



CATHOLIC CHURCHES
of
OUR LADY & ST. KENELM, HALESOWEN
OUR LADY OF LOURDES, OLD HILL

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(Part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No. 234216)



LITURGY FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

TIMES OF MASS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 27th	Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Easter	6.30pm H	Special Intentions
Sun 28th	Fifth Sunday of Easter	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Vince Duggan (1 st Anni) Peter Ash (1 st Anni)
Mon 29th	St Catherine of Siena	No Mass	—————
Tues 30th	Easter Feria	10am OH	Carolyn Kearney (Anni)
Wed 1st MAY	Easter Feria	12noon H	Rani Jose (R.I.P)
Thurs 2nd	Easter Feria	9am SCH 12noon OH	Celebrant's Intention
Fri 3rd	Ss Philip and James	12noon H	Celebrant's Intention
Sat 4th	English Martyrs Vigil of Sixth Sunday of Easter	10.00am H 6.30pm H	Celebrant's Intention Pam & John Woods (R.I.P)
Sun 5th	Sixth Sunday of Easter	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Pro Populo Joseph Dao and Maria Hue (R.I.P)

MASS INTENTIONS to Father Stefan please

Masses marked H will be at Halesowen, OH will be at Old Hill

Confessions

There will be an opportunity for Confessions at Halesowen from 10.30 am (After Saturday 10am Mass) until 11am. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during confessions.

Confessions are also available by appointment.

Second Collection

On the weekend of the 12th May, there will be a second collection for Catholic Communications.

On the weekend of the 19th May there will be a second collection for parish maintenance fund (H) and Parish Debt (OH).

First Friday Friends with the SVP

Parishioners friends and supporters are invited by the SVP "First Friday Friends" for a coffee and chat in **St John the Baptist Church** in the town centre between 10.30am - 11.30am on Friday 3rd May.

APRIL Anniversaries

Remember in your prayers these deceased members :

Doris Watkins, Sarah Jane Lord, Graham Evans, Ursula Capp, Patrick Breen, Laurence Smith, Stanley Letts, Bernard Felton, Reg Welch, William Daniels, Alan Morris, David Taylor, Frank Summers, Ina Jones, Eileen Simpson, Mary Gale, Alfred Shields, Dorothy Price, Vincent Allen, Walter Simpson, Monica Evans, Fr. Peter Heath (former PP), Ian Colston, Vince Duggan (1st Anniv) and Peter Ash. (1st Anniv)
May they rest in peace.

Gift Aid (GA)

New Envelopes for the tax year 2024/25 are now available for collection this weekend. Make sure you look for your name rather than box number as you may have been allocated a new number!

OLSK only – Standing Order Donors, if you would also like to have a box of 2nd collection GA envelopes, please see or email Emma

As a reminder, it is vital you let us know if you are no longer a tax payer and/or you move address so we can update our records for processing to HMRC

Please get in touch for any gift aid queries / updates / questions to:

Emma for Halesowen parish via email: ga.olstkenelm.halesowen@rcaob.org.uk or

Helena for Old Hill parish via email: ga.olol.cradleyheath@rcaob.org.uk

Diocesan Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 11th May

There is a coach leaving for Walsingham on Saturday 11th May from Our Lady and All Saints Stourbridge. There is parking at Stourbridge if you wish to go. For more information and to book a place, please contact 01384 395308 or olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk.

The cost for the coach is only £10 per adult and children free, due to a generous donation from a parishioners at Our Lady and All Saints. and will be leaving Stourbridge at 7am. (and if enough people say they want to go from here then there could be a pickup!)

There will be mass at 1.30pm and at 3pm there will be a procession to the Priory ruins in the village and will conclude with a time of prayer at the site of the Holy House.

More information about how important our Lady of Walsingham is to us and our country can be found at www.walsingham.org.uk

Old Hill Foodshare

There is a great need of - **cereals, sugar, toilet rolls, toiletries, detergents along with tinned fruit, tinned fish and tinned meat.**

Cost of living worries?

If you are worried about grocery bills the SVP can help thanks to funds raised from national charitable foundations. For a confidential discussion, please contact SVP Conference President Mike Weaver (call or text on 07714 287867) or Vice President Jane Clarke or Secretary Roy Williams or Father Stefan.

Reflection for Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 9:26-31; Psalm 22; 1John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8

Christian life is a profound communion with Christ, the true vine, and with his body the Church. Anyone who is not united to him through faith and love (Second Reading) is no longer alive with the divine life, nor serves any purpose (Gospel). Those who remain united to Christ learn to reproduce his way of life in themselves and are fruitful, thus building up the Church.

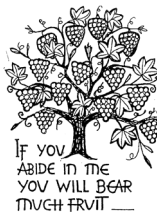
Being a member of the Church is something much more profound than simply subscribing to a series of doctrinal statements. It is a question of an internal communion of each believer with Christ, such that the life flowing through the trunk (Christ and the Church, his Body) and the members is one and the same. It is the life of the children of God, communicated to us in baptism, and by virtue of which "we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission" (CCC 1213).

The allegory of the vine reveals the common bond uniting all Christians brought about by baptism. "Baptism constitutes the foundation of communion among all Christians, including those who are not yet in full communion with the Catholic Church ...the sacramental bond of unity existing among all who through it are reborn" (CCC 1271).

Hence it is not surprising that God's command is not only "to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ", but also "to love one another" as Jesus himself taught us (2R). There is no limit to this love, but it should embrace first of all our Christian brothers and sisters – including non-Catholic Christians - who are part of the one Vine with us. A love reduced to fine words is not what the Apostle is proposing, but one that is rooted in a sincere appreciation of the other ("in truth) and is expressed "in deeds".

The Spirit is like the soul that unites the whole living organism of Christ. The Church, his body, is the "the place where the Spirit flourishes", according to a saying of the Fathers of the Church quoted by the Catechism (749): contrary to those Christians who seem to think that the Church extinguishes the Spirit. "The Fathers know best". A gardener scratches the bark of a branch to see if the green of life appears. "Scratching" a Christian, then, we know he remains united to the vine if the Holy Spirit is present in him. This we can verify if he is producing "the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23), all of which are aspects of that cordial spirit of a lived and embraced communion with Christ and his Church.

Unlike trees, Christians who have the misfortune to lose the sap of divine life through sin can return to life through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



(continued)

More important, however, is nourishing and strengthening that life through the Sacraments, prayer and the exercise of Christian charity. The Eucharist is the most privileged source in which we can seek to strengthen our unity with the Vine.



God is the Father and divine Gardener who cares for the vine, and is constantly stripping the branches of excess growth that stops them bearing fruit. That excess growth is evident when we are dedicated to adding surplus fat to our body, our spirit, our wallet, or our self-conceit. God's intervention may come in the form of illness, disappointments, personal or business failures, and adversities of many other kinds. We are tempted to protest at his intervention: it is painful. In fact, we often fail to recognize what he is doing at all; "how can God allow this to happen to me?" But only if we accept it, even to the point of thanking him for it, will our lives overcome the sterility that threatens them and bear the rich fruit he has destined them to.

We will be most fruitful if we become real disciples of Christ by learning to love as he has loved us. If we express it in deeds – which ones? – it will be a visible sign of our belonging to him and a vivid invitation to others to join us.

Shelagh, Fr Stephen



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: You, Lord, are my praise in the
great assembly.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Make your home in me, as I make mine in
you.
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

I am the true vine and you are the branches,
says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears
fruit in plenty, alleluia.

The Parishes operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady and St Kenelm is Shelagh Ash. Shelagh can be contacted at: sg.olstkenelm.halesowen@rcaob.org.uk. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady of Lourdes is Nadine Hancox. Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding @rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.