Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

5th Sunday in OT (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Ps 94:6-7

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:7-10

Then will your light shine like the dawn.

PSALM: Ps. 111:4-9. R.v4

R) The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. **(R)**

The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **(R)**

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. **(R)**

SECOND READING:

I Corinthians 2:1-5

During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus Christ as the crucified Christ

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jn 8:12
I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-16

You are the light of the world.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Cf. Ps 106:8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

VOCATION

PRAYER FOR MARRIAGE:

Lord God you call many of us
to be husbands and wives, parents,
and children, in youth and old age,
in sickness and in health.
You call us to love and holiness.
Help us be a living image of you,
and bring life to the world.
Amen.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



We do not hear the commandments mentioned in today's Gospel passage; nevertheless they are there by implication. Our Lord is giving his listeners, the adopted children of his Father, the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are blessings on and encouragement to live, ways of behaviour which lift the commandments high into the life of the Spirit, the life of God. The commandment states, *"You shall not steal"*; the beatitude, *"Blessed are the poor in spirit"*. The commandment states, *"You shall not kill"*; the beatitude, *"Blessed are the peacemakers. Blessed are the merciful."* The commandments establish what will make for a just and peaceful society on earth and those who keep the commandments are already the 'salt' and 'light' of the world. Yet those who live the beatitudes bring the light and joy of Heaven down to earth. They follow the true 'Way', the way of the Son of God that in union with the Son unites the adopted children with their Heavenly Father, ensuring the continuity of life on earth with future life in Heaven.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



III. THE COMMON GOOD AND PEACE IN SOCIETY

TIME IS GREATER THAN SPACE

223. This principle enables us to work slowly but surely, without being obsessed with immediate results. It helps us patiently to endure difficult and adverse situations, or inevitable changes in our plans. It invites us to accept the tension between fullness and limitation, and to give a priority to time…. Giving priority to time means being concerned about initiating processes rather than possessing spaces. Time governs spaces, illumines them and makes them links in a constantly expanding chain, with no possibility of return. What we need, then, is to give priority to actions which generate new processes in society and engage other persons and groups who can develop them to the point where they bear fruit in significant historical events. Without anxiety, but with clear convictions and tenacity.

The Sacrament of the Present Moment*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE PRESENT MOMENT

God's will is the heavenly bread that nourishes the angels. It is the sacrament of the present moment – life's NOW.

And where can we find this treasure? It is there for us everywhere and always because the present moment is always with us. In whatever our life consists the will of God is present, coming to us moment by moment. Holiness is not something strange, difficult to find or far away. Holiness is in the here and now of our own life. No one needs directors, methods, rules if they follow this path.

Some people take pleasure in exercising control over others, while these others are always seeking advice. All this is unnecessary. If we look at the Old Testament the will of God was evident in all that happened in the lives of the Patriarchs and Prophets. There were no spiritual directors then. God was the only director through the events of a person's life. It is the same for us. Holiness is simple, not complicated. Holiness is right here. Holiness is in life's NOW.

*Jean Pierre de Caussade's Self-Abandonment to Divine Providence for everyone by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard and published by New City ISBN: 978-1-905039-11-1

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THE GOD WHO SPEAKS. A YEAR OF THE WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 9TH FEBRUARY 2020

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	Eric Hopkins (RIP)
Sunday	9.00am	
Monday 10th February	11.45am	St. Scholastica, Virgin
Friday 14th February	11.45 am	Ss. Cyril, Monk & Methodius, Bishop
Sunday 16th February	**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	Suzy S. Intentions.
Sunday	9.00am	

Confessions are available after Saturday evening Mass and on request.

We offer our prayers and condolences to the family of Eric Hopkins who died last week.
The funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday 18th February at 12.00pm at St. Thomas More Church, Wheathampstead

Please remember in your prayers: Sick; Nigel Clark, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt, Mary Jones, David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin and Diane Boba.

Please remember in you prayers this week in The Churches Together List the residents of:
Mansdale Road, High Street, Crouch Hall Lane, Flamsteadbury Lane, Pondsmead, Beechfield Close, Caddington Common, Cowper Rise, Harps Hill, Old Vicarage Gardens, Sebright Road, Chad Lane , Hollybush Lane, Priory Orchard and Wood End Farm.

St. Albans Abbey Gateway Orchestra will be performing a charity concert at St. John Fisher Church, Redbourn, on Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm. Tickets, adults £10 and children under 16 £5, are available after all Masses.

Coffee Morning Rota for 2020. This is a once a month community gathering.
We need more volunteers, especially for July & August.
Please add your name to the list on the table at the back of the Church.

World Day of Prayer takes place on 6th March at 11.00am at the Methodist Church.
This year the service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Zimbabwe.

The Churches Together In Redbourn
Sunday evening services during February.

9th February 6.30pm	Methodist Church
16th February 6.30pm	St Mary's Church
23rd February 7.00pm	St. John Fisher

Throughout the year 2020, the Catholic's Bishop Conference of England and Wales will be celebrating a Year of the Word called ***The God who Speaks.*** This special year marks not only the 10th anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini,* The Word of the Lord, but also the 1600th anniversary of the death of St. Jerome, known for translating the Bible into Latin, the Vulgate.

This Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday; there will be a collection after Mass next weekend.