



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence  
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## Christus surrexit vere, alleluia

12 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 Psalter Week 3	Seventh Sunday of Easter <b>DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE RIGHT USE OF THE MEDIA</b>		
<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17. 20-26</b> <i>We must choose one of these to be a witness to his resurrection with us.</i>		
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	<b>The Lord has set his sway in heaven.</b>		
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>1 St John 4:11-16</b> <i>Anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.</i>		
<b>Gospel Acclamation</b>	<b>Alleluia, alleluia! I will not leave your orphans, says the Lord: I will come back to you and your hearts will be full of joy. Alleluia!</b>		
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>John 17:11-19</b> <i>That they may be one like us!</i>		
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May +</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Vigil Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>	
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Shirley Haggerty Ints.)</b>	
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Our Lady of Fatima</b>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>	
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>ST MATTHIAS - Apostle</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Mass - (Holy Souls)</b>	
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Feria</i>		<b>No Parish Mass today</b>	
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May +</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Service of Word &amp; Communion</b>	
<b>Friday – 17<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Feria</i>	<b>9.15am</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</b> <b>Mass (David Smith Ints)</b>	
<b>Saturday – 18<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>St John I – Pope &amp; Martyr</b>	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>Healing Mass</b>	
<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>			
<b>Saturday – 18<sup>th</sup> May +</b>	<b>5.45pm</b> <b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Confession</b> <b>Vigil Mass – (Deceased members of the Rix &amp; Watson families RIP)</b>	
<b>Sunday – 19<sup>th</sup> May +</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mass – (Pro Populo)</b>	

**Second Collection This Weekend – Catholic Communications Network**

## Last Sunday's Collection

Offertory: £380.15

DCP – £5.00

Average Standing Orders: £464.00

**Total: £975.94**

CAFOD Sudan Appeal: £300.20

Priests Training Fund: £156.00



## Month of May – Our Lady's Month

We begin the month of May which we dedicate to Our Lady. After every Mass, we will either pray the Rosary or say the Litany of Loreto. I would suggest we pray for peace in the world – for the conversion of nations away from war to reconciliation and peace. It would be good also if families could come together in their homes to pray the rosary – this will be a source of great grace.



**SVP Healing Mass** – SVP Healing Mass on the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SVP will be celebrated by Fr David this coming **Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> at midday** and will be followed by lunch. It would help us with the catering if you could let us know if you will be joining us for lunch. Please add your name to the list at the back of the church. Also please let us know if you would like transport. Please contact either by phone on 07469 71 77 60 or by email on [veronicatarrant@aol.com](mailto:veronicatarrant@aol.com)

**PARISH FORUM MEETING** will take place on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm** in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome to come, to hear what's going on, to ask questions, to make suggestions, and to contribute. There will be some good new initiatives to discuss. Please do come!

**Mass For Those with Additional Needs** - the next Mass for people with disabilities and their families will be on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 3.00pm** at Sacred Heart Church, Stopsley, Luton LU2 9 AY. (About 15 mins. from Junction 10 of the M1). Everyone welcome. Access to the Church is step-free; there is ample parking. Mass will be followed by refreshments.



**Gardeners Diary** A very big thank you to everyone who supported Terry's recent 'Plant Sale' – with over 120 plants up for sale, there were only 10 left! The magnificent total of **£135.60** was raised which will be sent to **Northampton Street Pastors**. Many thanks to Terry & Joan for all their hard work in putting this together. A reminder that there will be a sale of Summer Bedding Plants after Mass on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May**.

**New Microphone** – we are currently trialing a new microphone to improve the sound quality. Whether you are a reader, sitting in the congregation or watching via the 'live stream' please do let us know if this is an improvement. We would particularly welcome comments from those who are hard of hearing.

**PARISH GARDEN** is always available for parishioners to visit and pray there. Please feel welcome to come and enjoy the peace!



## CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS' ASSOCIATION

### *Passing on the Faith*

Many thanks to all who came to our last meeting and to those who provided tea and coffee. The next meeting will be **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm** in the parish hall. All welcome!



**VACANCIES** – The Diocese is currently recruiting for a Financial Accountant and an Accounts Assistant to join their central team based in Northampton. Full information for both positions, including how to apply, can be found by visiting: <https://northamptondiocese.org./jobs/>. The closing date for applications is **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May**, however we reserve the right to close the vacancy earlier if enough applications have been received. Interview dates to be confirmed. All candidates should complete a Diocesan application form and email it to: [hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org) together with a covering letter detailing their qualifications, experience and why they are interested in the position.



**JUBILEE YEAR 2025** – as part of the Jubilee Year celebrations, Bishop David will lead a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. Whilst in Rome we will have the opportunity to pass through the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica, visit the other major Basilica's and sights in the city. We will end our pilgrimage in the town of Assisi. This pilgrimage will take place from **27<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025**. All are welcome and bookings. For more information

visit: <https://northamptondiocese.org/rome-andassisi/>



**Our Lady of Fatima** – Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, three Portuguese children—Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia dos Santos—received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria near Fatima, a city 110 miles north of Lisbon. Mary asked the children to pray the rosary for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia. Mary gave the children three secrets. Following the deaths of Francisco and Jacinta in 1919 and 1920 respectively, Lucia revealed the first secret in 1927. It

concerned devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second secret was a vision of hell. When Lucia grew up, she became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97.

**ACTION ALERT - EMAIL YOUR MP** As you likely know, abortion for Down's syndrome is currently legal right up to birth. Sir Liam Fox MP has tabled an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill that seeks to end abortion up to birth for unborn babies with Down's syndrome. The campaign group *Don't Screen Us Out* have launched a tool which makes it easy to email your MP and ask them to vote in support of the amendment. **Please take action now and click the link to contact your MP** using their tool. It only takes 30 seconds:

[https://dontscreenusout.org/timeforchange/?utm\\_source=SUBSCRIPTION+LIST&utm\\_campaign=147f4c6bad-](https://dontscreenusout.org/timeforchange/?utm_source=SUBSCRIPTION+LIST&utm_campaign=147f4c6bad-)

[EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2024\\_05\\_04&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_-147f4c6bad-%5BLIST\\_EMAIL\\_ID%5D](https://dontscreenusout.org/timeforchange/?utm_source=SUBSCRIPTION+LIST&utm_campaign=147f4c6bad-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2024_05_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-147f4c6bad-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D)

## Reflection on the Sunday Reading's

**Acts 1:15-17. 20-26** - During Eastertide we have been working through the Acts of the Apostles, listening to the progress of the earliest community. Now, on the final Sunday before Pentecost, we suddenly return to the very beginning, the very first incident after the Ascension. This is important for three reasons. Firstly, it shows the importance of the apostolic body, the Twelve. With the defection of Judas, it was still important that there should be that number. Not only is it a good solid number, three times four, but also it is the number of the tribes of Israel, and the apostolic community is the continuation of the Chosen People. Secondly, but still in the same sense, it fulfils the scripture, as Peter points out. The early Christian reflection in the New Testament on the events of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord is constantly linked to the scriptures, and a multitude of details is shown to be 'in accordance with the scriptures. It was obviously important for the community to know that everything that occurred was running according to the will of God for the Christian community as it was expressed in the scriptures. Thirdly, the witness of the Twelve had included the earthly life and ministry of Jesus as well as to the final events of his life; we need to know about these in order to see that Jesus was proclaiming and bringing the Kingship of God by his teaching and his healing.

**1 John 4:11-16** - To conclude the series of readings about the love which God shows to us, and which we in our turn should show to one another, comes this lovely Trinitarian reading, obviously also preparing for Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. The love of Father for Son is an eternal factor, technically known by theologians as the 'circum-in-session' ('sitting in and around' or mutually enveloping each other). That love reaches to us in time by God's sending of his Son to us to give us a share in his Spirit. So, in Christ and in his Spirit, we too are enveloped in that cloud which is the divine love. If we take this seriously, we can hardly abstain from passing on that love to others. Love is not something private, for myself, but is something transitive, passing on and on the warmth and openness from one person to another. If I love you, you will love me, and our love will pass on and ignite others.

**St John 17:11-19** - Surprisingly, this wonderful final chapter of Jesus' discourse after the Last Supper comes in the Sunday readings only on this Sunday (in each year of the three-year cycle). In the whole discourse (John 14-17) Jesus is preparing his disciples for the time of the Church, after his death and resurrection. In this final chapter, however, he is speaking of his death itself, or rather of his consecration by his death. How exactly it is the actual words of Jesus we do not know, but it is a great prayer which is fully in accord with what Jesus would have been thinking on this daunting occasion. The prayer centres on the Fatherhood of God and the coming of the Kingdom or Kingship of God by the sanctification or consecration of the world, especially in the sanctification of the disciples, praying also for the deliverance of the disciples of Jesus from evil (as in the final petition of the Lord's Prayer). Fully in view of his own approaching sacrifice Jesus prays that by his own glorification his disciples also may be consecrated. The prayer is also a fitting preparation for Pentecost at which the Church is consecrated by the coming of the Spirit.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Fatima, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Matthias, St John I, pray for us all as we continue to bask in the joys of Easter.

*With our love and prayers, Fr David, Fr Patrick, and Deacon Peter*