

St Teresa & St John Southworth Churches, Cleveleys

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Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 23433

The 7th, and Last Sunday of Easter

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Gospel John : 17 1-11

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“Father, the hour has come:

glorify your Son

so that your Son may glorify you;

and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him,

let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him.

And eternal life is this:

to know you,

the only true God,

and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I have glorified you on earth

and finished the work

that you gave me to do.

Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me

with that glory I had with you before ever the world was.

I have made your name known

to the men who you took from the world to give me.

They were yours and you gave them to me,

and they have kept your word.

Now at last they know

that all you have given me comes indeed from you;

for I have given them

the teaching you gave to me

and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you

and have believed that it was you who sent me.

I pray for them;

I am not praying for the world

but for those you have given me,

because they belong to you:

all I have is yours

and all you have is mine,

and in them I am glorified.

I am not in the world any longer,

but they are in the world,

and I am coming to you.”

Reflection:

The Holy Spirit Is Resting On Us Now

Probably we all know some people whose work is never finished. They always seem to have something more to do - more tidying the house, more cleaning, more work to be brought home. Sometimes we long for the day John Henry Newman talks of : 'when our work is done'. Jesus was something like that. He says that 'the work you gave me is finished', and ascended to heaven. The Gospel around Ascension time shows that actually it is not finished. Jesus will be with us all days, still helping, still consoling, and being the centre of our faith community.

Another sign of the unfinished work is that Jesus prays for us. He prays for the Apostles and for all those who will believe through their work. We are constantly in his thoughts and prayers, the one who is our life-long companion. The Apostles prayed, after his going to his Father, with Mary and several others.

Prayer is the work of Jesus now, and of the church. In bad times, like now, we have often turned to prayer in our confusion, while we struggle to stay on the path of trusting in God. As we this week await the coming of the Spirit, and of our celebration next Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, we value prayer, the gift of the Spirit to us. If we have ever taught anyone to pray, or helped anyone to pray simply by being with them, we have given a great gift, as prayer is one of the sources of life from God, and from our families and friends.

Notices

This notice was in last week's Bulletin, but here the full Account names for both our parishes has been added to the Bank Mandate sheets. Evidently one or two banks have asked for the full Account names, while others have accepted simply the individual names of the two parishes, which ever church you attend. A very big thank you to all those who have been, or are now, supporting our parishes with their offertory. It really is a great help.

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.

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: LRC DTR Charity No 234331
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

.....

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: LRC DTR Charity No 234331
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

.....

Date:

Reflections for this Week

Monday (A Carthusian monk)

From time to time, God allows peace to well up from the soul and to pervade the nature of our senses. There is, as it were, a sudden uprising which makes us conscious of it. It is by faith that we perceive the divine Truth, and in particular the presence and action of God with us. Faith introduces us into another and higher world, that of God of which it is the light. Ask Jesus, then, to make this wonderful light shine more and more in our hearts—this light which, little by little, becomes love, and which is the true life.

Scripture (Psalm 33:13-15,18,20-22)

From heaven, the Lord looks down, he sees all the children of Adam. From the place where he sits he watches all who dwell on the earth; he alone moulds their hearts, he understands all they do. We are waiting for the Lord; he is our help and our shield, for in him our heart rejoices, in his holy name we trust. Lord, let your faithful love rest on us, as our hope has rested in you.

Tuesday (St. John of the Cross)

Tranquillity and repose in God is not all darkness to the soul but tranquillity and repose in the divine light and in a new knowledge of God, whereby the mind is raised to a divine light. The mind, tranquil and reposing in God, is raised up from the darkness of natural knowledge to the morning light of supernatural knowledge of God; not clear, indeed, but dim, like the night at the approaches of the dawn. In this tranquillity the understanding is lifted up in a strange way above its natural comprehension to the divine light.

Acts 1:3-4,9-11

He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the Kingdom of God. While at table with them he told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. Now, having met together, he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky as he went when two men in white were stood beside them, and they said, 'This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way as you have seen him go into heaven.'

Wednesday (Fr. P Lallemand, SJ)

Without contemplation one will never make much progress in virtue, and will never be much use in helping the progress of others. One will never be quite free from imperfections, always being attached to earth and never rising above the feelings of nature. But with contemplation, one will do more, both for oneself and for others, in a month than one could do without it in ten years. Contemplation produces the very acts of sublime love of God and it perfects faith and all other virtues, lifting them to the highest degree to which it is possible to rise.

Scripture (Matthew 28:16-20)

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, " All authority on heaven and earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always, yes to the end of time."

Thursday (Fr. Richard Rohr)

As a people, we are afraid of silence. That's our major barrier to prayer. I believe silence and words are related. Words that don't come out of silence probably don't say much. They are probably more unloading our own thoughts than a communicating. Yet words feed silence—that's why we have the word of God. But that word doesn't bear much fruit—it really doesn't break open the heart of the Spirit—unless it's tasted and chewed, unless it's felt and suffered at a level beyond words. That running from silence is undoubtedly running from our souls, ourselves, and therefore, from God. If I had to advise on thing for spiritual growth, it would be silence.

Scripture (Lamentations 3:22-26)

Surely the Lord's mercies are not over, his deeds of faithful love not exhausted; every morning they are renewed; great is his faithfulness! 'The Lord is all I have,' I say to myself, 'and so I shall put my hope in him.' The Lord is good to those who trust him, to all who search for him. It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save.

Friday (Brother Lawrence)

When the mind has developed some bad habits of wandering and inattention, they are difficult to overcome and they draw us, in spite of ourselves, to earthly things. I do not advise you to do much talking at prayer, for much talking is often the occasion of wandering. Hold yourself before God, keeping in mind the presence of the Lord. If your mind wanders and withdraws at times do not be disturbed; the will must call it back quietly. One way to do this during the time of prayer is not to allow it to strive too much during the day. It must be kept strictly in the presence of God. Being accustomed to remember him from time to time, it will be easy to remain quiet during your prayers.

Scripture (Col.3:1-4)

Since you have been raised up to be with Christ, you must look for the things that are above, where Christ is sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on things above, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed—and he is your life—you, too, will be revealed with him in glory.

Martin Bennett