

DIARY for WEEK BEGINNING 16th MAY 2010

✠ The ASCENSION of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (C) ✠

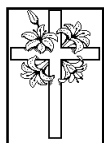
Sun 16	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Anna Azavedo RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Joseph Mackenzie RIP
		12.30pm	<i>Baptism of Jane Khonie</i>
		4.00pm	✠ Mass for the Malayalam Community
Mon 17	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Ellen Saunders RIP
Tue 18	Feria	9.15am	✠ Mass: James and Mary Woodford RIP
Wed 19	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Eugenio Grosso RIP
Thu 20	Feria	NO MASS	
Fri 21	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Arthur Ryan RIP
		6.00-7.30pm	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Sat 22	Feria	10.00am	✠ Mass: Lillian Huckings RIP
		10.30am	<i>Exposition and Confessions</i>
✠ PENTECOST, WHIT SUNDAY (C) ✠			
Sun 23	Saturday	6.30pm	✠ Vigil Mass: Emmanuel Muscat RIP
	Sunday	9.30am	✠ Mass: James Fitzgerald RIP
		11.00am	✠ Mass: Pro Populo

PLEASE NOTE: Mass on Tuesday is at **9:15am**, and there is **no Mass** on Thursday.

Thank you.

Please pray for the following, whose anniversaries occur this week:

Mary Lane, Gary Barrow, Jack McGuire, James Murphy, Jessie Kavanagh, Rose Croucher, William Cade, James Oakley, David Turpin, Theresa Sullivan, Sylvia Cragan, Vivien Pear, Esther Race, Peter Whyte, Margaret Ling, Alice O'Flaherty, Patrick Keegan and Oswald Evans.



May their souls and the souls of all the ✠ faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

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16th May 2010

✠ The ASCENSION of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (C) ✠

WORD OF GOD

Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; they were continually in the Temple praising God.

(Luke 24:51-53)



WORD FOR TODAY

Ascension Christians are those whose lives are lived in a joyful hope that waits for the return of Jesus, when all the promises made by God will come to completion. Where Jesus has gone, we hope to follow.

SOMETHING TO PRAY ABOUT....

We can join Pope Benedict in his prayer intentions for the month of May:

General:

That the shameful and monstrous commerce in human beings, which sadly involves millions of women and children, may be ended.

Missionary:

That ordained ministers, religious women and men, and lay people involved in apostolic work may understand how to infuse missionary enthusiasm into the communities entrusted to their care.



AROUND the PARISH

WELCOME to Fr Michael of the Holy Ghost Fathers. He is here this weekend to supply for Fr Geoffrey, who is taking a break to care for his elderly parents. Fr Michael will give an appeal on behalf of the Holy Ghost Fathers this weekend and there will be a retiring collection for this cause. I'm sure he will be made to feel very welcome, and hope that we can be generous in supporting this cause. Thanks also to Fr James and Fr Kevin for supplying during the week where possible.

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT During the *Year of the Priest* we expose the Blessed Sacrament on Saturdays after the morning Mass for the duration of Confessions. ☩ Also, during the month of May, the Bishops of England and Wales have asked us to expose the Blessed Sacrament on the four Fridays '...to pray to God for healing, forgiveness and renewed dedication' as a result of the child abuse scandal that has been such a focus of public attention recently. Please take a copy of the statement by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales. There will therefore be Exposition throughout this month on Fridays beginning at 6pm and closing with Benediction at 7.30pm.

CIGARETTE BINS The Playgroup has alerted us to the fact that people aren't using the provided bins to dispose of cigarettes. It is untidy and most of all unsafe for our children who play outside the church and McMahan Hall. Please ensure that cigarettes are put into these bins when finished—they're there for a reason. Thank you.

EASTER DUTIES The last day for fulfilling the precept of Easter Communion is, the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, 30th May. Canon **2042** of *The Cate-*

chism states: The third precept ('You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season') guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and centre of the Christian liturgy.

PARISH BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY TRAINING There will be a course on the weekend 4th to 6th June. If you are interested in this training we have an application form in the office.

CONFIRMATION Bishop John will be here for Confirmation on Friday 12th November at 7.30pm. Application forms are now available. Please see Deacon Michael.

AROUND the DIOCESE and BEYOND

FAITH in FOCUS: UP AND AWAY?

The feast of the Ascension of the Lord is almost the Cinderella of Lent and Eastertide. While we give great weight to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter and Pentecost, Ascension seems to belong to a second division of feasts that rarely get much of a mention. Traditionally the number 40 has a mystical significance in the bible. The Hebrew slaves wandered for 40 years in the desert, Jesus fasted and was tempted for 40 days in the desert, and the Ascension is said to have taken place 40 days after the resurrection. But what is this feast actually about? It celebrates more than the mere fact that Jesus did not stay on earth after his resurrection. Yes, he went back to heaven. But today's feast is not simply a historical memorial of that fact. It has a liturgical and spiritual meaning. Essentially today's feast is one of Easter hope. We rejoice in the fact that Jesus overcame the powers of darkness by rising from the dead. These powers still threaten us

today but we are confident that Christ has crushed evil's permanent hold over us, and that even death cannot hold us in its grasp for ever. That's something to celebrate! But Ascension goes further. It allows us to proclaim our confident hope that where Jesus has gone, we too hope to follow. The ancient Roman preface for today reminds us that although Jesus has passed beyond our sight he has done so not to abandon us but to be our hope. God might have gone up, but he's not gone away. In a very obvious way, Jesus' ascending into heaven is a way of saying that he has returned to his Father in order to claim for us a share in his divine life. In just a week's time this cycle of earthly trial and victory will reach its climax when we witness the sending of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised us. In the meantime we are left contemplating a God whose care for us is such that he sent his only Son to clear away those obstacles which prevent us from sharing fully in the life he created us for, and who is with us till the end of time inviting us to follow him and proclaim the Good News to the whole world. That too is something to celebrate!

FROM BISHOP JOHN (From a recent letter to the clergy.) "Pope Benedict XVI is to visit England and Scotland on a four day Papal visit from 16 – 19 September 2010. Being a State Visit, and being much shorter than the pastoral visit here of Pope John Paul II, it will be a very different experience, but further information will reach you as soon as it is finalised by the organisers, particularly in relation to a London event. Some of the scheduled occasions will be distinctly religious events for our Church in England, Wales and Scotland (for example the Beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman in Cov-

entry, public Mass in Glasgow, prayer vigil in London, etc) and will inevitably involve major expense. Some effective fund raising initiated by the Bishops' Conference has raised the major part of the funds, but also there will have to be a Sunday collection taken in all the churches of our three countries to meet the costs. Consequently, the Bishops' Conference has agreed that there will be a collection on **Pentecost Sunday 23rd May 2010** in all parishes in England, Wales and Scotland. Each diocese has a target figure in order to raise £1m from England and Wales, excluding gift aid. Our target is approximately **£87,000** and since this is considerably more than the average second collection, I hope you can encourage your people to be extra generous for this special occasion. You will be receiving in each parish a package including a letter from Archbishop Vincent Nicholls, instructions regarding the collection, gift aid envelopes, four posters and sufficient prayer cards for everyone attending Mass on Pentecost Sunday."

ATTENDANCE Last week we welcomed 344 people to Mass, and we received **£646.52** in the offertory. ♦ **This weekend** there is a Mission Appeal on behalf of the Holy Ghost Fathers. In view of this and of the Bishops' Conference collection **next week** for the Holy Father's visit (see above) our collection for World Communication Day will be taken up on Trinity Sunday, 29th/30th May. Thank you.

GIFT AID Thank you to those who use the envelopes each week helping to augment our parish income thanks to the income tax we are able to recover. The new envelope season will start in June.