

St. William of York R.C. Church



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5th Sunday of Easter

9/10 May 2020

Saturday 9th May

O'Sullivan Intention

Sunday 10th May

5th Sunday of Easter

Eric Chandler RIP (Anniv)

Monday 11th May

Douglas & Margaret Dennis RIP

Tuesday 12th May

Nora Murphy RIP

Wednesday 13th May

Knight Intention RIP

Thursday 14th May

St Matthias, Apostle

COVID victims and families

Friday 15th May

Greta Fitzgerald RIP (Anniv)

Saturday 16th May

People of the parish

Sunday 17th May

6th Sunday of Easter

For the sick

The response to the psalm is often a bit of a clue!

The gospel for today (5th Sunday of Easter) reminds us of some of the most powerful teachings of Our Lord. Again it is from Saint John- Chapter 14- verses 1 to 12. With so many familiar sentences from the mouth of Jesus- we really need to take our time. Among the reminders we hear: 'There are many rooms in my Father's house'.... 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life'.... 'You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me'. Yet, dear people of Stanmore you have often heard me say that in my experience - the real CLUE to the Scriptures on a particular Sunday is to be found in the response to the psalm. This week is no exception!

Reach out to the Holy Spirit; ask for light and help. If you can - sing the words of the response! Make up a tune and repeat it! These are the amazing words this weekend - **'may your love be upon us O Lord, as we place all our hope in you'**. This is not just saying 'cheer up' in churchy language! It calls down the love of God upon us - to fill the empty spaces of fear, uncertainty, anxiety and distraction. Yes - we place all our hope in the Lord. Remember that 'faith' is not just a sweet comfort. Faith in God is an urgent desire in our hearts to place all our hope in Him. Faith is not a cozy feeling - a warm glow (though it can be now and again.) Our faith is not something only for the good times (in fact in the good times - the Lord is often overlooked). Faith is reaching out in trust to God - even (especially) when times are challenging. You will know that wise saying that 'habits of virtue are tested in emergency.' In our current situation our prayer to the Father becomes more intense. Today's gospel is a PROMISE; a guarantee. At home or following Mass on-line; sing! Sing out! Sing loud! **May your love be upon us O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.**

May is the month of Mary and some other reminders and news

Father Michael writes - 'this weekend I will crown the statue of Mary in our church imploring her motherly protection and intercession. Mary - the mother of our Saviour who stood at the foot of the Cross - is also the Mother of the Church - truly a mother to all of us. Take a look at the special prayer from Pope Francis which I put into last weekend's newsletter. In May - in normal circumstances - we would be already appealing for our Summer Fayre. Such an event feels very far removed at the moment. During the past week I heard from Brother John Bosco - the very musical Friar of the Renewal. The Friars led our MISSION a few years back. Brother John Bosco is now based in Bradford - a community of 7 friars. He sends his

love to Stanmore. I offered our remembrances. Their soup kitchen work is curtailed presently by social distancing etc. Also - just to add – a big thank you to YOU - continuing to support the parish financially. YOU know who you are and the Lord will bless you.'

Live streaming of Mass - from Saint William of York

Hopefully this is going to go ahead. There are already a large number of parishes 'broadcasting' and what a blessing during this time of church closure. Without quite knowing the future - it will be a very helpful addition to our parish life. With a diocesan approved provider - John McIntyre is going to 'lead' on this. Yes, it will cost (in a very changed financial climate). Thank you to those who have offered to support this project. Specific donations for this can be popped through the letter box. New banking regulation requires that cheques should now be made out to '*Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese trust - Saint William Stanmore Registered Charity.*!!!!!!! PLEASE MARK THE ENVELOPE 'live streaming'

A SACRAMENTAL FAMINE !

This is what we are living through at the moment. Good to pray at home and to 'attend' Mass on our screens - but without the Body and Blood of Christ we are left hungry for Jesus 'the bread of life'. Truly a famine. In a particular way I (Father Michael) am thinking of our First Holy Communion 2020 children, their families and catechists. We are all aware too of our Confirmation candidates, with their families and catechists also. A real dilemma also for the Sacrament of Baptism. Eventually there will be lessons to be learnt from the church shutdown. Many current movements in the Church (e.g. Antioch groups, Charismatic renewal, Neo Catechumenate and others) no longer 'depend' on church buildings. They are often 'domestic church communities' - rather like our Jewish friends where the main liturgies are 'at home' e.g. Passover meal etc. Synagogues were places of scripture reading and study.

The feast of Saint Matthias on Thursday

The departure of Judas from the 12 apostles left a gap! Among the wider circle of disciples there was presumably some speculation about a replacement. No, Saint Peter did not go to a recruitment agency. There were no interviews etc. There were two clear candidates - so it was decided to have a 'lottery' - literally drawing names out of a hat. God is mighty and full of surprises. Matthias was named and appointed. Sounds a bit random? The Lord often uses VERY human means to fulfill his plans. Still happening.

Remembering over the last few days

As we have been reflecting recently on VE day - we also continue to pray intensely for the 'war' we are now fighting with tremendous loss of life. Going to bed every night in an air raid shelter listening out for the sound of the bomber planes overhead is one thing - now the 'attacks' are indiscriminate and seemingly random. May the Lord show us His mercy.

