

NEWSLETTER

7th SUNDAY
EASTER**John 17: 1-11**

Our Gospel account from John is part of the farewell discourse by Jesus at the Last Supper. Whenever I read this passage I am in a privileged moment, as Jesus speaks to his Father. I allow the words to resonate within me as I read slowly Jesus' words. He is asking the Father to protect those who belong to him and he is asking the Father to protect me too. I am assured the prayer of Jesus for me will be answered. It gives me confidence that I can rely on this prayer at every moment in my life. I am surrounded in protection by this prayer of Jesus and I can sit quietly with this assurance.

Jesus wants the Father to show a sign to his disciples before his death that God was with him, and he was doing the Father's will, even to the cross, and he wants me to have eternal life and it is to know God and to know Jesus. As I grow in my knowledge of God I get a glimpse in the eternal life that Jesus promises. Each time I pray I thank God for the light I have within me, and for the quiet revelations and for the personal revelations He has given me. The letters AMDG is an invitation to live Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam, to the greater glory of God. My whole life, my words, deeds, and actions should reflect God's glory and my whole being should sign out AMDG.

Jesus was given authority overall, and we see how he chooses to exercise that authority. I have to reflect on how I have used authority. I have to ask forgiveness for those times I haven't used or ask for his help. Because Jesus' mission was to reveal in human form, the immense love, and mercy of God, in all circumstances, for all mankind.

The love and mercy are most evident when we see Jesus responding with love and mercy to be betrayed, rejected, scourged, and crucified. The message is evident that nothing can separate us from his love and mercy. He reveals the inner nature of God, that all evil of mankind is transformed in the heart of Jesus crucified.

I have to gaze upon the cross and reflect what he endures to convey the infinite mercy and love of God. 'By his wounds, you have been healed' (1 Peter 2: 24).
Fr. Christopher

Dear Friends in Christ,

I thank you for the way in which you have been resilient in your faith. Keeping up and deepening your prayer. Thank you, for following the Mass through live streaming or online. Thank you for the care you have shown in inquiring after others and even helping with doing the shopping. Thank you from me, for the many calls and emails asking after me and doing the shopping for me.

It's now important to think about what you are learning about this time of lockdown and I am sure that some of you are doing that already as we have a lot to learn such as solidarity and coming together as a community. Volunteering in joining the various parish groups and other activities which some of you are doing already and I thank you.

In this strange time, I invite you to take the opportunity to identify the various aspects that you would like to lose. We have heard of the new normal that could be positive for us and we should think about that too!

You might have heard that the Government is taking steps to open places of worship and we pray that it wouldn't be long when we can all gather to participate in Holy Mass which is the Source and Summit of our faith.

I thank you all once again and May God bless you all. Do continue to keep me in your prayers.
Fr. Christopher

MASS INTENTIONS**May 23, 2020**

6pm - Ints of the Clergy of the Diocese

May 24, 2020

11am— People of the Parish

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

The church remains closed but masses continue to be offered behind the closed door.

Parish Office remains open.

Please, contact us in case of any problem caused by the lockdown. We got a team of healthy people ready to help.

Spiritual Communion

Jesus!

My God and my All
my soul longs for thee.

My heart yearns to
receive thee in

Holy Communion, come, O
Lord.

Bread of heaven and food of
angels to nourish my soul
heal my body and to rejoice
my heart

come most lovable friend of
my soul,

to inflame me with such love
that I may never again be ever
separated from thee. Amen

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading; Acts 1: 1-11

Psalm 46: 2-3, 6-9, response v 6

2nd Reading - Ephesians 1; 17-23

Gospel – Mathew 28; 19-20

1st Reading; Acts 1: 12-14

Psalm 26:1, 4, 7-8, response v 13

2nd Reading - 1 Peter 4; 13-16

Gospel – Mathew 17; 1-11

Eternal Life

Writing to a cardinal of her day, Saint Catherine of Siena said that a 'bellow', that is to say, so loud a roar should be uttered over the body of Holy Church as would awaken the sons lying dead within her. (the saint shared the popular notion of her times that lion-cubs were born dead and the father-lion brought them to life with his powerful roar). I do not know what the word was that Saint Catherine in her day thought ought to be shouted over the body of Holy Church. But I know the word that ought to be shouted today to wake up those of her children who have fallen asleep.

The word is 'Eternity!' This is the shout of Christian awakening: the word that, like the plough-share, can open the furrow for a new sowing of the Word...

The dogma of Christ 'true God and true man' can help us in this task by restoring our courage and the freedom of faith that we need for setting about shouting 'Eternity, eternity!' to the people of today. For only faith in the divinity of Christ can make the word 'eternity' a concrete possibility offered to human beings, the very task of life, and not, as it would otherwise be, a mere category of thought or a vague 'yearning for the Totally Other...'

If Christ was born for me, if he became the new human being for my sake, If he sanctified himself for my sake (cf Jn 17:19), If he died for my sins, it follows that these events involve me directly, that they have a meaning that I ought to accept and imitate in my own life.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa

The days between the Lord's resurrection and his ascension

The days between the Lord's resurrection and his ascension, my dear brethren, did not pass away to no purpose: great mysteries were established in them, and great truths revealed.

During these days fear of the horror of death was taken away, and the immortality of the body, as well as the soul, was made known. During them, the Lord breathed on all his apostles and filled them with the Holy Spirit; and to Saint Peter more than other apostles, he entrusted the care of the Lord's sheepfold, having already entrusted to him the keys of the kingdom.

It was during this time that the Lord joined the two disciples as their companion on the road; by rebuking them for their timid and fearful hesitation he dispelled the darkness of doubt from all our minds. Their enlightened hearts received the flame of faith; cool before, they glowed when the Lord unfolded the scriptures to them. As they ate with him, their eyes were opened in the breaking of bread-opened much more happily to the revealed glory of our nature than were the eyes of the first members of our race who were filled with shame at their sin.

Throughout this time between the Lord's resurrection and ascension, my dear brethren, the Lord in his providence fulfilled one purpose, taught one lesson, set one consideration before the eyes and hearts of his followers: that the Lord Jesus Christ, who was truly born, truly suffered and truly died, should be recognised as truly risen.

The apostles and all the disciples had been filled with fear by his death on the cross, and their faith in the resurrection had been hesitant, but now they gained such great strength from seeing the truth, that when the Lord went up to heaven, far from feeling sadness, they experienced great joy.

Indeed they had a great and mysterious cause of rejoicing. For in the sight of the vast company of the blessed, human nature was exalted above the dignity of all the creatures of heaven, passing beyond the ranks of the angels, being raised above the high seat of the archangels, to receive an elevation that would have no limit until it was admitted into the eternal Father's dwelling, to share the glorious throne of him with whose nature it had been united in the person of the Son.

Pope St Leo the Great

The Lord's ascension increases our faith

The Lord's resurrection filled us with joy on Easter Day; so too his ascension into heaven is the cause of our gladness now, as we commemorate and solemnise the day on which our lowly nature was raised up in Christ above all the host of heaven, above all the ranks of the angels, beyond the height of all the heavenly powers, to the throne of God the Father. We were founded and built on this succession of divine acts, so that the wonder of God's grace might become even greater; for, though everything that seemed to move us to the due reverence is removed from our sight, our faith remains constant, our hope firm our charity warm.

This is the strength which is given to great minds, this the light of truly faithful souls, that unhesitatingly they can believe what they cannot see with the eyes of the body, and direct their longings beyond the range of their sight. How could this devotion be born in our hearts, how could anyone be justified by faith, if our salvation were to be found in those things alone which are open to our gaze?

The visible presence of our Redeemer passed over into sacraments; so that faith might be more noble and firmer, it is grounded now not on sight but on doctrine.

The hearts of those who believe follow this doctrine by a light that comes from above. This faith, which was increased by the Lord's ascension and strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit, could not be dismayed by chains, by prison, by exile, by hunger, by fire, by the claws of wild beasts, or the cruel and ingenious torments of persecutors. All over the world not only men but women, young boys, and gentle girls fought for this faith, even to the shedding of their blood. This faith cast out devils, drove away sickness, raised the dead.

The apostles themselves, though on many occasions they had been strengthened by our Lord's miracles and instructed by his words, still panicked at the atrociousness of his passion, and only after some hesitation accepted the truth of his resurrection. But his ascension wrought such a change in them that whatever before had been a source of fear now became a source of joy for them. They fixed their minds on Christ's godhead as he sat on his Father's right hand. The evidence of their eyes no longer held back their mental vision from contemplating this truth, that the Son descended from his Father without leaving him, and ascended from his disciples without departing from them.

For the Son of man, dearly beloved, was revealed more perfectly and more solemnly as the Son of God once he had returned to the glory of his Father's majesty, and in a mysterious way, he began to be more present to them in his godhead once he had become more distant in his humanity.

Then faith gained deeper understanding and by a leap of the mind began to reach out to the Son as the equal of the Father. It no longer needed contact with Christ's bodily substance, by which he is less than the Father. For though the glorified body remained a body, the faith of believers was being drawn to touch, not with the hand of the flesh but with the understanding of the spirit, the only-begotten Son, the equal of his Father.

Pope St Leo the Great

The Solemnity of Pentecost

Dear Friends in Christ,

In this particular time and circumstances as we reflect on the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Cardinal Vincent Nichols has made available a video online at <https://vimeo.com/421046273> and on the diocesan website. You will notice that the Cardinal asks that, across the diocese, priests, and laity participate, from our homes, in a short vigil of prayer next Saturday. . There is no specific time or format for this: It's important that many of us as possible engage positively to the Cardinal's invitation. Also, a meditation on Pentecost, based on Christian art, will be available in the next few days via the diocesan website as a way to help us in this time of prayer.



[Cardinal Vincent Nichols on Pentecost](https://vimeo.com/421046273)

In this message recorded on the Ascension, the Cardinal offers a reflection on the days leading up to Pentecost during this time of lockdown, and encourages everyone...

vimeo.com



Little Sisters of the Poor
Caring for the elderly - inspired by our faith

EMERGENCY APPEAL TO SUPPORT CARE HOME STAFF AND RESIDENTS

The Little Sisters of the Poor have launched a vital fundraising appeal, in response to the increasing pressures faced by St Anne's Care Home during the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.



The Little Sisters of the Poor are a charity committed to providing safe accommodation and professional care for vulnerable older people, and in these unprecedented times, our staff and volunteers are going above and beyond to make sure that this high quality care continues.

However, due to the recent Government restrictions, St Anne's Care Home in Stoke Newington has been forced to implement emergency measures to aid efforts to fight the Coronavirus pandemic. Unfortunately, along with residential visitations, this also includes cancelling charity events and collections which has had a massive impact on the donations we rely on to help with our increasing running costs.

We are appealing for your crucial support at this uncertain time, to help us safeguard our Home and meet the ever-evolving needs of our Sisters, staff and residents. Your crucial donations will enable us to purchase extra essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves, sanitising gel, eye protection, face masks, visors, safety clothing, and chemical cleaning products to ensure we can continue to comply with all health and safety regulations. Another very high expense we are faced with at this moment, is the continuous use of Agency Staff to ensure staffing levels remain adequate at all times.

Make a Donation

All donations, no matter what size, will be very gratefully received and will make a real difference to the lives of our vulnerable elderly residents. Cheques made payable to 'Little Sisters of the Poor' or PPE supplies can be sent to; **St Anne's Home, 77 Manor Road, Stoke Newington, London, N16 5BL**. Alternatively, you can make a secure, online donation, by visiting our website at www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/

Thank you so much.