



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

14th May 2023

WHO NEEDS MIRACLES?

In the familiar parable of Lazarus and the rich man there is a tendency, at first sight, to think of it simply as a warning to the complacent rich, but the real crux of the message lies in its ending: the rich man asks for a sign, a messenger from the dead to warn his brothers, so that they may not end up in hell like him. Abraham replies *"If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will be unbelieving still, though one should rise from the dead."* (Luke 16:19-31) In a similar way, Jesus again referred to his own death and Resurrection when some Pharisees had asked him for a sign and he had replied: *"An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah."* (Matt. 16:4) In both cases Jesus was well aware that even his own Resurrection, the greatest of all his miracles, would make no impression on those who did not and would not believe. Earlier, Jesus did few miracles in his own country, *"because of their unbelief."* (Matt. 13:58)

It is often asked why God does not manifest himself more clearly by performing some great miracle so that all can see and therefore believe but we know from the history of the Israelites that he did just that, time and again, and still they lapsed in their faith. Likewise, among the many miracles Jesus worked while on earth, some were evidently demonstrations of his power intended to show his Divine authority and even these had absolutely no effect upon those who refused to believe.

We too need to bear this in mind because, as we see in today's reading from the Acts about St. Philip, miracles did not suddenly stop after the Ascension but continued then and still continue into our own time. They have come in many different forms and many different purposes that may not always be clear to us, but we should always respect and try to understand those miracles that the Church has authorised.

Over a thousand years ago, at Lanciano in Italy, a priest saying the words of consecration at Mass found the host turning into flesh and blood. As with all miracles, those who were inclined to believe, believed, those who were not, disbelieved. The 'wise' have been encouraged to laugh at such medieval credulousness but, as God gave the miracle so he gave science the ability to

investigate it and to discover that this was indeed real flesh and blood that had not decayed in all those centuries and that it was the still-living heart tissue of a man in agony. These facts remain inexplicable to science. Other very recent Eucharistic miracles, such as that at Buenos Aires in 1996, investigated at the request of Pope Francis, have been found to have the same composition and the same blood group.

Miracles are gifts from God to his people that testify to some truth. We may not always be certain of what that truth is because we cannot know the mind of God. The Eucharistic miracles, that have happened at many times and places all over the world (including in England), may have been intended to shock doubters among those present, or to awaken the half-hearted, or to warn the irreverent. We can at least be fairly sure that he is teaching all of us that what we receive at communion is truly the body and blood of the crucified Christ himself, physically present with us in the Mass and not simply in some spiritual sense. Therefore, it behoves us to conduct ourselves before him and to receive him with all due reverence, even more than if *"a great worldly prince would visit us in our own house,"* as St. Thomas More put it whilst awaiting his own death. That was the hope of the young Blessed Carlo Acutis who compiled the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition, a selection from which is presently mounted on the windows of the church.

The Eucharistic Miracles exhibition will be taken down after the Feast of Corpus Christi in four weeks' time, so please take this opportunity to look at some of these miracles before they are removed. By Brendan King

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT

Jesus will not leave us alone. He won't make us children of God in Baptism only to leave us "orphans," He assures us in today's Gospel. He asks the Father to give us His Spirit, to dwell with us and keep us united in the life He shares with the Father. We see the promised gift of His Spirit being conferred in today's First Reading. The scene from Acts apparently depicts a primitive Confirmation rite. Philip, one of the first deacons, proclaims the Gospel in the non-Jewish city of Samaria. The Samaritans accept the Word of God and are baptized. It remains for the Apostles to send their representatives, Peter and John, to pray and lay hands on the newly baptized—that they might receive the Holy Spirit. This is the origin of our sacrament of

RC HOSPITAL

CHAPLAIN: John O'Neil. Please call the Chaplaincy office at the Lister Hospital Contact Tel: Mobile: 07876 526935 Lister 01438 285518,

FOR ALL GENERAL PARISH ENQUIRIES

CONTACT: Parish Office: Tel: 01462 893127

CHURCH HALL HIRE:

Please contact parish office 01462 893127

BAPTISM

PREPARATION: For further information please contact the parish office on 01462-893127 .

RCIA COURSE: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults programme consists of

regular weekly meetings; if you would like to find out more please speak directly to Fr. Denis.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL is our Catholic Parish Primary School.

Parish families are welcome to visit and have a tour of the school. Contact the School Office or the Head teacher, Mr Tom Timson 01462 892478 The school website is <http://www.stjohns4.herts.sch.uk/index.html>

NEWSLETTER

Please submit items for inclusion, preferably by Tuesday evening, by either emailing the parish email address (baldock@rcdow.org.uk) or handing them to Fr. Denis. Thank you

VATICAN NEWS

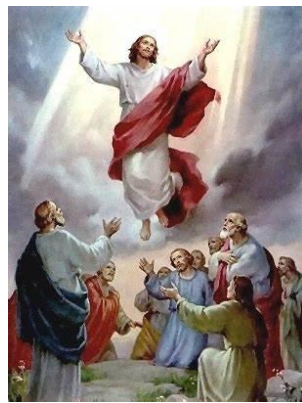
Remember that you can keep up with all the latest news from The Vatican at the Official Vatican Network www.news.va/en.

Your SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

have responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people, and adults at risk. Please Contact: Patricia Cusack & Colette Murphy Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Confirmation, by which the grace of Baptism is completed and believers are sealed with the Spirit promised by the Lord. And strengthened in the Spirit whom Jesus said would be our Advocate, we are called to bear witness to our salvation—to the tremendous deeds that God has done for us in the name of His Son. Put to death in the flesh, He was brought to life in the Spirit, Paul tells us today. And as He himself promises: “Because I live, you will live.”

A PRAYER ON THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION



Lord Jesus, you became man and came to live among us. For love of us, you suffered and died for us. Because, you are God, you conquered death and rose on the third day. Today, you return to your Father and our Father, but you promised to remain with us till the end of time, and to send us the Holy Spirit. We rejoice and thank you, Lord Jesus. Come Holy Spirit, purify and transform us, Kindle within us the fire of your love. Amen.

Readings in Parish Mass Book 268

CHURCH CALENDAR

OPEN AIR MASS

Our Parish community can celebrate Mass together outside on 2nd July at 10.30 am, followed by a BBQ.

MEN'S GROUP: Men of the Parish are welcome to come and join our regular Men's Breakfast sessions. These take place once a month on a Saturday morning with tea/coffee and a Danish served at 8.30am. We finish at 10.30am. Come along and meet friends old and new. Upcoming dates are 20th May and 10th June. See Richard M or John B for more details.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:



We pray for the sick in the parish especially, Fr. Philip Law, Maraid Kirk and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently, Ken Woodruff, Fr. Peter Maher, Patrick Heffernan, Pasquale Mani and those whose anniversaries are at this time: Vincenza Luggeri; Elsie Smith; Peter Jones; Peter Davey; Frederick Szymiczek; Francesco Picillo; Walter Picking; Michael Madigan; Daniel Barrett; Theresa Biggins; Michael Harrington; Mary Morrissey and Pietro Micele.

Sat 13 th	6.30pm	Tony Callaghan RIP
Sun 14 th	8.30am 10.30am	Claire Targett
Mon 15 th	10.00	Douglas Houghton RIP
Tue 16 th	10.00	Jan Hedges
Wed 17 th	10.00 7.30pm	Vigil Mass of the Ascension of the Lord
Thu 18 th	10.00	The Ascension of the Lord Private Intentions
Fri 19 th	No mass	

Please note that mass intentions as set out above may not always be read out, but the intention is offered.

Holy Hour: Saturday 5.15 - 6.15 pm

Confessions: Saturday 5.45 - 6.15 pm

Or by appointment with Fr. Denis.

Family Mass: 1st Sunday 10.30 am

Fr. Denis is still celebrating the Vigil Mass online at 6.30 pm every Saturday night & Sunday Mass at 10.30am. All are accessible through the Parish Facebook page: **Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Canterbury**. For more information, please go to the Parish website. **THE WEDNESDAY WORD IS AVAILABLE VIA** <http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>