



Marple Bridge



*I will make you
fishers of men.*

The Catholic Community Newsletter
for the parishes of
St Mary and **The Annunciation**
Marple Bridge and New Mills
with




New Mills

Ss. John Fisher & Thomas More
Chapel-en-le-Frith (serving Tideswell)



*God's Servant
first*

Clergy of the parishes
Fr. Kevin Gradwell (Tel 01298 813491)
Deacon Don Lavery (Tel 07928 540884)
2 Horderns Road, Chapel-en-le-Frith, High Peak SK23 9ST

Email: chapelrc@hotmail.com  Twitter: @ChapelRC Emergency Contact: 07919374997

SUNDAY 24RD MAY 2020

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We pray today:

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of
the human race is with you in your glory,
may experience, as he promised,
until the end of the world,
his abiding presence among us.

Who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.



Jesus prayed:

Father,
I pray that they may be one
as we also are one

Need a Priest in the High Peak? 01457 620272 Fr. Martin & Fr Daniel are on-call

NRCDDT (Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust)
Registered Charity Company No: 7151646 Charity No: 1134449
Registered Office:
Willson House, 25 Derby Road, Nottingham NG1 5AW

Safeguarding Representative:
Dr. Sue Thornhill (C-e-l-F) 01298 74322
Mrs Jo Barber (NM)
Kate Hunt (Contact on 07979 376933 or via the Presbytery)

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

The Spirit of Prayer and Praise

Christ prayed in the Spirit; and the Holy Spirit is the source of the prayer and praise of the whole Church. As we await the celebration of the Coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, we remember that the Spirit of God is resting on us as we offer our sacrifices and praise today.

To live a full human life, we must live it not just with others but through others. This is why the true well-being of a society is measured by trust, which is a vital component of love. Christ in his fullness of love departs from this world in the supreme act of trust. Since then, his life is lived through our faith and hope in his presence.

FIRST READING ACTS 1:12-14

All joined in continuous prayer

When the Lord seemed to depart, the disciples turned to prayer, and Jesus was still there.

SECOND READING 1 PETER 4:13-16

It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ.

Just as we find healing in hospitals, so the early Christians found freedom in imprisonment, the true freedom in Christ.'

GOSPEL JOHN 17:1-11

Father, glorify your Son

Christ is the true priest, and there are many ways of sharing in his priesthood.

SEEING LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPEL

(A slightly different format this week)

Some years ago, when I was teaching 'A' Level Ethics, I was asked the question: 'What is the difference between Ethics and Morals (morality)? The only answer that I could come up with which I thought might provide an insight – one for the General Paper and one for the Christian Paper, was ... "The Ethical Person KNOWS that they should not cheat on their marriage partner; the Moral Person just WOULD NOT cheat on him or her.

The Ethical Person can have studied all the great philosophers throughout history and put what they have discovered into practice as to how they live their life; or, just follow the example of Mum and Dad or people they admire. Ideally, all Christians should be moral people: as educated as the Ethical Person but inculcated with the scriptures; the life of Christ and writings of the Early Fathers; whilst living, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, what the Church teaches ... but again, they could just follow the example of Mum and Dad or people they admire.

It depends from where you start: for example 'All men are made equal', 'Do to others what they have done to you'; or 'God made me to know him, love him and serve him in this world and be happy with him in the next'. Reason, logic and imitation should then take over.

Who is the most moral person you have come across or read about?
How have they altered your life?

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

MONDAY 25TH MAY ... ST BEDE THE VENERABLE; PRIEST AND DOCTOR

He was born in the north of England, near the monastery of Wearmouth.

He joined that monastery, and spent all his life there or at Jarrow, teaching and writing. He was the outstanding ecclesiastical author of his time. He wrote commentaries on Scripture; an ecclesiastical history of the English people, which is a unique and irreplaceable resource for much of early English history; and the first martyrology (collection of saints' lives) to be compiled on historical principles.

He was also the first known writer of English prose, though this has not survived. He died at Jarrow on 25 May 735: he taught and worked until the last moments of his life, which are narrated by Cuthbert in today's Office of Readings. He is venerated as the "light of the Church" in the Dark Ages, and as a forerunner of the 8th and 9th century renaissance of the Western Church.

TUESDAY 26TH MAY ... SAINT PHILIP NERI

He was born in Florence in 1515. At the age of eighteen he went to Rome, and earned his living as a tutor. He undertook much-needed charitable work among the young men of the city, and started a brotherhood to help the sick poor and pilgrims.

He was advised that he could do more good as a priest, and was ordained in 1551. He built an oratory over the church of San Girolamo, where he invented services, consisting of spiritual readings and hymns, which were the origin of the oratorio (tradition is a good thing; but innovation also has its place). He continued to serve the young men of Rome, rich and poor alike, with religious discussions and by organising charitable enterprises. He had a particular care for the young students at the English College in Rome, studying for a missionary life and probable martyrdom in England.

He inspired other clergy to emulate him, and formed them into the Congregation of the Oratory. Oratorian foundations still flourish in many countries today. He died in Rome in 1595.

St Philip Neri was an enemy of solemnity and conventionality. When some of his more pompous penitents made their confession to him (he was famous as a confessor) he imposed salutary and deflating penances on them, such as walking through the streets of Rome carrying his cat (he was very fond of cats). When a novice showed signs of excessive seriousness, Philip stood on his head in front of him, to make him laugh. When people looked up to him too much, he did something ridiculous so that they should not respect someone who was no wiser – and no less sinful – than they were. In every case there was an excellent point to his pranks: to combat pride, or melancholy, or hero-worship.

Laughter is not much heard in churches: perhaps that is to be expected... but outside church, Christians should laugh more than anyone else – laugh from sheer joy, that God bothered to make us, and that he continues to love us despite the idiots we are. Everyone is a sinner, but Christians are sinners redeemed – an undeserved rescue that we make even less deserved by everything we do. It is too serious a matter to be serious about: all we can reasonably do is rejoice.

Very many of the saints, not just St Philip, have an abiding terror of being looked up to. For they know their imperfections better than anyone else, and being revered by other people is doubly bad. It is bad for the others, who should be revering God instead, and for themselves, because they might be tempted to believe their own image and believe themselves to be worthy.

We are not saints yet, but we, too, should beware. Uprightness and virtue do have their rewards, in self-respect and in respect from others, and it is easy to find ourselves aiming for the result rather than the cause. Let us aim for joy, rather than respectability. Let us make fools of ourselves from time to time, and thus see ourselves, for a moment, as the all-wise God sees us.

MASSES INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday	June Pell RIP
Tuesday	Marie Marrell RIP
Wednesday	Sona Patel RIP and all the family (JP)
Thursday	Ann Alinson RIP (MC)
Friday	Fr Joseph Duggan RIP & Fr John Mack RIP

OUR PRAYER LIVES

Most of you will know that we have two Deacons in our deanery, Deacon Don gets his name at the top of every Newsletter but you may not be familiar with the other. Deacon Owen LeBlanc from Hadfield was recently invited to St. Peters in Hazel Grove where he gave a talk on prayer.

We all need help with how to pray because after a while we get into a rut and cannot truly say that we are offering our 'minds and hearts to God'. Some of us go on retreat to refresh our batteries but, here, Deacon Owen has provided us with a golden opportunity to bring ourselves back onto an even keel.

If you haven't already, (I've seen it twice now and was thinking of pinching it as a homily) take a look now while you have some free time You can find it by visiting <https://www.churchservices.tv/stockport> and scroll down the page to find the 'recordings' tab, in due course you will find Deacon Owen's talk there.

ROSARY RALLY RELAY, 31ST MAY 2020

"It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view. For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow." - Pope Francis Letter on the Month of May

In response, a May Rosary Mission, co-hosted by the London Rosary Shrine, the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, Carfin Grotto in Scotland, & Rosary on the Coast is arranged for this year.

As a culmination to this Rosary Mission, Mgr. John Armitage, the Rector at the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, would like to invite each diocese to take part in a simple initiative – a Rosary Relay on 31st May 2020. Each diocese has been asked to encourage their people to pray the Rosary either individually, or where possible in small family groups, during a designated hour. **The Diocese of Nottingham has been asked to pray the Rosary at 10am on the 31st May, Pentecost Sunday.**

The Shrine at Walsingham has been involved, for several years, in a similar Rosary Relay which links all the Marian Shrines throughout the world. That Relay takes place on the Feast of the Sacred Heart and its focus is on praying for priests and an increase in vocations. For the Relay on 31st May 2020 the focus would be on promoting the praying of the Rosary at Home and encouraging people to pray the Rosary each day, at a certain hour, and especially during the current Coronavirus pandemic.

BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES STATEMENT ON “OUR PLAN TO REBUILD” THE UK GOVERNMENT’S COVID-19 RECOVER STRATEGY

I am grateful to Bishop Patrick for the following.

In light of the recent Government announcements and documentation, may I share with you the Bishops of England and Wales initial response.

“The Timing and the manner of the opening of churches touches profound sensitivities and spiritual needs. The Government's document and statements fail to recognise this.

The Government's position, established today, includes these steps aimed at opening churches as soon as possible: the establishment of a task force for places of worship, to work closely with 'stakeholders' in ensuring that premises are COVID-19 secure; and heeding the experience of other countries in which churches are already open for worship. In dialogue with the Government, the Catholic Church will continue its engagement in this process and has already submitted a detailed plan, in full accordance with public health guidelines, for churches to be opened for private prayer. The Church is ready to play its full part in the task force, understanding that this includes the possible earlier use of churches for private prayer, as a first step towards their use for public worship.”

A link can be found: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/catholic-bishops-respond-to-governments-lockdown-easing-plans/>

Those who correspond with you about their frustration about churches being closed are invited to write to their MP. You are welcome to pass that advice on to your parishioners, and clergy may similarly write to their MPs, of course.

*** Well a few people have been enquiring of me ... and I have decided to share the Bishop's message with you all ...(JKG)

JOB VACANCY - DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Diocese of Nottingham seeks to appoint a Director of Communications to work with the Bishop of Nottingham and the Parishes, Chaplaincies and Schools of the Diocese to lead the development and implementation of an effective communications framework across the Diocese, promoting the Diocesan Vision and Mission and the three themes of Encounter, Discipleship and Missionary Discipleship. This would suit a committed Catholic with a strong track record in communications; an experienced media professional (or journalist) who has recently been involved in leading communications in a dispersed organisation. Salary: £45,000 - £50,000 dependent on qualifications and experience.

For more information and an application pack please email: office@dioceseofnottingham.uk

Closing date for all applications is the 22nd June 2020 and the Job advertisement

AROUND THE TWO PARISHES:

NEW MILLS:

Today (as I began writing the newsletter) I received the following:

Our Lady Statue Wanted !!

The children at St Marys school, New Mills, are creating a prayer garden, Dedicated to Our Lady.

They would like a statue of Our Lady, in blue robes, suitable for outdoor use, around 80cms high..

To place in this area - Have you got one spare which you'd like to donate?

If so, please contact Joe Hennigan

For the Golden Oldies ... 80cm is about 2ft 6inch

And this brings me onto ...

When the Grotto was repaired and refurbished, a lot more plaster was added to the wall; so much so that the large statue of Our Lady which previously stood in the niche is now too large to be put back in this place of honour to which the smaller statue of St Bernadette gazes up.

It had passed through my mind that the larger statue might go on a plinth, outside, close to the entrance of the Parish Hall and the small statute currently on the ground in the grotto might go in the niche – observations, please

MARPLE BRIDGE:

It would appear that a number of minor works are required both in the buildings and around the grounds. Approaches have been made to a number of local tradesmen but each would appear to be restricted in what they can accomplish during the pandemic restrictions.

Watch this space.

AND FINALLY:

Well ... there is no real 'and Finally' this week other than to ask that you keep Jacqueline Patel of New Mills, and her family in your prayers as they come to terms with Marnie's Grandma, SONA PATEL, who died on Monday 18th May 2020 aged 78 years. May she rest in peace.

May almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for all,

Fr. Kevin