

ST JOSEPH'S, STONEHOUSE & THE ANNUNCIATION, WOODCHESTER

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - PSALTER WEEK 1 AND PROPER OF SEASON

THERE ARE NO PUBLIC MASSES TAKING PLACE THIS WEEK

There is a live daily Mass from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Clifton Cathedral. The Mass is 9.30am and can be viewed on the Diocesan website:
<http://cliftondiocese.com>

If you would like this newsletter emailed to you each week, please send your email address to either stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com or Woodchester.theannunciation@cliftondiocese.com, depending on your parish

LECTIONARY

Sun	Acts 6: 1-7	Psalm 32: 1-5, 18-19	1Pt 2: 4-9	John 14: 1-12
Mon	Acts 14: 5-18	Psalm 113: 1-4, 15-16		John 14: 21-26
Tues	Acts 14: 19-28	Psalm 144: 10-13, 21		John 14: 27-31
Wed	Acts 15: 1-6	Psalm 121: 1-5		John 15: 1-8
Thurs	Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26	Psalm 112: 1-8		John 15: 9-17
Fri	Acts 15: 22-31	Psalm 56: 8-12		John 15: 12-17
Sat	Acts 16: 1-10	Psalm 99: 1-5		John 15: 18-21

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AT ST JOSEPH'S

Vi. Burrage, Mike Gibbons and Olga, Julie Wood, Elizabeth Carr, Mary Evans, Rosemary Mabud, Aine Anderson, Mary Scully, Maggie, Rosemary Sturup

AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED ABOUT THIS TIME

William Kelly, Jadwiga Tylko, David Simmonds, Adeline Mounteney, Patrick Kane

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AT THE ANNUNCIATION

Fr. Richard Finn O.P. and family, Rebekah Hollingshead, Brendon Conboy, Della Cox, Barry Norris, Cynthia Stevens, Peggy Chapman, Barry Taylor, John Presland, Tony Thompson, Georgina Mazzone, Frances Little, Christopher Notley, Trese Hulbert, Elizabeth Lillinton, Tina Hathaway, Phil Goodwin, Chris Jay

AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED ABOUT THIS TIME

Margaret Hargreaves, Florence Phillips, John Gwilliam, Maximilian Nieslony, Norma Kentish, Kathleen Vale

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY

That deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

DIOCESAN PRAYER LINK

Downside: The Abbey Church; Stratton-on-the-Fosse: St Benedict

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Whilst everyone is still in lockdown, Father Bill asks you to keep each other in your prayers, as you are all in his.

IN GENERAL

GOSPEL REFLECTION

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.'

Jesus speaks these words to reassure his disciples that, although he is going to leave them, they will not be forgotten. As the world continues to respond to the devastating Coronavirus, many people are troubled. They are anxious, unsure of where the virus will strike next. Fearful that someone they love will contract or already has the virus and not knowing what the outcome will be. Jesus wants to reassure his bewildered disciples and us, that we will never be abandoned. God is with us and no more so than in this time of the pandemic. As people of faith we are encouraged to trust, to believe in God's loving care for us and be confident that whatever we may face, we will not be overcome. Jesus is 'the way, the truth and the life' so let us stay close to him so that when we emerge from this time, we will do so stronger in faith and stronger in love.

MONTH OF MARY

We are now in the month of May, a time when People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope Francis has sent out an official letter encouraging all Catholics to come together and pray the rosary throughout May and to 'rediscover the beauty of praying the rosary at home.' He has given us two new prayers that implore the help of the Virgin Mary during the coronavirus pandemic. This is the first prayer, we will publish the second prayer next week.

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.
"Protectress of the Roman people",
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection.
Amen.

HOW ARE WE ALL DOING?

We are all friends as well as parishioners and I'm sure we are all wondering how we are all doing. The suggestion has been put forward that we create a weekly check-in so we can all keep in contact. The idea would be that on a weekly basis, you can email a paragraph or so on how you and your family are keeping, how you are occupying yourselves and any useful tips about events in the community etc. If you are in the Stonehouse parish, then email to stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com and if you are the

Woodchester parish, then email to Woodchester.theannunciation@cliftondiocese.com; with the subject heading "OUR PARISH NEWS", by Weds midday each week. These emails would then be collated and emailed out alongside the weekly bulletin. Of course, this isn't compulsory and by submitting your email you would be agreeing to your name and the contents of your email being shared publicly, so please don't include any sensitive information.

CAFOD

Visit the CAFOD website at www.cafod.org.uk/onlinetalks for their online talks, prayer and chats. Also there is lots of information about the work they are doing throughout the coronavirus and information on how you can help or donate to them. Please be mindful that you may have seen CAFOD asking for donations through Facebook, but Facebook will take a charge for this – if you go directly to their website, CAFOD will take 100% of your donation.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

One in four women and about one in six men suffer from domestic abuse in their lifetime. Two women are killed every week in England by a partner or ex-partner. Since the UK-wide COVID-19 lockdown began on 23 March 2020, there has been a 49% increase in calls and online requests for help relating to domestic abuse. The church acknowledges that men, women and children suffer domestic abuse at the hands of husbands, wives, parents and other family members. Violence of this kind should never be tolerated or justified. It is an offence against the dignity of the human person. The Church is recognising the hurt done to those who have experienced domestic abuse. Pope Francis writes: 'Unacceptable customs still need to be eliminated. I think particularly of the shameful ill-treatment to which women are sometimes subjected, domestic violence and various forms of enslavement which, rather than a show of masculine power, are craven acts of cowardice. The verbal, physical, and sexual violence that women endure in some marriages contradicts the very nature of the conjugal union.' (Amoris Laetitia 54). Phone the Police if you are in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police. If you are in danger and unable to talk on the phone, call 999 and listen to the questions from the operator and if possible, respond by coughing or tapping the head set. There is a free phone national domestic abuse Helpline, run by Refuge 0808 200 0247, www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

PRAYER OF SAINT ALPHONSUS

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

For a full list of the support services available, please visit <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/coronavirus/find-support-services-map> for all community groups, charities and other organisations who are in operation at this time.

ONLINE MASS

There are many on-line mass options currently in circulation, but this link gives you a comprehensible list (including sign language options), that you may wish to have a look at. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/live-catholic-mass-online/>

Item for the Bulletin? You can send items for the bulletin (by the Wednesday) to stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com or post them through the presbytery letterbox. For The Annunciation, email: stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com or post in the church letterbox (by front gate) or leave a message on 01453 822121. Any financial matters for Stonehouse, please email admin.stonehouse.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com