

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE

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

THIS WEEK
7th Week of Easter

SUNDAY 24th MAY 2020

7th Sunday of Easter

Collect

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.

1st Reading Acts 1:12-14

Psalm I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

2nd Reading 1 Peter 4:13-16

Gospel Verse 'I will not leave you orphans,' says the Lord; 'I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy'.

Gospel John 17:1-11

Giving

To donate to any of our parishes, please visit corpuschristiweston.org/giving.



Come Holy Spirit **Canon Tom Gunning**

In our first reading this weekend we hear about the days after the Ascension. We're told that the Apostles went to the upper room where they were staying in Jerusalem and joined in continuous prayer together with several women including Mary the mother of Jesus. This is the origin of the Novena, nine days of prayer. There are only 3 public novenas, namely for Christmas, Pentecost and the Immaculate Conception. There are many other private novenas of course.

So, for the next few days we are encouraged to pray for the Holy Spirit to come down on us. We also pray for the renewal of the Church and for our own personal rebirth. The Benedictine monk Rabanus Maurus composed the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* (Come Holy Ghost Creator come) around 809 AD. We should pray this hymn all this week. In the words of verse 2 we plead that the living spring of the Holy Spirit may well up in us again and refresh us. May the sweet unction of the Holy Spirit heal our wounds and the wounds of all the world. May the Holy Spirit call us to the work He wants to complete in and through us. Amen.



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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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NOTICE BOARD

MASS TIMES on Zoom will be 9am each day (online from 8.45am) apart from Wednesdays as the Mass will be at 6.30pm (online from 6.15pm). For the link, please subscribe to our email list via the website.

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

Sunday 24th - People of the Parish

Monday 25th - Abraham Joseph R.I.P

Tuesday 26th - Ken Morrison R.I.P

Wednesday 27th - Amar Dias R.I.P (Rec)

Thursday 28th - Anne Matthews and Marie May

Friday 29th - Galvin Family R.I.P

Saturday 30th - Mary Williams R.I.P

PLEASE PRAY FOR Pauline Duffin as she has recently had a scan. Please keep her in your thought and prayers.

THE DIVINE MERCY CANDLE is being kept alight at Our Lady of Lourdes, this week for the well-being of Ralph Devereux.

HELPING THE **VULNERABLE**

CAFOD thanks everyone who has donated to their Coronavirus appeal. At least one parishioner was put off by the request for personal data requested (unfortunately some criminals have used the crisis to operate some cruel scams). Firstly, of course, I would like to reassure people that CAFOD donations are processed via a secure web site and confidentiality is protected. However, for those who are still concerned, you can of course pop a cheque in an envelope addressed to:

Coronavirus Appeal

CAFOD Head Office

Romero House

55 Westminster Bridge Road

London SE1 7JB

Because of the situation, the office is currently closed so online giving is still the fastest way of making your contribution count.

Thanks to those people who took away CAFOD money boxes to fill through Lent. Please bring them back (hopefully well filled by now) when the church re-opens.

ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

The 27th May is the Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop. Augustine became a monk and later prior of a monastery in Rome. In 596 he was chosen by Pope Gregory to lead thirty monks to evangelise the Anglo-Saxons. The party landed at Ebbsfleet (Kent) in 597. They were received cautiously by King Ethelbert. By 601 Ethelbert and many of his people were baptised. Augustine built the cathedral at Canterbury and established a See at London. He died c.604.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

With all the uncertainty surrounding lockdown of schools and Churches, the original planned date of June for FHC will obviously now not be realised. The restart of the programme will depend on how schools and Churches will manage the number of people at any-one gathering. The outcome of this may impact class sizes and prolong the completion of the preparation programme and indeed the masses themselves. I am sure that everyone will agree that the safety of all those involved is paramount and to that end we will be guided by the school and the Church regarding the format of the programme going forward.

In the meantime, please keep an eye on the newsletter for further updates as they happen and above all, stay safe.

The Catechist Team.

REFLECTION FROM CLIFTON DIOCESE

Today's Gospel is part of the priestly prayer of Jesus. Jesus speaks directly to his Father. He prays for those who belong to him. In other words, he is praying for us, asking God to protect us. It is the perfect model for our own prayer because Jesus is speaking from the depths of his heart. Prayer has been and continues to be central to the life of our communities. When we have not been able to gather physically, we have found innovative ways to come together virtually. What has mattered more than anything has been our desire to bring to God our heartfelt needs. In these difficult months we may not have been able to comprehend what is going on, but we have been able to pray. Even when that has been hard for us personally, others have been able to hold us in their prayer. The prayer of Jesus is not for himself. While we may pray that we will respond to whatever God asks of us, ultimately we are encouraged to grow in our relationship with God by our prayer for others. The fruit of our prayer will be seen in our reaching out and our tender love for others.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DECLAN

Following the disappointing announcement that potentially our churches will not re-open until 4 July 2020, the Bishops' Conference is actively engaging with the Government to try and agree that churches can be opened as soon as possible for private prayer. However, we will need to guarantee that we will fully observe public health guidelines. Detailed plans of how this can be achieved are being prepared and full guidance and procedures will be provided once a decision on the way forward has been agreed.

Meanwhile I hope you are continuing to keep safe and well.

With my best wishes and prayers

Declan