

# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE

*Corpus Christi • Our Lady of Lourdes • St Joseph's*

THIS WEEK  
6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter

SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

## Collect

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Acts 8.5-8, 14-17

**Psalm** Cry out with joy to the Lord,  
all the Earth.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** 1 Peter 3.15-18

**Gospel Verse** Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'

**Gospel** John 14.15-21

## Giving

To donate to any of our parishes, please visit [corpuschristiweston.org/giving](http://corpuschristiweston.org/giving).



## THE INDWELLING OF GOD *Canon Tom Gunning*

As we approach the feast of Pentecost, we hear many references to the Holy Spirit in our daily Mass readings. He is God himself and is sent by the Father. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Advocate. Jesus is asking us to imagine the world as a Court of Law where there is a prosecutor and a defence lawyer. We as Christians are under attack, but we have as our defence lawyer or Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who is the Consoler of the Christian Community, giving it the very strength of God. Fr James McPolin, the Jesuit Bible Scholar, writes in his commentary on John's Gospel: "Therefore the Spirit works "in", and is "with", disciples so as to make Jesus more present to them, and it is through the Spirit, who is the gift of the Father, that Jesus "comes" to disciples." We hear in today's Gospel how Jesus is in our lives through the Holy Spirit. He is now in glory in heaven but he has not left us as orphans. We are called to love Jesus and keep his commandments of love and so share in his divine life. We pray "Come, Holy Spirit."



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*diocesan news and events*

Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St Joseph's parishes are all part of Clifton Diocese. We pray for Bishop Declan Lang, and all the priests, deacons, parishes, and people of our diocese.

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Administrator: Tracey Nelson  
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Administrator: Deacon Tom Moffatt

## NOTICE BOARD

**DAILY MASS NOW ONLINE** We are now able to offer daily Mass online! Many thanks to Geoff Summers, who was able to get WiFi into the church for us. We will be broadcasting using the Zoom app, which is free and easy to use. Participants can choose whether or not to share their own video. For the link, please subscribe to our email list via the website.

**MASS TIMES** on Zoom will be 9am each day (online from 8.45am), apart from Wednesday 20th when Mass will be at 6.30pm, as there's a funeral in the morning. Don't forget that Thursday 21st is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, and the beginning of the Pentecost Novena.

**MASS INTENTIONS** for Canon Tom's (private) Masses at 9am each day this week:

Sunday 17th - People of the Parish

Monday 18th - Betty Cheek R.I.P

Tuesday 19th - Robert Alford R.I.P

\*Wednesday 20th - Clifford Prior (Rec) R.I.P  
(6.30pm)

Thursday 21st - **SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD** - Eleanor Hussey R.I.P

Friday 22nd - Paul Burke R.I.P

Saturday 23rd - Glen Wasilewski R.I.P

**R.I.P.** Please pray for Elzbieta Bialowicz who has passed away recently. Please keep her, and all those who have died in the last week, in your prayers. 'May they see the Light of Heaven' Amen.

**THE DIVINE MERCY CANDLE** is being kept alight at Our Lady of Lourdes, this week for Ian Hopkins (RIP) and the Hopkins Family.

## HELPING THE VULNERABLE

**HOMELESS UPDATE** The Night Shelter, who are continuing to provide meals from their kitchen despite not being able to open up fully, were extremely grateful for the three bags of food I delivered to them the other day from parishioners, and also the financial donations which will enable them to buy meat and other fresh ingredients for the meals. Any further contributions, whether food or financial, can be left at the Presbytery.

**SAFEGUARDING** We would really like to encourage as many volunteers as possible, to take this opportunity to engage with the EduCare e-Learning modules. All members of the Catholic community have free access to this thought-provoking material, that may just be the information that enables us to recognise a concern and make the difference to enable it to be resolved. There is an expectation by the Charity Commission that all those who perform a voluntary role which necessitates DBS

clearance, should have a minimum standard of Safeguarding training. To gain access to this free resource email [safeguarding@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:safeguarding@cliftondiocese.com) and we will add you to the system, you should then be able to access the material within a couple of days.

## REFLECTION FROM CLIFTON DIOCESE

*'I will not leave you orphaned.'*

At some point we all want or even need to hear these words. They speak directly to some of our greatest fears and challenges, abandonment and isolation, loneliness, vulnerability. These words of Jesus remind us that we do not stand alone, whatever our circumstances. We are living in a time of great uncertainty. We do not have all the answers and many of us are fearful. Our fear points to the deeper reality that by ourselves we are not enough that we were never created to be self-sufficient. We were created to love and be loved, to live in relationship as people who give themselves to each other, to dwell, abide, and remain within each other. "I will not leave you orphaned." That is the promise. Regardless of the circumstances of our lives, storms, death, separation, we have never been and will never be abandoned by God. Let us renew our faith again this week and hold fast to the promise that we are not alone, and we never will be.

## PANDEMIC PATRONS: ST ROCK

St Rock (or Roch, Roque, Rocco, or in Scotland, Rollox...) is a French saint from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, commemorated on the 16<sup>th</sup> August. Although patron of numerous intentions (including bachelors, dogs, invalids, tile-makers, gravediggers, surgeons, knee problems, skin diseases, falsely accused people, diseased cattle, and Istanbul), he is primarily invoked for his intercession against plague.

According to his hagiography, Rock was so devout, even as a baby, that on fast days, he would 'would suck his mother but once that day'. Despite being made governor of Montpellier at age 20, he sold all his possessions and set out for Rome. The Black Death was ravaging Italy at the time, and Rock set himself to caring for victims in hospitals, and became renowned for procuring miraculous cures through his prayers. Eventually, he caught the disease himself, and withdrew to the woods, where a spring of water miraculously appeared, and a dog brought him food.

When he died, the story states, an angel placed a golden inscription underneath his head, which stated that, '**who that calleth meekly to S. Rocke, he shall not be hurt with any hurt of pestilence**'. Let's ask for his prayers at this time, that more people would come to know Jesus, the healer of souls and bodies.