

7th Sunday of Easter - Year B - 16th May 2021



How should we pray?

In today's Gospel, we have part of Jesus' solemn prayer at the last supper. Here, he prays for his disciples whom he is leaving behind, to carry on his work. In praying for them, he also prayed for us. He prayed that they would remain faithful. Faithfulness, is a great virtue, but not an easy one to practice. It calls for a readiness to make sacrifices, and a willingness, to undergo pain. Our task, as a disciple of Jesus, is not to be successful – we leave success to God. Our task, is to be faithful – faithful to Christ, and to one another. Jesus also prayed for unity among them. Nothing so undermines the credibility of Christianity as the divisions among Christians.

Disunity among the disciples of Jesus, is a blight on their witness. This is a problem that has plagued the Christian community right from its origin. However, we must keep in mind, that unity is not the same thing as uniformity. Unity, does not deny difference. Unity, means recognising that each member is different, and that each, has a different gift to contribute, but all are united around the same goal, by mutual love. He also prayed that they might be preserved in the truth. The truth here, is the truth that Jesus is the revelation of the unseen God.

This too, caused problems from the beginning. There were all kinds of false teachers at large, who sought to lead believers astray about Jesus. It is also a problem for us, who live in a time of bewildering views and beliefs. And finally, he prayed that they might be victorious over evil. The disciples of Jesus, live in the real world. But they are to challenge the world to turn from darkness to light. In bearing witness, they must be prepared to suffer the world's hate. Good people become targets for evil. Why? Because they are called on to hold the line against the powers of darkness. The powers of darkness hate the light. Jesus foresaw that they would have to face persecution and possible martyrdom. He did not pray that they might be spared trials and sufferings, but that they might remain faithful, in spite of them. He did not offer a release from problems, but the strength to cope with them. Several times, he urged them not to be afraid. How did he suggest they might overcome their fears? He urged them, to have complete trust in God. This is how Jesus prayed for his apostles, and how we too should pray. We pray not to be spared trials, but for the strength to cope with the trials life sends us, and the trials that will result from our discipleship!

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GENERAL NOTICES AROUND THE PARTNERSHIP

THE ROSARY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY: Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary daily during the month of May for the intention of an end to the Pandemic.

BOOKINGS FOR WEEKDAY MASSES: It is still a legal requirement that we have a full contact tracing list before people begin to gather for any public service in any of our places of worship. Our clergy have noted that, particularly since the resumption of daily public Masses, a lot of people have been turning up without pre-booking, we need to stress that pre-booking is **not** optional. If we admit people to services who have not booked, that is supposed to be an exception rather than the norm. If this trend of people turning up without booking continues, we will have to review our policy about whether or not people who have not booked will be admitted under any circumstances.

REQUIEM MASS AND FUNERAL SERVICES: At the present time, the attendance at these services continues to be strictly capped, and all of these are considered private services rather than public services. It is therefore up to those family members of the deceased person who are organising the services to determine who is or is not invited to attend. The fact that we may list these services publicly on the Mass sheet does not mean that these services are now open to other people.

FAITH WITNESS AGAINST HASSOCKFIELD: In October, the UK government plans to open at Hassockfield (on the site of the former Medomsley Detention Centre) an Immigration Removal Centre to detain up to 80 women at a time seeking asylum in the UK. Given that these women are not criminals, but people like ourselves who have God-given dignity and an intrinsic right to respect, compassion and a place of safety, our Diocesan Justice and Peace Council—along with many other faith groups and human rights advocates—believes that the proposal is fundamentally misguided and unjust. A prayer service will take place on **Sunday 23rd May at 3.00pm** in as many churches and places of worship as possible as part of a united faith response against Hassockfield. Our local service for the Catholic parishes will be at St. Patrick's Consett. (Since COVID 19 protocols still apply, the number of persons allowed in the Church will be capped at 50 and it will be essential to book in advance just as it is for all other Masses and services at present.) For those who cannot attend, The Youth Ministry Team will also be joining in with their own Faith Witness service and will go live at the same time on YMT's Facebook@youthministryteam.

CONSETT INCINERATOR PROPOSAL: HAVE YOUR SAY As many of our local residents will already be aware, the County Council is currently considering a proposal to build an incinerator at Hownsgill Park. For more information, and an opportunity to let our representatives know what you think: 1) you can view the proposal at publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications; and 2) any comments may be sent by email to planning@durham.gov.uk.

ENJOY SUMMER 2021 ON HOLY ISLAND WITH THE SVP OZANAM CAMP: The SVP have been successfully running summer camps for children on beautiful Holy Island ever since 1954 through many years of changing trends. While originally the children and most helpers occupied tents, they now occupy a purpose built permanent camp, while kitchen and caretaking staff occupy a much improved and much more comfortable Lindisfarne house. It's

not just the buildings that have changed because although the camps were originally set for boys, camps for girls were started in the 1980s and from this summer, the SVP will be running mixed camps for the first time. For summer 2021 we are particularly looking for kitchen and caretaking staff for the six summer weeks starting from Saturday 24th July. Joining our friendly team of volunteers is easy so investigate what's involved on www.svpholyislandcamp.co.uk and if you're interested follow the 'volunteer thread'. If you would like to discuss it with someone, then call Peter on 07561190396. Thorough training will be given, and we look forward to welcoming you to the team.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND: Palestinian Christians continue to suffer great economic hardship through the effects of Covid and the total lack of tourism in places like Bethlehem where the unemployment rate has reached 70%. School fees alone cost £60-250 per month with no State aid available. The distance from Bethlehem to Nazareth is 84 miles and Mark McNally proposes to cover this distance before Pentecost through a mixture of running-cycling-swimming. Donations to support these efforts can be made either through gift-aid envelopes located at the back of St Patrick's and St Mary's Churches or directly via the website www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/donate Many thanks.

St Mary's News

COLLECTION: World Communications Day. Next week: Lay Training Fund - open until 20th June.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Due to the Pandemic and caps on the amount of people allowed to attend Mass First Holy Communion will be held over five weeks beginning on Saturday May 22nd and continuing on 29th May, 5th June, 12th June and 19th June. Please pray for the children as they prepare to receive the most Blessed Sacrament.

THANK YOU: from The Friends of the Holy Land for recent collection of £418 from St Mary's and £161 from Our lady of the Rosary. Monies received helped 182 children across 14 schools and 48 university students. In 2021 the numbers needing help are expected to rise as the Pandemic continues to hit hard. Please continue to remember FHL and those we support in your prayers.

LEGION OF MARY: During the Pandemic the 'Legion of Mary' magazines will only be published in June and October this year. The June issue will be a commemorative one.

MEMORIAL STONES: Anyone wishing to purchase a memorial Stone in memory of a loved one please give information in writing, The name for the memorial stone and also the Name, address and phone number of the contact person. Please place in an envelope and either put it through St Mary's Door or hand it to Joe Anderson.

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Once again, Fr. Tom would like to extend sincere thanks to all of our stewards, cleaners and other volunteers for everything they've been doing to help keep St. Mary's open during the pandemic. Those who are helping with organising the weekly rotas have made us aware that all our existing volunteers tend to be on duty at least once a week and that some people are on even more frequently. We don't want to place too many demands on this group, but as the restrictions are (hopefully) progressively eased in the coming months, it is an unavoidable truth that we will probably **need** even more help.

According to the government's present 'roadmap', 'life cycle' events like Baptisms and First Holy Communions will be allowed to resume, as well as Weddings with up to 30 guests, from 17th May. And we have quite a backlog to work through, so it may be a very busy time. It would be hugely helpful if we could recruit some additional volunteers. If you are not already volunteering, and if you think you could potentially help out as a steward and/or a cleaner, please do get in touch with Fr. Tom as soon as possible. Even if your availability might be limited to particular days and/or times, we will try to accommodate that.

St Patrick's News

RECENTLY DECEASED: Patsy Hutchinson. We pray for her and her family at this sad time.

HOLY FACE PRAYER GROUP: The Holy Face Prayer Group has recommenced on Tuesday evenings, in church, from 6pm onwards. For further details telephone 01207 506425. the latest Holy Face Youtube video link is:- <https://youtube/55Plmikt38>

GIFT AID NEW MASS ENVELOPES: The envelopes for the new financial year are now available. They can be collected at the back of church on Sunday and Monday after the morning Mass. They will continue to be available for the next few weeks. Please **DO NOT** use any of your old envelopes after the 28th March. Please save your donations until you have your new envelopes. If you wish to set up a standing order for your donation the bank details for St Patrick's are Sort Code 40-34-18 Account Number 01163817. Thank you.

St Pius News

RECENTLY DECEASED: Ann Hodgson. We pray for her and her family at this sad time.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

SUDAN FEEDING STATION: The collection for the SVP Sudan Feeding Station to date has raised £2,277. Thank you for your continued generosity.

ANNIVERSARIES

St. Mary's: Hilda McGeoghan, Yvonne Morgan, Austin Hillas, Mary Marie Kenny, Josephine McElrue, Anne Shannon, Mary Page, Catherine Bewick, Kevin Lee Martin, Thomas Darroch, Gilbert Patrick Green, Elizabeth Theresa Donnelly, Rose Penman, Jean Kennedy, Mary Theresa Mee.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Neil McKie (snr), Desmond McNally and Alice Bell.

St. Patrick's: Rose Campbell, Cathy Page, Albert Huntley, John Thomas Askew, Margaret Page, Ernest Gill, Peter Killeen, Vincent Page, Margaret McCann, Audrey Kennedy, Peter Hughes, Veronica McKenna, Norah Ward, Kevin McCurley, Teresa Adams, David Stobbs, Hayden Coyle, Jean Cartmel, Kathleen Finnegan.

St. Pius: Margaret Collins, Elsie Donaghy, William Kane, Catherine Mullen, Michael Murray and Veronica Robb.

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Mary E. Suddick, Robert Fountain, Jack Appleby.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PARISH

We keep in our prayers:

St. Mary's: Paul Wass, Ryan McBeath, Tilly Lockey, Kieran Richard Atkinson, Amelia Burns, Norman Riches, Ethan White, James Thomas English, David Sizmy, Eileen Fannon, Mary Barnes, Arron Armstrong, Freya Simpson, Maddy Kennedy, Mark Adams, Jack Nugent, Donna Philips, Joan Kennedy, Tom Slane, Tony Quinn, Julianne Kennedy, John Winch, Eileen Haughey, Jimmy McGuigan, Catherine Hester, David Oliver, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, John Ross and Simon Quinn.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Martin Rogan, Cheryl Reilly, Judith Hindmarsh, Nora Robson, Veronica Naisbett, Geraldine Donnelly and Michael Shaw.

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Ann Hodgson, Paul Hunt, Nancy Malone, Gerry McArdle, Joan McGee, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr., Charlie O'Donnell and Jade Telford.

Our Lady and St Joseph's: Sue Robertson.

Pope Francis – Prayer To Mary For Protection During The Covid - 19 Pandemic

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger,

O glorious and blessed Virgin

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

'My Jesus I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you, never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.'

Partnership Prayer

Risen Christ, from your abundant grace,
pour out afresh your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese.

As we build on the deep foundations of faith
laid by the countless saints of these Northern lands,
by Aidan and Cuthbert, Hilda and Bede

may our Partnerships continue the mission
of building your Kingdom on the earth: to give living witness to your love,
and to your compassion and hope for our world.

We pray in trustful confidence that your power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Who live and reign forever and ever.

Amen