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**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

**Response to the Psalm:** The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

**Second reading:** 1 John 4:7-10

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** John 15:9-17



**Dear Parishioners**

When we read in today's gospel that the Father 'loves' the Son, what this means is that he lives for the Son - that everything he is is for the Son. And when we read that the Son 'loves' the people whom he has called to be his friends - and that includes you and me! - it means that he lives for us. And when he tells us to love each other as he loves us, that means that we are being called to live for each other. For love is only real, it only lasts, if it produces more love - as any married couple knows. Basically, Jesus' commandment to us to love is a summons to share in his work - his campaign to bring all human beings back into friendship with God. And it sounds at first as if we are being asked to do something impossible. For he tells us that the love with which we are supposed to love one another is the love with which he has loved us ... in other words, love of the kind which can bring great pain to the lover, judging from what happened to Jesus. It is, on the other hand, a love stronger than death. When we say 'Yes' in our hearts to Christ's call to help spread God's love around, we are not being expected to do this relying on our own strength but by the power of God, the same power that raised Christ from the grave. In fact, if ever we say 'Yes' to God, we are never really alone. For, as Jesus said to his disciples at his Ascension (which we will be celebrating next Thursday):

You will receive *power* when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.

God Bless,  
Fr. Benedict OSB

# St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

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Registered Charity Number 1063237

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and served by the Benedictine Monks of Douai Abbey

**Parish Priest: Fr. Benedict Thompson O.S.B**

**Rev. Deacon Peter Griffiths**



**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (B)**

**Week commencing Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

The Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is responsible for our Parish and is committed to ensuring high standards of information security, privacy and transparency. Check our website, address above, for full details

### Masses

|                           |     |                                           |                           |
|---------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> May   | 5pm | <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter(B)</b> | Tim & Margaret Butler RIP |
| Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> May   |     | <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter(B)</b> | People of the Parish      |
| Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> May  |     |                                           |                           |
| Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> May  |     |                                           |                           |
| Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> May  |     |                                           |                           |
| Thur 13 <sup>th</sup> May |     | <b>The Ascension(sol)</b>                 |                           |
| Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> May  |     |                                           |                           |
| Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> May  | 5pm | <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter(B)</b> |                           |
| Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> May  |     | <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter(B)</b> | People of the Parish      |

**Mass is celebrated daily except on Mondays.**

**If you would like a mass offered for a particular intention, please email the parish or put a note through the door of the presbytery.**

**Those Who Have Asked for Prayers:** Faith Lyons, Steve Smith, Jane-Christina Thomson, Joan Smith, Derek Sollis, Michael Hall, Christopher Hurd, Edward O'Neill, Michael Smith, Barbara Wall, Mick Sollis, Margaret Birkett, Annie McHugh, Georgette Cowell, Dolores Flynn, Carol Shuck, Tony Lyons, Jackie Ingrams, Brian Arthur, Michelle Norton, Melvin Probyn, Peter Sollis, Fred Chadfield. Mary Cross, Alan Clatworthy, Anthony Woodhouse, Robinson Family.

**Those who have recently died:**

Jill Smith, Paula Brookes, Jean McCarthy, Joe Brennan, Paul Bunn, Richard Flynn, Denis Charlton, Mary Gardner, Charles Maries, Sheila Hall, Donald Newell, Helen Meaney Bridget Clarke, Sylvia Flanagan, Robert McCarthy, Pamela Young, Norah O'Neill-Thomas, Susanna Westmeath, Nell Bridge. Doleen Evans, Jean Monica Tucker, Fr. John Fallon, Judy Husband.

**Parish Safeguarding Representative:- Vacant**

### **Information & Prayers**

Pope Francis has requested that the Church comes together to **pray the rosary every day throughout May** for an end to the pandemic. The Pope will be joining 30 shrines across the world throughout the month of May, with a different intention to be prayed for each day. The marathon begins this Saturday 1st May, at our own national shrine of the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk.



### **PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

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

*Based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori*

### **How to support your Parish**

We still have no idea what the government means by ‘return to normal’ after June 21<sup>st</sup>. It has been suggested that we will still have to continue with ‘track and trace’ and that face coverings and hand sanitisation will still need to take place. If this is correct, then presumably we will also need to continue to have the church cleaned after every service. Should this be the case the only way that this parish can continue is if we are able to put together a group of church cleaners who will be willing to be placed on a rota to **clean the church every Saturday evening after mass, and sometimes, if needed, during the week.** This is the only way we will be able to return to celebrating two masses on a weekend. If you feel you are able to help, then either telephone or email the parish office. Both the telephone number and email address are on the front of this bulletin and on the website. I look forward to hearing from you. God bless, Father Benedict OSB

**A big ‘Thank You’ to all those people who have sent cheques and cash over the last week. Please let us keep each other in our prayers**