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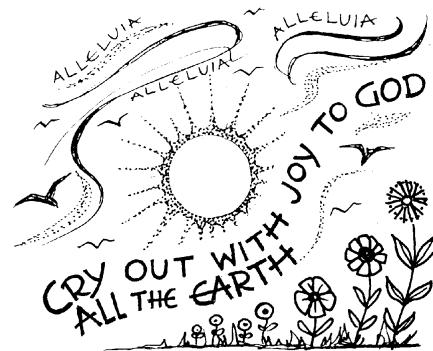
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## **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Saturday	13 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Caroline Roe RIP
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
		10.30 am	Ellen Louis RIP
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Julia Maguire RIP
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Canon Peter Phillips RIP
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Derek Green RIP
<b>Ascension Day</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	Burholt/Whibley Families RIP
		7.30 pm	Gerry Potter RIP
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Humphrey Niven RIP
Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Dollie Wessels RIP
Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup>	8.15 am	Kathleen Whelan RIP
		10.30 am	Elizabeth Ward & Family



**SATURDAY:** Reconciliation: 10.15 -10.45 am and 5.15 - 5:45 pm

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20

*Thursday is the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day of Obligation.*

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £340 Digital Collection: £ 130 Thank you for your generosity.

There will be a Second Collection this Sunday for the Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese (Gift Aid)

There will be a Second Collection next Sunday for World Communications Sunday

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Tony Kearney, Ella Doll, Paul Curd, Baby Thomas Dario Castanho (ill in a London Hospital), Lola Samengo-Meehan, Maureen House, Joan Wand, Samuel Bezants, Thomas Boylan. John Mayock, Terry Stanley, Glenn, Helena & Vittorio Villa, Peggy Gallagher, Lena, Ken Harvey, Sienna Coates, Chris Judge, Brian Caplin, Valerie Halley, Pat Duggan, Tony Grana, Sister Raymond, John Smith, Ian Threlfall, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gordon Milne, Alfred Deacon, Roni Horstead, Ronnie Tyler, Bill Hogg, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Melsen

**2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Jim Maloney, Sylvia Phillips, Isabella Ions, Olive Humphrey, Pat Lucey, Pouppy Baeza, V Rev Cn Desmond McCarthy, Kathleen Simmonds, Margaret Judges, Bert Copping. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

**3. WELCOME TO ANY VISITORS** to our Parish this weekend. We do hope that you have enjoyed your stay.

**4. PARISH CORONATION STREET PARTY:** Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make our Coronation Festivities such fun and so enjoyable. A weekend to remember.

**5. AN INFORMAL CONCERT** will take place in the Barn on Sunday 4th June after 10.30 Mass. Please support James Winton as he performs vocals (alongside William, Emily, Ruth and Cedric- whom will all perform some piano pieces) to raise funds towards James' role as a Young Helper in Lourdes this summer. No tickets required – just donations please.

**6. KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA RACE NIGHT**, with Fish and Chips Supper will be held next Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May at St Oscar Romero School. The KSC will be raising funds for Lourdes Red Shirts from St Oscar Romero School with this event. Please help them to achieve their goal to attend this year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. For tickets, price £9.00, please contact David on 07790 480356.

**7. MARY'S MEALS COLLECTION POINT** is one of the small boxes under the notice board to the right in the Front Porch. A cheque for £918.54 was sent to Mary's Meals this week. An amazing amount and will be much appreciated.

**8. PRAYER PARTNERS** please be at next Sunday's 10.30 am Mass to receive the Thank-You cards from your young Prayer Partners.

**9. PENTECOST VIGIL, ADORATION** will be held in the Good Shepherd Chapel on the afternoon of Saturday 28th May commencing after 6 pm mass and continuing overnight until morning Mass at 08:15. Come Holy Spirit. Any queries please contact Dermot or Jane-Anne on 07765403883/ 07999488326.

**10. GRANDPARENTS PILGRIMAGE TO WEST GRINSTEAD** will take place on Wednesday 14 June 2023 from 11am - 3pm. Bishop Richard looks forward to meeting all those of a more senior generation at our annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation at West Grinstead. Please bring your friends and a picnic for what is always a wonderful day of faith, friendship and recollection. For further information and to book, please go to the Diocesan website event calendar or click on the link: [Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead \(14-Jun-2023\) - ChurchSuite Events](#)

**11. THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP (TBNG)** is a missionary group from Bethlehem and will visit us next weekend 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> May to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood to help and support the poor Christian families. Any help you could give to them will be highly appreciated"

**12. EDGE YOUTH GROUP** will be meeting this Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May, in the Barn, from 6.00 until 730 pm. All young people 11+ welcome. Contact Niall for more information [nfarrell@stromeros.co.uk](mailto:nfarrell@stromeros.co.uk).

**13. TURNING TIDES WISH LIST** is appealing for the many items that they need. Coffee, Long-life Milk, Sugar, Cooking Oil, Small bottled/carton drinks/water, Cereal Bars, Biscuits, Snack Pots, Tinned meat/fish. Also Toilet Rolls, Washing-up Liquid, Washing Powder, Dish-washer Tablets, Deodorant, Shampoo and conditioner. Pot noodles Tinned ham, Corned beef, Soft fruit Custard, Long life carton of juice, Snacks and crisps, Toilet rolls, Anti-bac spray and cleaning sprays, Cleaning surface wipes, Dish cloths, Black sacks, Bleach. Also Small tents, Roll mats, Rucksacks and backpacks, Sleeping bags (nylon and shower proof), Shower resistant jackets, Mens Gloves, Thermal tops and leggings, Small/med/large hoodies and joggers, Bath towels Mens boxers and Women's briefs, Women's and Mens t-shirts, Single bedding - duvets covers. Many thanks to anyone who is able to help.

**FATHER LIAM SAYS:** Some years ago, placards would be seen on televised football matches just bearing three numbers: 3:16. This was to remind us of the message in John's Gospel: 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son'. I saw a comment on that – 'God cared enough to send the best'. Our faith indeed tells us that as far as God is concerned, nothing but the very best is good enough for us. Before and after Easter every year the Church mostly chooses readings from St. John's Gospel at our Sunday Masses.

John opens his gospel by reminding us that Jesus is the eternal word of God, who became man and lived among us so that we might have eternal life. Before he is taken from them, he promises his disciples: 'Peace I leave you, my peace I give you'. (14:27) When he is raised from the dead he says to the disciples: 'Peace be with you'.

The message of peace embraces the whole story of Jesus. We naturally hunger for peace in our hearts, in our families and peace between nations. We all agree about the beauty and value of peace but throughout history there is a sad lack of agreement about how peace comes. John wrote his gospel for people who were all too familiar with turbulence. They would have especially treasured accounts of how the disciples felt endangered by the waters of the Sea of Galilee. There is the account of a few friends of Jesus crossing that huge lake: 'It was already dark and Jesus had not yet re-joined them. A strong wind was blowing and the sea was getting up. When they had rowed four or five kilometres, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat. They were afraid but he said to them: 'Do not be afraid. It's me. Don't be afraid. They were glad to take him into the boat and it reached the shore at the place they were making for.' (6:17-21). He is telling them -for they are in the dark – that he indeed is Jesus, the one with whom they had been travelling around Galilee. But he may have been telling them far more than that. He may have been telling them 'It's me' but the Greek that John wrote in could also be translated as 'I am' – a translation that takes us back to Moses meeting God at the burning bush and God revealing himself as 'I am' or 'I am who am'. John likes to alert us to the fuller meaning of who Jesus is and what he says and does. Jesus was not just their everyday friend but the awesome God of all humanity.

Jesus and his disciples were familiar with the yearly miracle of the fresh green life of the vineyards. In the wintertime the vines were cut back and look miserable and almost dead. But then they put out fresh shoots and leaves and bear rich fruit. In John's gospel we hear Jesus speaking about our relationship with him as being like the branches growing out of a vine. When we live with Jesus and in Jesus we will be like these fresh shoots on vines, like those branches, full of life. With him and in him, it is always springtime. Rather than give us the parables of Jesus as other gospels do, the gospel of John places before us images that Jesus uses that illustrate the closeness of his relationship with us. In so many ways, John's gospel has a style all his own. We don't usually hear John's Gospel in Ordinary time but every year at Eastertide he is the conveyer of the Good News. He puts before us at great length Jesus' portrayal of himself as our Good Shepherd. 'Jesus comes so that we may have life and have it to the full'. (10:10)

The Easter Season is a prolonged celebration of the gift of life which we receive at Baptism and share in fully in the life to come. As we approach the Feast of Pentecost John reminds us that Jesus promised that he would not leave his disciples orphans. He himself would be with us forever and he would also send the Holy Spirit to continue to lead us. Only in the Fourth Gospel is the Spirit referred to as 'The Advocate', 'The Paraclete', 'The Spirit of Truth'. Even though Jesus will no longer be seen by the world, the bond between Jesus and his disciples is secured by the Spirit. 'Paraclete' – a Greek word – means 'someone who is called alongside'. He accompanies us. He journeys with us. We are a 'synodal' Church and we depend on the power of the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us.