

St Teresa & St John Southworth Churches, Cleveleys

Fr Chris Cousens—Phone: 853340

Rev Bernard Ward (Deacon) (Tel: 858346)

Enquiries for St John Southworth: Phone: 853340

17 May 2020

<http://www.st-teresas-church.co.uk>

Email: st.teresas.cleveleys@gmail.com

Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 23433

6th Sunday of Easter

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Gospel John : 14 : 14: 21

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, And he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand I am my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keep them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.”

Reflection : A People of Hope

From the very beginning of our existence, from our first baby cries and wrinkled faces, we struggle to make sense of who we are and what we are, and of the strange new furniture of our lives - of sounds and smells, of warmth and cold, of light and shadow, of hands and faces. We struggle to put together the bits and pieces of our experience into some kind of order. Perhaps when we do so, we can then live with less fear, especially in the midst of powers and forces which can threaten to overwhelm us.

Often, without asking, we want to know from each other : "How do *you* cope, because at least you seem to?", and from those who have gone before us : "What can we learn from your experience?"

However much we might like to be left alone, none of us want to be foreigners in our own land, alien to another's ways, strangers to where life is leading us. To be human is to live in a world of meaning; to live without meaning is to be a stranger in the midst of our own human lives. May the Spirit, the Advocate who is the power for love and for life promised by Jesus, be with us and in us.

Notices

* Sadly on Friday 8th May our Bishop, Bishop Paul, was injured while exercising on his bike near Morecambe. He was admitted to the Royal Lancaster Infirmary that afternoon, and was diagnosed with a fractured skull, and with damage to his left ear. Last Sunday, May 10th, he was discharged so that he could continue his recovery at home. Please keep him in your prayers that he might recover as soon as possible, and be able to get back on his bike which, as seen often in our Diocesan newspaper, is very much part of his life.

* We also remember in our prayers Glenn Seamark of Beach Road whose Funeral is this coming week. We remember him and his family, and all those whose anniversaries are at this time. May they rest in God's peace.

* During this period when our churches have been closed, several people have asked if there is a way of continuing their regular giving in place of their Sunday Offertory. Of course there are several ways to do this, for instance by saving your collection money and giving it when eventually we are able to go back to church, or by handing it in by putting it through the presbytery front door letter box. Others have been asking for the bank details for both our parishes, St. Teresa's and St. John Southworth, so that they can make a temporary Standing Order Mandate with their own bank. If this will help, the next two pages of this Bulletin contain a copy of such a mandate (one for each parish as marked) which you can use. If you can't print it off, or need to ask any questions, please phone Fr. Chris [01253 853340], and he will send you a copy. Please note that the Bank Sort Code is for the HSBC bank in Lancaster simply because that is where our individual bank accounts are centred. Finally we are very grateful indeed to those who have been able to keep up their contributions. It really helps when at this time there is no other income.

The two different Mandates are on the next two pages.

Standing order mandate

To: The Manager

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(Please insert name and address of your bank)

Please make the following payments until further notice and debit my/our account accordingly

Pay:

Bank: HSBC Bank PLC Market St Lancaster
Sort Code: 40-27-02

Parish Account Name: Parish of St Teresa - Cleveleys

Parish Account Number: 51334778

Amount in words: per.....

Commencement date:

My/our account name:

Bank Sort Code:

Bank Account Number:

Signature

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Date:

Standing order mandate

To: The Manager

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(Please insert name and address of your bank)

Please make the following payments until further notice and debit my/our account accordingly

Pay:

Bank: HSBC Bank PLC Market St Lancaster

Sort Code: 40-27-02

Parish Account Name: Parish of St John Southworth

Parish Account Number: 51334786

Amount in words: per.....

Commencement date:

My/our account name:

Bank Sort Code:

Bank Account Number:

Signature

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Date:

Reflections for this Week

Monday (The Epistle to Diognetus, c.A.D.124)

Before the advent of Jesus, who among mankind had any notion at all of what God is? He conceived a design, great beyond all telling, and he imparted it to none but his Son. As soon as he disclosed it, and revealed what had been planned from the beginning, than straightway he poured out all the fullness of his bounty upon us, permitting us to share his benefactions and to see and know such blessings as none of us could ever have looked for.

Scripture (John 14: 15-18, 20-21)

Jesus said, 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Paraclete to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth whom the world can never accept since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I shall not leave you orphans, I shall come to you. You will know that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Whoever holds to my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me; and whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and reveal myself to him.

Tuesday (Caryll Houselander)

Instead of appearing in dazzling light all over the world, he sent other people to carry the news of his resurrection. He would not only be the voice in their ears, he would be the silence in their souls. His life had become peace, joy, the absolute power of consummated love; and now by a supreme expression of that love, he gives us that life of joy. It is through his Risen Life in us that Christ sends his love to the ends of the earth. So it is that we, sinners, wranglers, weaklings, provided that we only love God, are sent to give the life of the Risen Christ to the whole world, through the daily bread of our human love.

Scripture (Acts 8: 5-6,14-17)

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people unanimously welcomed the message Philip preached, because they had heard of the miracles he worked and because they saw them for themselves. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went and prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them; they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit

Wednesday (Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh)

All holiness is God's holiness in us: it is a participation and, because we participate in what we can receive from God, we become a revelation of that which transcends us. Being a limited light, we reveal the light. When we read books on spirituality we find that it is repeatedly defined as an attitude, an inner condition, a type of interiority, and so on. But if you look for the inner core of spirituality, you find it does not consist in the states of the soul that are familiar to us, but that it is the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in us, by us and through us in the world. There is no other holiness than that of God; it is as the Body of Christ that we can participate in holiness, in Christ and in the Holy Spirit.

Scripture (Colossians 2:6-9)

So then, as you received Jesus as Lord and Christ, now live your lives in him, be rooted in him and built up on him, held firm by the faith you have been taught, and overflowing with thanksgiving. Make sure that no one captivates you with the empty lure of a 'philosophy' of the kind that human beings hand on, based on the principles of this world and not on Christ. In him, in bodily form, lives divinity in all its fullness, and in him you, too find your own fulfilment.

Thursday (John Main, OSB)

Whenever we discover ourselves acting as an instrument of the Word, it is when we know ourselves directed by the Spirit. And to know this is to have seen our own Spirit; it is to have glimpsed the depths of our own Spirit and know that our Spirit is of God. To know this is to undergo the seminal experience which ignited the early Church and burst into the preaching of St. Paul and of the saints down the ages. Only one condition needs to be fulfilled, namely, that we subject everything else to it in order to obtain that complete simplicity which opens our eyes to the living presence of the loving Lord Jesus within us and his Spirit ever returning into communion with the Father.

Scripture (Ephesians 1:17-20)

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, how rich is the glory of the heritage he offers among his holy people, and how extraordinarily great is the power that he has exercised for us believers; this accords with the strength of his power at work in Christ.

Friday (Cardinal Newman)

Let us never lose sight of this great and simple view which the whole of Scripture puts before us: what was actually done by Christ in the flesh two thousand years ago is in type and resemblance really wrought in us one by one even to the end of time. He was born of the Spirit, and we too are born of the Spirit. He did great works by the Spirit; we too are led by the Spirit into and through the world's temptations; we, too, do our works of obedience by the Spirit. He impresses us with the seal of the Spirit, in order to vouch that we are his. As the king's images appropriate the coins to him, so the likeness of Christ in us separates us from the world and assigns us over to the kingdom of heaven.

Scripture (Romans 5:1-5)

So, then, now that we have been justified by faith, we are at peace with God through our Lord, Jesus Christ; it is through him, by faith, that we have been admitted into God's favour in which we are living, and look forward exultantly to God's glory. Let us understand that hardship develops perseverance and perseverance develops a tested character, something that gives us a hope that will not let us down, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Martin Bennett