

ST JOSEPH'S, STONEHOUSE & THE ANNUNCIATION, WOODCHESTER

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - PSALTER WEEK 2 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 8: 5-8, 14-17	Psalm 65: 1-7, 16, 20	1Pt 3: 15-18	John 14: 15-21
Mon	Acts 16: 11-15	Psalm 149: 1-6, 9		John 15: 26- 16: 4
Tues	Acts 16: 22-34	Psalm 137: 1-3, 7-8		John 16: 5-11
Wed	Acts 17: 15, 22- 18: 1	Psalm 149: 1-6, 9		John 16: 12-15
Thurs	Acts 1: 1-11	Psalm 46: 2-9	Eph 1: 17-23	Matthew 28: 16-20
Fri	Acts 18: 9-18	Psalm 46: 2-7		John 16: 20-23
Sat	Acts 18: 23-28	Psalm 46: 2-3, 8-10		John 16: 23-28

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

John Kimpton, John McGuire, Paulett Lloyd-Graeme, Rosa Camilleri, Lucy Haywood, Yvonne Kelly, Leo Staunton

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

Mary Wilks, Francis Law, Leonard Lickorish, Sr. Mary Margaret McCleane, Mildred Ricketts, William Willis, Ruth Watts, John Woolaghan, Kay Johnson, Gilbert Quick

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

Dulverton: St Stanislaus; Minehead with Watchet: Sacred Heart

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

'I will not leave you orphaned.'

At some point we all want or even need to hear these words. They speak directly to some of our greatest fears and challenges; abandonment and isolation, loneliness, vulnerability. These words of Jesus remind us that we do not stand alone, whatever our circumstances. We are living in a time of great uncertainty. We do not have all the answers and many of us are fearful. Our fear points to the deeper reality that by ourselves we are not enough that we were never created to be self-sufficient. We were created to love and be loved, to live in relationship as people who give themselves to each other, to dwell, abide, and remain within each other. "I will not leave you orphaned." That is the promise. Regardless of the circumstances of our lives, storms, death, separation, we have never been and will never be abandoned by God. Let us renew our faith again this week and hold fast to the promise that we are not alone, and we never will be.

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. In last week's bulletin we published the first prayer, this week we are publishing the second:

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God". In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. 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.

THANK YOU TO ST JOSEPHS!

CCS Adoption have sent their thanks for the donation of £55.11 received. This money will help them continue to provide specialist services and support to children and families in need, during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond. The money is also being used to help find homes for children who desperately need them, particularly at this time.

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.

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