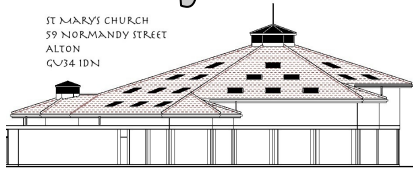


St Mary's Parish Newsletter

ST MARY'S CHURCH
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Safeguarding Rep. Mrs. Anne Bothwell

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 28th April, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

(Year B) Psalter Week 1

Saturday	<i>Easter Feria</i> 5.30pm	Jeannie & Sean Norris, RIP
Sunday	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
Medstead	9.00am	The People of The Parish
St Mary's	11.00am	John McGinty, RIP
Monday	<i>St Catherine of Sienna</i> 9.30am	Joe & Anna Griffin, RIP
Tuesday	<i>St. Pius V</i> NO MASS	
Wednesday	<i>Easter Feria</i> 9.30am	Sr Agnes Clare Int.
Thursday	<i>St. Athanasius, Doctor</i> 9.30am	Augustine Thomas, RIP
		POLLING DAY
Friday	<i>Ss. Philip & James, Apostles</i> 9.30am	Sheila & MJack Mather, RIP
Saturday	<i>The English Martyrs</i> 9.30am	People of the Parish
	5.30pm	Heather Smith., RIP
Sunday	Sixth Sunday of Easter	
Medstead	9.00am	The People of The Parish
St Mary's	11.00am	Maggi D'Mello, RIP

Confessions: 4.45pm prior to Mass and by request at any time

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

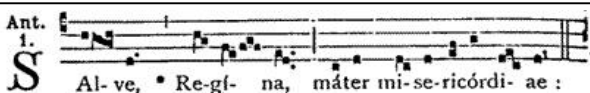
I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Sr. Eileen's Requiem

Will take place on 15th May at 11.30am
followed by internment at Alton Cemetery.

St Gertrude the Great—Prayer for the Holy Souls

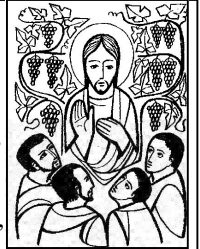
Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.



Fifth Sunday of Easter

28th April 2024

Last week it was sheep: this week, the vine. Jesus offers us another (agricultural) image to explain the mystery of his offering of himself, and our belonging to him, our being part of him, which comes about through the sacrament of Baptism. This is, as was stated earlier, the period of Mystagogy, when the newly baptised are helped to see what life in Jesus Christ really means.



Today this comes out strongly for all of us, with two of the three readings emphasising the moral aspects of life in Christ: it is not simply enough to "belong" to him: our belonging must be shown by the works we do, by the fruits we bear - while remembering of course that we cannot bear fruit except in him

**"Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty."**

A Pope's Reflection—Pope Benedict XVI

The Gospel today, the fifth Sunday of Easter time begins with the image of the vine. Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser". In the Bible Israel is often compared to the fertile vine when it is faithful to God; but if it distances itself from him, it becomes barren, incapable of producing that "wine to gladden the heart of man", as Psalm 104 sings. The true vine of God, true life, is Jesus who with his sacrifice of love gives us salvation, opens to us the way to be part of this vine. And as Jesus remains in the love of God the Father, the disciples too, wisely pruned by the word of the Master, if they remain profoundly united in him, they become fruitful branches that bear an abundant harvest. St Francis de Sales wrote: "The vine-sprig, united and joined to the stock, brings forth fruit not by its own power but in virtue of the stock. Now we are united by charity unto our Redeemer as members to their head, and hence it is that good works, drawing their worth from him, merit life everlasting" On the day of our Baptism the Church grafts us, as branches, on to the Paschal Mystery of Jesus, on to his very Person. From this root we receive the precious sap that enables us to share in the divine life. As disciples, with the help of the Pastors of the Church, we too develop in the Lord's vineyard, bound by his love. "If the fruit we are to bear is love, its pre-requisite is this 'remaining', which is profoundly connected with the kind of faith that holds on to the Lord and does not let go. It is indispensable to remain ever united to Jesus, to depend on him, because apart from him we can do nothing. In a letter written to John the Prophet who lived in the desert of Gaza in the fifth century, someone asked the following question: how is it possible to combine man's freedom and the inability to do anything without God? And the monk answered: if man inclines his heart towards goodness and asks God for help, he receives the necessary strength to carry out his work. Therefore man's freedom and God's power proceed together. This is possible because goodness comes from the Lord, but it is carried out through his faithful. True "abiding" in Christ guarantees the effectiveness of prayer, the Cistercian Bl. Gueric of Igny, said: "O Lord Jesus... without you we can do nothing. Indeed you are the true gardener, creator, cultivator and custodian of your garden, which you plan with your word, irrigate with your spirit and cause to grow with your power. Dear friends, each one of us is like a branch that only lives if its union with the Lord grows every day in prayer, in participation in the Sacraments and in charity. And he who loves Jesus, the true vine, produces fruits of faith for an abundant spiritual harvest. Let us pray to the Mother of God that we may remain firmly grafted onto Jesus and that all our actions may have their beginning and end in him.

SPRING PLANT SALE

Following the Masses on 4th & 5th May, there will be a Plant Sale. We would be most grateful for any donations you may wish to contribute. These can be left by the gate into the Presbytery Garden.

Saints of the Week

April 29th, Saint Catherine of Sienna

The value Catherine makes central in her short life and which sounds clearly and consistently through her experience is complete surrender to Christ. What is most impressive about her is that she learns to view her surrender to her Lord as a goal to be reached through time. She was the 23rd child of Jacopo & Lapa Benincasa and grew up as an intelligent, cheerful, and intensely religious person. Catherine disappointed her mother by cutting off her hair as a protest against being overly encouraged to improve her appearance in order to attract a husband. Her father ordered her to be left in peace, and she was given a room of her own for prayer and meditation. She entered the Dominican Third Order at 18 and spent the next three years in seclusion, prayer, and austerity. Gradually, a group of followers gathered around her—men and women, priests and religious. An active public apostolate grew out of her contemplative life. Her letters, mostly for spiritual instruction and encouragement of her followers, began to take more and more note of public affairs. Opposition and slander resulted from her mixing fearlessly with the world and speaking with the candour and authority of one completely committed to Christ. She was cleared of all charges at the Dominican General Chapter of 1374. Her public influence reached great heights because of her evident holiness, her membership in the Dominican Third Order, and the deep impression she made on the pope. She worked tirelessly for the crusade against the Turks and for peace between Florence and the pope. In 1378, the Great Schism began, splitting the allegiance of Christendom between two, then three, popes and putting even saints on opposing sides. Catherine spent the last two years of her life in Rome, in prayer and pleading on behalf of the cause of Pope Urban VI and the unity of the Church. She offered herself as a victim for the Church in its agony. She died surrounded by her “children” and was canonized in 1461.



Catherine ranks high among the mystics and spiritual writers of the Church. In 1939, she and Francis of Assisi were both declared co-patrons of Italy. Pope Paul VI named her and Teresa of Avila doctors of the Church in 1970. Her spiritual testament is found in *The Dialogue*.

Reflection: Though she lived her life in a faith experience and spirituality far different from that of our own time, Catherine of Sienna stands as a companion with us on the Christian journey in her undivided effort to invite the Lord to take flesh in her own life. Events which might make us wince or chuckle or even yawn fill her biographies: a mystical experience at six, childhood betrothal to Christ, stories of harsh asceticism, her frequent ecstatic visions. Still, Catherine lived in an age which did not know the rapid change of 21st-century mobile Europe. The value of her life for us today lies in her recognition of holiness as a goal to be sought over the course of a lifetime.

April 30th, Saint Pius V

This is the pope whose job it was to implement the historic Council of Trent. If we think popes had difficulties in implementing Vatican Council II, Pius V had even greater problems after Trent four centuries earlier. During his 6 year papacy he was faced with the almost overwhelming responsibility of getting a shattered and scattered Church back on its feet. The family of God had been shaken by corruption, by the Reformation, by the constant threat of Turkish invasion, and by the bloody bickering of the young nation-states. In 1545, a previous pope convened the Council of Trent in an attempt to deal with all these pressing problems. Off and on over 18 years, the Fathers of the Church discussed, condemned, affirmed, and decided upon a course of action. The Council closed in 1563. Pius V was elected in 1566 and charged with the task of implementing the sweeping reforms



called for by the Council.

He ordered the founding of seminaries for the proper training of priests. He published a new missal, a new breviary, a new catechism, and established the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine classes for the young. Pius zealously enforced legislation against abuses in the Church. He patiently served the sick and the poor by building hospitals, providing food for the hungry, and giving money customarily used for the papal banquets to poor Roman converts. His decision to keep wearing his Dominican habit led to the custom—to this day—of the pope wearing a white cassock. In striving to reform both Church and state, Pius encountered vehement opposition from England’s Queen Elizabeth and the Roman Emperor Maximilian II. Problems in France and in the Netherlands also hindered Pius’s hopes for a Europe united against the Turks. Only at the last minute was he able to organize a fleet which won a decisive victory in the Gulf of Lepanto, off Greece, on October 7, 1571. His ceaseless papal quest for a renewal of the Church was grounded in his personal life as a Dominican friar. He spent long hours with his God in prayer, fasted rigorously, deprived himself of many customary papal luxuries, and faithfully observed the spirit of the Dominican Rule that he had professed.

Reflection: In their personal lives and in their actions as popes, Saint Pius V and Saint Paul VI both led the family of God in the process of interiorizing and implementing the new birth called for by the Spirit in major Councils. With zeal and patience, Pius and Paul pursued the changes urged by the Council Fathers. Like Pius and Paul, we too are called to constant change of heart and life.



In the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I Trust

Look to the Star, Call upon Mary! In danger,
in difficulty or in doubt, think of Mary,
call upon Mary, Keep her name on your lips,
Never let it pass out of your heart.

Following in her footsteps you will not go astray:
praying to her, you will not fall into despair:

thinking of her you will not err. While she keeps hold of your hand,
you will not fall, you will not grow weary, you will have no fear
Enjoying her protection, you will reach the goal.

(Saint Bernard of Clairveaux)

Please pray for **Carmen Cordina, RIP,**
who has been called home to God.

*Eternal Rest Grant unto her, O Lord,
Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon her.*

*May she rest in peace. Amen
Requiescat in Pace*

In Paradisum

May angels guide you and bring you into paradise:
and may all the martyrs come forth to welcome
you home; and may they lead you into the holy city, Jerusalem.
May the angel chorus sing to welcome you, and like Lazarus for-
gotten and poor, you shall have everlasting rest.

The Pope’s Prayer intentions (April) For The Role of Women

Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized
in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in
various parts of the world.

P	L	E	N	W	T	E	Y	E	P	VINE	BRANCH	FRUIT	PRUNES
Y	O	G	O	E	N	U	R	P	S	WORD	HOME	PLENTY	THROWN
T	L	R	N	T	H	R	O	W	N	FIRE	BURNT	GLORY	DISCIPLES
N	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S				
E	V	R	U	F	R	O	G	L	Y				
L	S	T	I	U	R	F	E	S	F				
P	A	R	N	I	A	M	E	R	R				
T	E	E	F	R	O	C	U	A	I				
O	S	O	B	H	U	T	I	E	U				
E	H	C	N	A	R	B	A	B	T				

Please remember in your prayers

Ann Lowther, Maria Proli, Sister Terry, Eileen Bowler,
Francesca Adams, Mary McGrath, Sheila Payne,
Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock,
Jonathan Wiltshire, Alex Smith, Mary Sturgess,
Brenda Gregory, Margaret Collins, Theresa Davies,
The Rogers Family, Flavia Stampa Gruss,
and all in need of God’s grace at this time.



Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen!