

**Ascension
Year A Psalms Wk 3**

Entrance Antiphon: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? this Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all the nations; I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Thy Kingdom Come: A global wave of prayer 25th May – 4th June

Thank you for signing up to pray. There were three slots remaining when I looked on Thursday 25th. A fantastic response. It is such a simple idea, that we should all be connected in prayer, from our own homes or places of work,

Cardinal Vincent Nichol encouraged everyone to take part in this simple act of unity. He said ‘To have a week of prayer for Christian mission is just a wonderful thing. Please do join in before Pentecost, this drive to pray together for the gift of God’s spirit for our mission. We know how rich Pentecost is in the life of the church from its very beginning. That richness can be ours too - if we ask God for it.’ The **Archbishop of Canterbury** declared, ‘I cannot remember in my life anything that I’ve been involved in where I have sensed so clearly the work of the Spirit.’

The Tombola Times

The inward flow of a great variety of items for the Tombola is gathering pace. Cuddly toys have begun to seek our attention. We have written to all the businesses of Clare to ask for their kind support in this 25th year; the response is encouraging and we will keep you informed. The donations bottle has had a recent transfusion. Thank you for your generosity and interest: just over a month to go!

New life for garden implements

The Clare Priory team of volunteer gardens are asking for donations of old garden tools. They will clean and refurbish them and hope to have them for sale at their stall at the Craft Fair.

So please turn out any surplus spades, forks, trowels, rakes, shears etc. and leave them by the back door (near the Parish Room) of the Priory.



Mother of Good Counsel, Clare Priory

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Augustinian Friars Diocese of East Anglia

Ascension

Missal Page 449 (Old book, 261)

28th May 2017

Returning to God.

We are born in exile and die there too.
As soon as we set sail on the great voyage of life,
we begin our return.
We spend our lives dreaming
of a homeland we have never seen.
Like homing birds that are released in a strange country,
and know no rest until they return home,
so it is with us.
When we die,
we do not so much go to God as return to him.
You have made us for yourself, O Lord,
and our hearts will never rest until they rest in you.

THOUGHTS FROM AUGUSTINE

Head in Heaven, Body on Earth

Ascending into heaven on the fortieth day, our Lord Jesus Christ commended to us His Body where it would continue to lie, because He saw that many would honour Him for His ascent into heaven. He saw that their honouring Him is useless if they trample upon His members who are here on earth. And lest anyone should err in this regard, He told us that His members would be here.

Sermon on 1 John 10,9

Prayer: Be a protecting God for me. I will not be saved unless it is in You. Unless you were my rest, my sickness would not be healed.

Commentary on Psalm 70(1),5

Wednesday 31st The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The second Joyful Mystery. Commemorates Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth, and Mary's joy expressed so wonderfully in the *Magnificat*: 'My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name.'



The beautiful terracotta work by Luca della Robbia (1400-1481) portrays the humility and the wonder of what is to be.

Thursday 1st June St Justin, martyred in 165. Convert. Philosopher and theologian, he was very conscious of preserving the earliest traditions of the faith.

Here, written c. 150, is his description of the Mass celebrated in his day.

'On the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying Amen; and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given, and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons. And they who are well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who succours the orphans and widows and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need.'

Churches Together United Service

The next Churches Together United Service will take place on June 11th at Cavendish URC. The service will include coffee/tea and cakes served from 5.15pm followed by an act of worship.

A TIME TO STOP, TO LOOK, TO LISTEN, TO NOTICE.

Jonathan Wittenberg is a Jewish rabbi. He ministers at his synagogue in North London. Recently he wrote a piece on the Sabbath in his weekly bulletin. In it he reminds us that Sunday is not only a time for resting, but has a deeper purpose. And this purpose is often overlooked. Here is some of his reflection on the Sabbath:

"I can't count how many people tell me they feel closest to God in nature. I often think the same. On the first Shabbat no labour had been performed. There was no work done from which humans could rest. Only God had been at work. So that first Sabbath was pure appreciation of the wonder of creation. This remains the essence of every Shabbat. 'Stop', they tell us: 'look, listen, notice.'

Every Shabbat, Nicky (my wife) and I walk together round the garden with which we have been blessed. We look at the garden in order to see and appreciate it, to breathe it in: the smell of the rain on the wet leaves, the last of the apple blossom.

The earth isn't there just for our use, important as this is. It isn't there solely for what it produces, essential though that is for the sustenance of life. The earth itself, soil, plant and tree, wild flowers and cultivated crops, is part of the all-present 'I am' of the sacred. We are prevented from being aware of it because of the noise of everything we do.

Yet it is always possible to regain our attentiveness. To do so, we must make ourselves still and listen. That is the purpose of Shabbat. To help us to be still and become aware. Aware of the sacred, aware of the value of all things, aware of the presence of God in every life and every person.'

So, in the teaching of the Jewish faith, Shabbat is a time for appreciating the wonder of all creation. A time to Stop, to Look, to Listen, to Notice !

The poet Mary Oliver writes, " It must be very disappointing for God if we aren't dazzled at least ten times every day. "

So the Sabbath invites us to take time out and allow ourselves to be "dazzled" at the beauty of God's marvelous world.

You will find more of Jonathan Wittenberg on YouTube. In particular I draw your attention to his reflection on "the Re-imagining of the Sacred". (Defining the Sacred)

Fr Ben

Collection

14th May - £887.00

Thank you for your continuing generous collection

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Don Fitzgerald, Mary-Rose Henderson (Jean's sister), Abby Joyce, Pauline Wilkinson, Vivienne Hay's son Matthew and her mother Katie, Peggy Rodgers, Jack Britton, Luke Twentyman, Ivan Smithet, Fred Taylor, Pat Dowson, Debbie Baloki, Brian David Hye (friend of Lucy Woodhouse), Karen Minns, Geoff & Joan Perry, Florence Hough, Gill Pardoe, Celia Poels, Karen Lane, Gloria Tatum and her son Alan, Annie Bareham, Joan Lally (Irene's sister), Pat Plenty, Anthony Stammers (relation of Sue Negus), Tony Ranzetta Jr., David Sowerby, Michael Kingston, Kathleen Taplin, Michael Cronin, Pat Moroney, Donna (Pat's daughter), Richard Lucking (Kate Davy's father). Freda Boylan (mother of Jo Donegan), Wendy Walton, Sarah Booth, Kath Bullen, Shirley Kennedy, Jane Brown, Sheila Green, Jack, Lali and Orlando Cardozo, Mark Lunn, Maura Kingston, Donna Wilson (Maria's daughter-in-law), Pauline Wells, Mary Tallon (Linda Rushden's Mum), Michael Farndon.

If you know of anyone who is ill or housebound, and would like a visit, please let Fr. David know.

Please pray for: Victor Hall, of Glemsford, who died on 22nd May, and for his wife Tricia, Nick and Therese, and Verity Jane.

Baptism Welcome to **Ivy Clare Henderson** who was baptised at the 10 o'clock Mass on Sunday 21st May

Marriage and Family Celebration Mass June 17th

Bishop Alan warmly invites all married and engaged couples to attend a special Mass celebrating marriage and family at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich on Saturday, 17th June, 12 noon, followed by a lunch reception. Certificates will be awarded to those married 1yr, 5yrs and every multiple of 5 years thereafter. For more information, and to RSVP, please contact Kerry Urdzik on 01473 251301, or email

Calling all 13 - 29 year olds - what do you think?

Next year, Bishops from all over the world will gather to consider the issue of 'Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment'. Our Bishops in England have asked that as many young people as possible aged 13 - 29 take part in a poll to ensure what they are discussing is relevant and important. Please see www.rcdea.org.uk to take part.

General Election 8th of June:

The Catholic Bishops write a letter to Catholics in England and Wales.

The letter touches on many points of concern and offers questions that may help us to clarify our opinions. Please collect your copy of the Bishops' letter. At the conclusion of the letter there is a prayer that we could pray together or by ourselves at home:

**Lord, grant us wisdom to act always with integrity,
seeking the protection and flourishing of all,
and building a society based on justice and peace.
Amen.**

MAY-JUNE		
May 30th	Seeing Complexity in Conflict - Jewish Israelis and Palestinians seeking ways of living together	Dr Simon Lichman Director of Centre for Creativity in Education and Cultural Heritage
Saturday June 3rd	The Cloud of Unknowing £30 or donation	Graeme Watson
Sunday June 4th	PENTECOST	
Wednesday June 7th	Reflective Walking Day starting at 9 a.m.	Mary Handforth
Sunday June 11th	First Holy Communion	
Thursday June 15th	Healing Prayer 7.00-8.30pm	
Saturday 17th	A day of meditation and awareness	John & Barbara O'Hanlon
Sunday 18th Corpus Christi	Benediction	3 p.m.
Tuesday 20th	The Way of Silence	Priory Team
Thursday 22nd	Come away and Rest awhile	Sr Frances Moore
23rd-25th	Art as Therapy a weekend nature-based workshop - £145	Jan Fellows
27th-29th	Midweek Retreat – time for prayer, silence and for sharing - £145	Sr Frances Moore

Don't forget your Cake Tins and Boxes - Now empty of their treasures, and a little forlorn, your cake tins are waiting in the kitchenette near to the Parish Room ready to be collected by their owners.

'Seeing Complexity in Conflict' A talk and presentation by Dr Simon Lichman on strategies for hope in Israeli-Palestinian relations. **Tuesday 30th May at 7.15 p.m.**

TODAY Sunday 28th May is World Communications Day

There is a second collection to support the work of the Catholic Media and Communications Committee.

Other second collections in 2017 (O) = Optional (M) = Mandatory

June: **Life** charities; **Peter's Pence.** (M)

July: **Apostleship of the Sea.** (O)

September: **Catholic Education Service** (O); **Home Mission Sunday.** (M)

October: **PACT Prisons Sunday** (O); **CAFOD** (O); **World Mission Sunday.** (M)

November: **Caritas/St Edmund's Fund** (O); **Diocesan Youth Service** (O)

December: **Dependent Priests Fund** (M)