

Church of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in Old Town, Stevenage



Parish Priest of THE COMBINED STEVENAGE PARISHES: **Fr Michael Doherty, SDS**,
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(24/7 urgent need 01438 314333) via text message 0788 418 7463
Archbishop's Safeguarding Service Co-ordinator: Confidential phone numbers:
01582 712245 or 07814 879129
Parish Safeguarding Representative: John Sloan 01438 226857 / 0790 013 8371 and
email address john@sloan.me.uk.

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Divine Psalter: Week 2
26th May 2019

- 25th Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday
5.00: Mass
- 26th Sunday:** 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
9.00: Mass
- 27th Monday:** ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, Bishop
9.30: Mass
- 29th Wednesday:** Pope Saint Paul VI
9.30: Service of the Word
- 30th Thursday** THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
Holy Day of Obligation
9.30: Mass
- 31st Friday:** THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
9.30: Mass
- 1st Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday
4.30-4.45: Confessions
5.00: Mass
- 2nd Sunday:** 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
9.00: Mass

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Sunday Reading Cycle: Year C  
Weekday Readings: Easter Season  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
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Fr Brian writes...

Ascension Thursday. Holyday of Obligation.

The Church asks us to attend Mass on this important solemnity to remember the return of Jesus to the Father. Masses are as advertised at the back of this newsletter.

Background on this Sunday's the Gospel Reading.

John 14:23-29. Jesus promises his disciples that the Father will send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. This section of chapter 14 sums up some very important themes for us: the Christian's life is not shaped by Jesus' absence but by God's abiding presence; God's presence overcomes anxiety about God's absence; and the present holds in it the seeds of a fresh future shaped by love, not fear. The verses of this chapter also contain a glimpse of some other theme: Jesus' relationship with the Father and the disciples' relationship to Jesus connect the disciples to the Father as well. Jesus promises to send an Advocate or intercessor who will remind the disciples of everything that Jesus taught them and bring them peace. Jesus is preparing his disciples in advance for his absence, that is, his return to the Father at the time of the Ascension, so that they will continue to believe in him and not feel all alone after his return to the Father. After the initial excitement of his Easter appearances, Jesus will remain with his followers in a very different way throughout the centuries. As our celebration of the Easter season is coming to an end, the liturgy reminds us that Jesus remains with us through the Holy Spirit, who teaches us everything we need to know, reminds us of all that Jesus taught, and brings us peace.

A weekly extract for our reflection from the Catechism of the Catholic Church. What is the plan of God for man?

God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. In the fullness of time, God the Father sent his Son as the Redeemer and Saviour of mankind, fallen into sin, thus calling all into his Church and, through the work of the Holy Spirit, making them adopted children and heirs of his eternal happiness.

Parish Secretary in the office next week

Tuesday 8:45-11.30am, Wednesday 8:45am-12noon &
Friday 8:45am-1:00pm

If your enquiry is urgent please email the Secretary
stevenageoldtown@rcdow.org.uk
(email accessed daily)

**ASCENSION THURSDAY, MAY 30TH
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

MASSES FOR THE 3 STEVENAGE CHURCHES

9:15am St Joseph's
9:30am Church of the Transfiguration
7:00pm St Joseph's
8:00pm St Hilda's

**Stevenage Male Voice Choir Concert
on Sunday 9th June at 2:30pm
at All Saints Church, The Oval, Stevenage**
Tickets £5.00 (which includes light refreshments)
All Proceeds to SCIMP
For tickets contact Cris on 01438 237117
or pay on the door on the day.

SACRISTANS:-

Saturday 1st : Mary Canavan
Sunday 2nd : Paula Osmond
Cleaning Rota : Lisette Humphris, Bessie Dias,
Evita Fajardo & Emilio
Please see Cleaning Instructions on cleaning cupboard door
Linen for June : Evita Fajardo

WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S NEXT WEEK

Wednesday 7:00pm, Thursday 9:15am & 7:00pm &
Friday 9:15am

WEEKDAY MASSES AT ST HILDA'S NEXT WEEK

Monday & Tuesday 9.30am & Thursday 8:00pm

THANK YOU FROM THE DONOVAN FAMILY

The Family of Nancy are sincerely grateful to the Priests and Parishioners for all their prayers and support in our time of great loss. The offers of help, and messages of condolences, during and after the funeral period, were greatly appreciated.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for all your intentions. With much love and regards,
Patrick Donovan and Family.

THY KINGDOM COME: 30TH MAY – 9TH JUNE 2019

Pope Francis encourages us all to pray, "that the Holy Spirit might enlarge and widen our hearts". Pledge to be part of this global movement to 'light up the world' with prayer at www.thykingdomcome.global and find ideas and resources for ways to pray, as an individual, family and parish. Join with Bishop Paul and Churches Together in Herts and Beds for the Launch of Thy Kingdom Come 2019 at the Coptic Cathedral in Stevenage at 7.30 pm on 30th May and at the Beacon Event at St Albans Cathedral on Sunday 9th June at 6.30 pm. Prayer in the Lady Chapel at St Albans Cathedral every evening from 8pm including Adoration

of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at 8 pm on Friday 31st May. All are welcome.

Please take a leaflet from the bookshelf.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

Rehearsal takes place on Saturday 8th June at 9:30am.
First Holy Communion Gifts and Cards on sale from the tray on top of the organ.

NO PRAYER GROUP IN MAY

ASCENT GROUP

The Ascent group meet every Monday 1:30-3:0pm in the Church for prayer and friendship. **All welcome.**

IRISH NETWORK, STEVENAGE

Are looking to help and support older members of the community with their Phones, Computers, how to use WhatsApp, how to send text messages, Facebook, Messenger, Instagram etc? To enable older members of the community to keep up with the ever expanding digital world. Please get in touch with Karen at the INS office 01438 725400 to book for a 1:1 appointment.

WHO CARES? RESPONDING TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH – WEDNESDAY 29TH MAY

Caritas Westminster invites you to an evening of practical suggestions for how your parish can respond to the environmental crisis. There will be contributions from local and national organisations including CAFOD, CaFE, the Felix Project and more. The event will be on **Wednesday 29th May, from 6:30pm-8:30pm**, with refreshments from 6pm, at **Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London, SW1P 1QN**. To get your free ticket, email caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk, call 020 7931 6077, or search the event title on Eventbrite.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AND MASS REGISTRATION

Children's Liturgy for children from Reception to Year 6. All children from **Pre-School Age to Year 6** should sign in for Mass. **The sign-in sheets can be found on top of the organ.**

It is **IMPORTANT** that you write your child's name on the sheet each time you attend Mass with your child. **Please only sign if your child is with you at Mass.**
The sign-in sheets can be found on top of the organ.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY

Evangelisation: That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.