

St. William of York R.C. Church



Registered Charity No 233699

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6th Sunday of Easter

16/17 May 2020

Saturday 16th May

People of the parish

Sunday 17th May
 6th Sunday of Easter

Sick and suffering everywhere

Monday 18th May

Beyton Intention
 (Audrey, Ray & Rhian)

Tuesday 19th May

Father John Taylor RIP (Hill)

Wednesday 20th May

Sabina Coutinho RIP (Anniv)

Thursday 21st May
 The Ascension of the Lord

People of the parish

Friday 22nd May

McKnight Intention RIP

Saturday 23rd May

For victims of the virus and
 families

Sunday 24th May
 7th Sunday of Easter

Father David Kolo (Uganda)

This weekend - once again the Gospel of John

This Sunday - we hear from the Gospel of Saint John, chapter 14 verses 15-21. Solidly from Easter Sunday it is the inspired words and memories of the 4th evangelist that we receive each weekend during these holy days. Matthew, Mark and Luke - narrate the incidents, miracles and meetings of Jesus. All three feel like an account of events and teaching - and they are! The writing of Saint John is often called the 'mystical Gospel'. Yes, it does have its moments and incidents - some of them unique to John (e.g. the wedding feast at Cana, the Samaritan woman at the well etc.) – but remember, for example, the way in which Saint John begins his gospel in the long prologue, a meditation on the person and nature of Jesus sent by the Father..... "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.....the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us..." Truly sentiments to ponder because Saint John grasped fully that Jesus was not just a popular religious leader, an admired preacher, a miracle worker and servant of God. So early in the unfolding of the Good News Saint John grasped that Jesus the Nazarene who died and rose – was the true and living God incarnate. This is the very heart of our faith. Embrace Saint John's gospel. It can be a bit challenging but it is always rich nourishment for prayer and faith. Father Michael

When will places of worship be opened?

Let us get back into Saint William of York!

Government guidelines suggest that synagogues, mosques, churches and chapels will not open until early July. Even then - they might only be open for private prayer and individual visits; no 'gatherings' allowed and social distancing at all times. This would render Sunday Masses difficult! Our bishops are preparing some guidelines and recommendations. In the meantime we are trying to complete some further research on the floor of our church and also arrange the installation of 'live-streaming'.

This Thursday - THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION - 21 May

40 days after Easter - we celebrate the triumphant return of Jesus to His Father in heaven. He departs - not to abandon us to a hazardous and unknown future. Christ fulfills His promise to ascend so that He can seal our faith and our FATE by sending down the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. There are many nine-day prayer cycles throughout the year - but the nine-day NOVENA from the Ascension to Pentecost is **THE** Novena. The worldwide church and each community and parish - cry out for the seal and gifts of the

Holy Spirit. The Ascension Thursday gospel ends with the words of Jesus... “and know that I am with you always – yes - even to the end of time.” This is a guarantee from the Lord Himself - in which we can totally trust. Whatever maybe happening; whatever challenges we face - the promise of Christ stands. Father Michael will celebrate Mass on Ascension Thursday at 9.30am.

Gratitude and news

1. Daily Mass and prayer in the church. Father Michael is following the normal weekday Mass programme – plus Morning Prayer shared with other priests over mobile phones. The same with Evening prayer and Office of Readings. Rosary completes the public worship in which all parishioners participate ‘spiritually’.
2. Passing the church - you will have noticed that the flowers outside the doors remain fresh and cared for. Thank you to Pat who is so dependable and regular - whatever the circumstances. The same goes for willing volunteers who keep an eye on the grounds around the church and the house. Laurence, Martyn, Peter and others - are the willing souls!
3. Happy 90th birthday to one of our long term parishioners - still a regular at the 10am Mass in her familiar seat! Mrs Ileana Amandini - originally from Italy but now very much a part of Stanmore parish. Mass will be offered for her on the day.
4. Thursday 14 May was a special day of prayer, fasting and works of charity - suggested and summoned by religious and faith leaders from around the world - including Jewish, Islamic, Sikh, Buddhist, Hindu and a wide variety of faiths - plus the wide family of Christians. Pope Francis supported this day and its united intention.
5. Continuing thanks for those who continue to support the parish in so many ways during this difficult time - including financially. Gratitude too for the received donations for the costs of live-streaming from the church.

The devil doing his best to attack yet bound to fail!

Imagine if an evil force wanted to break and fragment human history and lives - what might be the plan? The major task would be to divide families and communities; to enforce space and painful splits between grandparents and grandchildren - to keep human beings apart - to reinforce FEAR and above all to unleash a terrible evil of disease over humanity. Having pressed the button of malice - then the devil would perhaps simply sit back and wait. Again and again - Satan makes the same mistake. He thinks he can defeat the grace of God. Sometimes, in our personal lives - evil does appear to ‘win’. Yet, our faith reminds us that from the garden of Eden and the fall of Adam and Eve and since... despite the persistent and best efforts of the Evil One - the victory of the Cross of Christ always stands as the final word of life and hope. Time after time in human history and in our personal lives - it might appear that goodness and grace are defeated. We are never convinced by this great lie. Christ our Hope is Risen. We RENOUNCE the evil one. He is always eventually a spent force.

