP)</b>
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Feria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May +</b> <b>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b> <b>Holy Day of Obligation</b>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b> <b>7.00pm</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Mass – (John McCarthy RIP)</b> <b>Mass – (Charlie Creed RIP)</b>
<b>Friday – 10<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>St John of Avila – Priest &amp; Doctor</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Requiem Mass – Sr Margaret Geraghty RIP</b>
<b>Saturday – 11<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>St Fremund – Hermit &amp; Martyr</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass – (Fr Brian Leatherland RIP)</b>
<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>		
<b>Saturday – 11<sup>th</sup> May +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>
<b>Sunday – 12<sup>th</sup> May +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Shirley Haggerty Ints.)</b>

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND – DIOCESAN SICK & RETIRED CLERGY**

## Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £481.94

DGP – £30.00

Average Standing Orders: £464.00

**Total: £975.94**

## Second Collection Next Weekend – Catholic Communications Network



### Sr Margaret Geraghty RIP

The Requiem Mass for Sr Margaret will be celebrated here at Our Lady's **this coming Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am**. Please pray for the repose of her soul and for her family, the Sisters here at St Joseph's and Burlington Hall and the wider community of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit. Requiescat in Pace.



## Month of May – Our Lady's Month

We begin the month of May which we dedicate to Our Lady. After every Mass, we will either pray the Rosary or say the Litany of Loreto.

I would suggest we pray for peace in the world – for the conversion of nations away from war to reconciliation and peace. It would be good also if families could come together in their homes to pray the rosary – this will be a source of great grace.

## Gardeners Diary



A very big thank you to everyone who supported Terry's 'Plant Sale' last Sunday – with over 120 plants up for sale, there were only 10 left! Once all the donations have been added up, we will let you know the final total which, as you know, will be sent to **Northampton Street Pastors**. Many thanks to Terry & Joan for all their hard work in putting this together. A reminder that there will be a sale of Summer Bedding Plants after Mass on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**.



**SVP Healing Mass** – SVP Healing Mass on the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SVP will be celebrated by Fr David on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> at midday and will be followed by lunch. It would help us with the catering if you could let us know if you will be joining us for lunch. Please add your name to the list at the back of the church. Also please let us know if you would like transport. Please contact either by phone on 07469 71 77 60 or by email on [veronicatarrant@aol.com](mailto:veronicatarrant@aol.com)



## CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

### Passing on the Faith

Many thanks to all who came to our last meeting and to those who provided tea and coffee. The next meeting will be **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm** in the parish hall. All welcome!

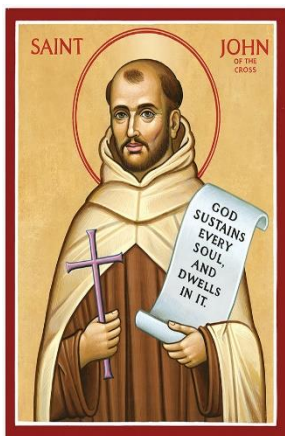


**THREE NEW BISHOPS!** - This week we welcomed the announcement of three new Bishops across England. For the Archdiocese of Birmingham, two new Auxiliary Bishops were announced and Bishop David sent congratulations to Mgr Timothy Menezes and Canon Richard Walker. Further to these announcements came the news that the Rev David Waller would be the next ordinary and first Bishop Ordinary of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. Please keep all three in your prayers as they prepare for their new ministry.

**Mass For Those with Additional Needs** - the next Mass for people with disabilities and their families will be on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 3.00pm** at Sacred Heart Church, Stopsley, Luton LU2 9 AY. (About 15 mins. from Junction 10 of the M1). Everyone welcome. Access to the Church is step-free, and there is ample parking. The Mass will be followed by refreshments.



**JUBILEE YEAR 2025** – as part of the Jubilee Year celebrations, Bishop David will lead a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. Whilst in Rome we will have the opportunity to pass through the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica, visit the other major Basilica's and sights in the city. We will end our pilgrimage in the town of Assisi. This pilgrimage will take place from **27<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025**. All are welcome and bookings. For more information visit: <https://northamptondiocese.org/rome-andassisi/>

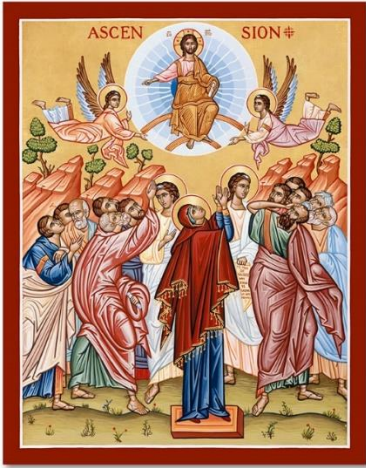


**St John of Avila** – was born in the Castile region of Spain, John was sent at the age of 14 to the University of Salamanca to study law. He later moved to Alcala, where he studied philosophy and theology before his ordination as a diocesan priest. After John's parents died and left him as their sole heir to a considerable fortune, he distributed his money to the poor. In 1527, he travelled to Seville, hoping to become a missionary in Mexico. The archbishop of that city persuaded him to stay and spread the faith in Andalusia. During nine years of work there, he developed a reputation as an engaging preacher, a perceptive spiritual director, and a wise confessor.

Because John was not afraid to denounce vice in high places, he was investigated by the Inquisition but was cleared in 1533. He later worked in Cordoba and then in Granada, where he organized the University of Baeza, the first of several colleges run by diocesan priests who dedicated themselves to teaching and giving spiritual direction to young people.

He was friends with Saints Francis Borgia, Ignatius of Loyola, John of God, John of the Cross, Peter of Alcantara, and Teresa of Avila. John of Avila worked closely with members of the Society of Jesus and helped their growth within Spain and its colonies. John's mystical writings have been translated into several languages. He was beatified in 1894, canonized in 1970, and declared a doctor of the Church on October 7, 2012.

## Reflection on the Solemnity of The Ascension



This coming Thursday, the Church will be celebrating the Solemnity of The Ascension - the ascent of Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after his resurrection. The Feast of the Ascension ranks with Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost in the universality of its observance among Christians and has been celebrated 40 days after Easter in both Eastern and Western Christianity since the 4th century. Prior to that time, the Ascension was commemorated as a part of the celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Just before the passion and suffering of Jesus, his friends and followers witnessed him being betrayed, denied and condemned.

They stood at a distance and watched him die a very public and humiliating death – some of them even deserted him. When they were told by some of the others that they had seen the Lord, they refused to believe them; they doubted. Eventually, after seeing the risen Lord for themselves several times, they believed that he had indeed risen from the dead. And now Jesus is preparing them for his departure and his return to heaven. The disciples thought they had lost Jesus once when he died, now they have to face the reality of life without him again – Jesus is leaving them – but he is not leaving them alone; he is not deserting or abandoning them. The reality is that he is going to be with them in a very personal and intimate way. In the Gospels, Jesus told his followers that he would give them another Advocate to be with them forever; *“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.”* John 14:26. Before Jesus takes his leave of them, he passes on and entrusts them with the responsibility of carrying on his mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel and of establishing the Kingdom of God. This ordinary group of men and women are the ones who were chosen by Jesus to be heralds and witnesses of the resurrection. Through their words and actions, the world will know that Jesus is alive and more alive and present than ever he was. As the earthly life of Jesus ends, theirs and our mission and ministry begins. Today that responsibility now belongs to us. The first friends and followers of Jesus are our ancestors and we are their descendants. It is now up to each of us in our way to carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus. Through us today, the world will know that Jesus is alive, present and active in our world. As Pope Francis says to each of us *“every Christian is a missionary to the extent that they have experienced the love of God in Jesus.”*

Even as we celebrate the solemnity of The Ascension, it is most important that we understand and believe that Jesus has not left, deserted or abandoned us. He is with us when we are able to gather together at the celebration of Mass; he is with us when we reach out to support one another with our love; he is with us in both the good times and bad times in our lives. As he tells us in the Gospel, *“Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.”* Matthew 28:19-20

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St John Avila, St Fremund, pray for us all as we continue to bask in the joys of Easter.

*With our love and prayers, Fr David, Fr Patrick, and Deacon Peter*