



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION,
FOSTER AVENUE, BEESTON,
NOTTINGHAM, NG9 1AE
and
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH,
TAMWORTH ROAD,
LONG EATON, NG10 1DH



Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees Company No. 7151646 Charity No. 1134449

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TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: B

Fifth Week of Eastertide: 2nd – 8th May 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week I)

Saturday 1st May:	<i>St Joseph the Worker (memoria)</i>	<p><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i></p> <p>Isobel Alana Barnes, Marica Borsos, Jessie Breame, Margaret Brown, Fr John Cairns, Pat Constable, Francesca Lina Craparotta, Jim & Margaret Dougan, Fr Theodore Gomes, Ann Harrison, Fr Peter Harvey, Andrea Hoffman, Farzin Kazem, Breeda Keaney, Anne – Marie Reid, Alan Roberts, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox.</p>
Mass;	Holy Souls	
Sunday 2nd May:	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Joan Lynch RIP (Sharon Mullens & Fiddes Family)	
Monday 3rd May:	<i>SS Philip & James, Apostles (Feast)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Sister Nora Curran Birthday Intentions (Breame)	
Tuesday 4th May:	<i>The English Martyrs (Feast)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);	Intentions of Andrea Dubé	
Wednesday 5th May:	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Marianne Walton RIP (O'Connor)	
Thursday 6th May:	<i>Easter Feria</i>	<p>HOSPITALS</p> <p>A number of priests are still trying to maintain an 'on – call' rota for City and QMC. This is strictly calls for Anointing of the Sick when someone is nearing the end of their life. The hospital will not call us out for a request for prayers or when someone has already died – these will be dealt with by a member of the Chaplaincy Team who may or may not be a Catholic minister. Holy Communion is not being taken into hospital by Eucharistic Ministers. Families should not contact a priest directly to visit their loved one in hospital – all requests need to go through the Ward and Chaplaincy Department. QMC 0115 924 9924 ext. 63799 or City 0115 969 1169.</p>
Mass;	Holy Souls	
Friday 7th May:	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Sean Hopkins RIP (25 th Anniversary)	
Saturday 8th May:	<i>Easter Feria</i>	
Mass;	Private Intention	
Sunday 9th May:	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Canon Owen O'Neill RIP (O Butler)	
<p>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</p>		
<p><i>The Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Assumption and the Parish Hall at St Francis of Assisi are closed to members of the public, until further notice. If you urgently wish to contact Fr Christopher please telephone 0115 922 8145 (at any reasonable time).</i></p> <p><i>For enquiries or to book a Mass Intention, please see me after the one of the Scheduled Public Masses or contact me by telephone. Mass Stipends and Parish Collection Envelopes can be posted or given at a later date.</i></p>		

Items for the newsletter can be given to Fr Christopher or e – mailed to frcathomas@live.com by WEDNESDAY of each week for inclusion in the next issue.

POOR CLARES: The Sisters send their sincere thanks to parishioners for the food and donations they received from our Parish, your continued support is very much appreciated by them and they pray for you all every day. The next visit will be Monday 31st May 2021 and any donations can either be left in the box in the Church or given to me. Many thanks again for your kindness and support. – *Diane Wilson*.

WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES: This year's weekly collection envelopes are due to finish at the end of May, if you don't have a set of envelopes and would like a set or, alternatively, you would like to set up a direct debit for your weekly offering, please either call (07850 978788) or e – mail: marie_calladine@hotmail.co.uk. If you are a UK tax payer we could also claim tax back on your donation after completion of a Gift Declaration Form. Thank you – *Marie Calladine*.

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS: Obviously due to the Coronavirus Pandemic we have been unable to Celebrate some of the important Sacraments in the life of the Church over the past year. Specifically, Baptisms, First Confessions and First Holy Communion and Marriage. I am hoping that Baptisms can begin again after all the restrictions are finally lifted by the Government on **21st June 2021**. Any families wishing to have their child(ren) Baptised are asked to contact me as soon as possible to arrange a date for after the 21st June. Similarly, with First Confessions and First Holy Communion, it is hoped that we can complete the programme that was begun in 2020 and that the Celebration of the First Holy Communion Mass can be held some time at the beginning of the New School Year in either September or October 2021. Any children who would have ordinarily made their First Holy Communion in 2021 (School Year 3) will now begin preparations in 2022 and we will have two Schools Years' Celebrations at the same time. Any couples who intend to marry in 2021 are also asked to contact me as soon as possible to confirm dates and make arrangements for the Marriage Preparation Course. **PLEASE NOTE: I WOULD PREFER IT IF PEOPLE WOULD CONTACT ME BY TELEPHONE RATHER THAN BY E – MAIL.**

CELEBRATION OF MASS: *The public Celebration of Mass is available once again.* Needless to say, that we still need to be aware of the need to follow the guidelines that we have in place and to remember to use the hand sanitisers, wear face coverings and maintain the 2 metre social distancing rule. Please remember that you will still need to book to come to Masses using the Diocesan booking system. Details of how to book for Mass can be found on the Diocesan Website by following the link: <https://massbooking.uk/> where you will first need to Sign Up (if you haven't already done so) in order to book for Mass. This is a pre – booking system and is the only way of regulating those who come to Church. ***PLEASE NOTE: that you can only book on the Mass Booking System up to 7 days ahead, so some of the Masses will not be visible yet.*** The latest time to book for a Mass will be **TWO HOURS** before. **PLEASE NOTE: If there are only two people coming from the same household please book TWO SEATS and not a whole pew as this will allow more people to attend Mass.** If you do not have access to or are unable to use a computer you may book for Mass, by telephone, by calling Marie Calladine for The Assumption (Tel: 07850 978788), or at Long Eaton by calling Christina Boott on 07875 625974; but I would ask that you only use this option if you are unable to book online. Mass will be available at The Assumption, Beeston on ***Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays*** and, at St Francis, Long Eaton on ***Tuesdays***, all at ***10:00 am***. The Sunday obligation continues to be suspended, so if you are unsure about coming along, do not feel under any obligation to do so; and if you or someone in your household, displays symptoms of Covid19, then please do stay at home.

THE WORD AND THE COMMON GOOD: You are invited to join Catholics from around the Diocese of Nottingham for an interactive online course over six Monday evenings in June and July. As life starts afresh after lockdown, it is a rare opportunity to sow seeds of the Gospel.

- Discover how Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching can help us seize this moment and build a society that reflects God's Kingdom
- Build bridges following a year of social distancing and foster a new 'culture of encounter'
- Form new friendships, renew old ones and help to build our Parish Communities for mission.

The sessions begin on Monday 7th June 2021 at 7:00 pm for six weeks. To find out more, including details of an Open Evening, visit: <https://togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/training/here-now-us-people>.

'BEING A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE': After the great success of Bishop Patrick's Lent Talks on Discipleship, the Formation for Mission Team are offering two talks on Zoom in May on 'Being a Missionary Disciple.' The first talk '*The Ascension & the Great Commission*' will be given by Canon Christopher Thomas (General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales) on **Thursday 13th May 2021 at 7:00 pm**. This talk will explore the importance of the Ascension and how we can live Jesus final instructions to us. The second talk '*Pentecost & Mission*' will be given by Pippa Baker (A Catholic Missionary, Speaker & Musician) on **Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 7:00 pm**. This talk will examine the significance of Pentecost for us and how the Holy Spirit equips us for mission in our everyday lives. To register visit: www.dioceseofnottingham.uk.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE: The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (PCPM) has highlighted the importance of prayer and suggested to Pope Francis that the worldwide Catholic Church should join together in a day of prayer. The Holy Father has welcomed this initiative. From 2021, in response to a request from the, "*Let's Be Honest*" working group, the Bishops have chosen Tuesday of the 5th Week of Easter as the Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse — **4th May 2021**. There were two connected reasons for moving the Day of Prayer from Lent to Easter: this is not a penitential day for the failure of the Church and others to respond to the scourge of abuse but a day of prayer for those who have been abused in a season of hope and new life.

Fourth Sunday of Easter: B.

(READINGS: Acts 9²⁶⁻³¹; Psalm 21^{26-28, 30-32}; 1 John 3¹⁸⁻²⁴ and; John 15¹⁻⁸)

Today's readings focus on relationships; our relationship with Our Lord and our relationship with one another. Because every Christian is linked to Christ and to every other Christian by an invisible bond. This bond is very precious. It was Our Lord who wished it and best described it, when He said: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me, with Me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing." In other words, Jesus tells us, "I am the source of life, the only source of life and it is I who provides life for everyone who believes in Me." So it is only through Christ that we have real familiarity, real relationship and real life.

Last week Our Lord told us, "I am the Good Shepherd. On this Fifth Sunday of Easter, He tells us, "I am the vine, you are the branches." That is a very earthy image, which the people of Our Lord's time would have clearly understood. They knew from experience that that once a grape had fallen from the vine it would die. Once a grape became separated from the vine it would shrivel up and wither away. They would know from experience that a branch was utterly dependent upon its connection to the vine for nutrients and water and, for life itself. It is a completely dependent relationship, a very intimate relationship. The branch depends upon the vine for life itself; for everything.

The lesson would have been very clear to farmers and gardeners listening to the Our Lord. Jesus is not just simply an aspiring teacher whom we listen to. He is a force field within whom we participate; there is an organic relationship between Our Lord and His followers. We depend upon Our Lord for everything. For breath, for mercy, for protection, for salvation, for life itself – for all eternity; this image of the vine and the branches is a very powerful one, to teach us about our utter dependence upon Our Lord. "For cut off from me you can do nothing."

The essence of today's Readings is to focus our minds on the deep and abiding relationship of all believers with Jesus. Also, believing in Jesus and loving one another are intimately connected. Love is more than just talk or affirmation. Love is active and real. The union that exists between the Father and the Son is the model of discipleship given to us by the Gospel. As the disciples deepen their union with the Lord, they also grow in their union with one another, because Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. And this union leads to fruitfulness.

But perhaps to our modern and sophisticated minds the idea of the vine and the branches is somewhat removed or abstract for us. Another image that would reinforce the point could be that of the mother and the baby in the womb. The baby in the mother's womb is completely and totally dependent upon the mother. The umbilical cord is like the vine and the tiny baby depends upon the mother for oxygen and blood and nutrition and life. Apart from the mother the baby dies. So we can also say that we need to remain as close to Jesus as the baby in the womb is united to his or her mother. Vine and branches, mother and baby, Jesus and us.

It is an image beautifully enfolded in two metaphors that are deep in our Catholic imagination. The first metaphor is that of Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Blessed Mother. Our God became incarnate in the womb of a woman. The omnipotent Lord of the universe would be totally helpless, dependent upon a creature. The eternal Son, who existed from all eternity in the bosom of the Father, would tenderly call a woman His mother. A woman would intimately partner with the Creator in the salvation of mankind. Jesus called her mother and so do we. And in this month of May we salute and honour Our Blessed Mother Mary.

But all too often this truth is very difficult for us to accept. Because we like to maintain our independence. We like to have everything readily available to us. In the modern world, we are so used to having a “right now” mentality: fast food, around – the – clock help – desks, overnight delivery, Internet shopping, 24 – hour services, the list goes on and on. We have a mental and emotional habit of expecting results “right now.” But Jesus taught us so often that the Kingdom of God, our transformation in Christ, is a slow process of growth. It is like, a mustard seed, that takes time to grow; a farmer’s field, that only gradually produces its crop; a diligent merchant, who spends years and years searching for the pearl of great price.

Michelangelo worked full – time for four years painting the Sistine Ceiling. And the whole time he was working, Pope Julius II was pressuring him to finish, to work faster and faster. But Michelangelo, though he worked long and hard hours, even painting by lantern – light late into the night, lying on his back on top of rickety scaffolding, refused to rush his masterpiece; he refused to compromise the quality of his work; he explained to the Pope that if he wanted excellence and perfection, it would take time. From the Pope’s perspective, four years seemed too long to wait. But it was nothing compared to the five hundred years that have passed by since, during which the incomparable masterpiece has inspired literally millions of men and women from every corner of the world. God is like that with us. He is the great artist of our souls. He refuses to compromise the quality of his work in our lives. To us it seems like He is taking a long time and we argue with Him. But He knows what He is doing and, when we see His masterpieces (our souls) in the light of eternity, then we will not be disappointed.

How can we overcome our modern, “right – now” mentality so as to let God work in our lives at His own, wise pace? We have to look to our Mother Mary and our own mothers. Motherhood is really a school of wisdom. For nine months a mother bears her child, who grows slowly, but surely and steadily, in her womb. She knows that she cannot rush the process; she must be patient, both before and after the child’s birth. And so each day becomes a precious opportunity to love, to hope, to wait and to trust in the mysterious designs of God. This is the experience of every mother and, most especially of the Mother of God, Mary. During this month of May, we should thank our mothers, who like Mary, experienced hidden sacrifices, constant love and invaluable generosity. And we should do so even more in this day and age when mothers are under attack by a culture that undermines and undervalues motherhood. But we should not only thank them, we should also learn from them. If motherhood is a school of wisdom, then by God’s providence we each have a lot to learn from our mothers, especially the Blessed Virgin Mary. And there is no better way to show our gratitude than by being good students ourselves.

The second powerful metaphor is that of another Mother, Holy Mother Church. We Catholics call the Church our Mother. For us the Church is hardly some hobby or some volunteer organisation, some nice idea or some club that we can join or leave at will. No, the Church is our Mother. Now, we can, like we do with our earthly mothers, at times criticise her, mock her, get irritated with her, not call her or visit her for a while. But Holy Mother Church is still there, a part of every cell of our body and every grace in our soul. And when we love Her and when we cling to Her; we nurse at Her breasts and we learn from Her wisdom.

So, Jesus, He is the vine and we are the branches; Our Blessed Mother, she was His Mother and so she is ours and; Our Holy Mother the Church, close to Her, She give us His word and His life.