

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor
Registered Charity no. 234025

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Newsletter for the week of 12th May 2024 Sunday Readings Cycle B Weekday Readings Cycle II

Readings for the for 6th Sunday of Easter Acts 1:15-17,20-26, 44-48; Psalm 102; 1John 4:11-16; John 17:11-19
Saturday 11th May 5.30pm 1st MASS of the 7th SUNDAY of EASTER – Day of Prayer for World Communications
Sunday 12th May 10.30pm MASS of the 7th SUNDAY of EASTER – Day of Prayer for World Communications
Monday 13th May
Tuesday 14th May FEAST: ST. MATTHIAS, Apostle
Wednesday 15th May 11.30am Mass
Friday 16th May
Saturday 17th May 10.00am Mass (Optional: St. John I. pope, martyr)
10.30-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 18th May 5.30pm 1st Mass of Pentecost Sunday
Sunday 19th May 10.30am Mass of Pentecost Sunday
Readings for Pentecost Sunday Acts 2:1-11;; Psalm 103; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23.

WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY

The theme for this year's World Day of Social Communications, chosen by Pope Francis, is '*Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication*'. On World Communications Day, we take up the command of Jesus to preach the Good News of the Gospel to the whole world. Vital to this is good communication – through our websites, publications & social media channels. The Bishops' Conference of England & Wales works hard to forge positive relationships with media outlets to communicate news relating to every aspect of the life of the Catholic Church and her people. There is a retiring Collection to support running of the Bishops' Conference Media Office & the Bishops of England & Wales website <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Next Tues 14th May 6.30pm in the Community Room. Agenda items by today to Chair Caroline Mottram
Caroline.mottram@talktalk.net Vice Chair John Mears john_mears@outlook.com Sec. Sarina Bloor
tribalhq@ntlworld.com

CRAFT CLUB

Next Wed 15th May 12.15-2.30pm Craft Club meeting, then on Wed 12th June

HOSPITAL MASS

Fridays 1.00pm in Macclesfield District General Hospital. After being suspended during the 4 years of the pandemic, a weekly Mass is being restarted.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL AMENDMENTS

Four amendments have been submitted to the Criminal Justice Bill which relate to the protection of unborn babies and is now timetabled to be debated next Wed. 15th May. The *Right to Life* Organization recently publicised two of them and called on our support : - to reduce the abortion time limit to 22 weeks; - to remove from the law allowing Down's syndrome babies to be aborted up to birth. However, two other amendments are of concern & need opposing : -to remove any legal protection for unborn babies whose mother brings about her own abortion; -to decriminalise any abortion up to the 24th week. Visit the Bishops' website for more details <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

FUNERAL

Tues 21st May 10.30am Funeral Service for Steve O'Dea died 19th April after suffering many years of multiple sclerosis. Burial in Adlington Memorial Park for family members. May he rest in peace

DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE

Sat 8th June 12noon at St. Columba's Plas Newton, Chester CH2 1SA for any parishioners celebrating a special wedding anniversary in 2024.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday Collection £280.00

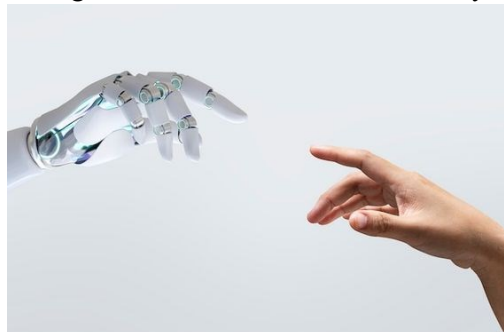
April S/O £677.00

GET IN TOUCH QUICKLY –IF YOU ARE SICK If you or your relative enters Macclesfield Hospital let Fr. Peter know as soon as possible tel: 01625 423576 or by e-mail st.edmacc@gmail.com

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & the WISDOM of the HEART

Towards a Fully Human Communication

Bishop John Arnold of Salford Diocese, Lead Bishop for Communications, has spoken about Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day and the role Artificial Intelligence plays in the development of information technology.



The day, celebrated on Sunday 12th May, has as its theme “*Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication*”.

The pace at which AI is developing is extraordinary. The ethical questions surrounding the technology will always need amplifying – how AI impacts on how we think, the dignity of work, how we use the information, its sourcing and accuracy, global regulation – to cover just a few bases.

Pope Francis is keen to stress that communication needs to be authentic and human. We must speak from that most human of organs, the heart. Bishop Arnold agrees:

“Just about every invention that we have, there’s a negative side, and we’ve got to be sure to identify that,” he says. *“The human heart can help our discernment as to what is good for humanity, what progresses who we are, what adds to our dignity, our well-being, but also to identify those things that are not so positive, those things that can be destructive.”*

But being people of God, perhaps we have an advantage. We are acutely aware not to make gods out of ourselves. We have a higher authority – a divine regulator – to help us maintain our humanity and perspective.

“We, as Christians, rely very much on the guidance of the Spirit, on providence in our lives, to guide us in much of what we do,” says Bishop Arnold. *“Machines can’t dictate that for us. We’ve got to maintain a sense of independent thinking, independent discernment and wisdom in order to find the best way forward. What is God asking of us as individuals? As a community? As a global humanity?”*

“Let’s use machines to assist us in what we’re doing to make our world a better place, to enhance the way we live. But let’s not allow machines in any way to think for us or to make decisions which are not appropriate.”



When we focus on the positives of Artificial Intelligence, the speed at which information can be gathered and shared, how it can be made more accessible to people across the globe – the so-called ‘death of distance’ – we can see examples of how the technology is enabling a global audience to access what the Church says on any given subject. *Magisterium AI* is a chatbot that makes the teaching of the Catholic Church available 24/7 at incredible speed using more than 6,000 documents as its knowledge base.

Bishop Arnold considers it a very useful bank of knowledge:

“It has the technical ability to give you exactly what you’re looking for in an instant, instead of wondering through a library and looking through thousands of pages, hoping that what you want is in a particular volume. It does it all for you, and that’s something which is making learning accessible.

“It’s not changing learning, and it’s not dictating anything that hasn’t been approved as being Magisterium of the Church. It’s simply keeping in a store, in an enormous bank with wonderful search facilities, what the teaching of the Church is and how that applies to us. That’s a real asset, but it’s not intelligence.”

So on World Communications Day, Bishop John Arnold is encouraging Catholics to embrace the technology in terms of how it serves the common good, but there is a key caveat:

“As individuals we’ve got to be very careful to recognise that we can be led astray by fake information, and to make sure that we’re testing what we hear before we proclaim it to be true.

“The technology could be of enormous value to us, but we’ve got to identify clear boundaries as to what can be good and useful and what really needs to be avoided.”

THE *Wednesday* WORD



Encountering Christ The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families



Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross and remain still for a minute of settling silence.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.

1

Read The Gospel for Sunday 12th May 2024 SHARING CHRIST'S JOY TO THE FULL

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Holy Father, Keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us. While I was with them, I kept those you have given me true to your name. I have watched over them and not one is lost except the one who chose to be lost, and this was to fulfil the scriptures. But now I am coming to you and while still in the world I say these things to share my joy with them to the full. I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world. I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.'

Taken from John 17:11-19 The Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year B

2

Reflect After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

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.

What do I bring to others? Is it Christ's joy?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

3

Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, patience, humility, joy, forgiveness, self-control, courage, generosity, faith or something else.

4

Pray for Families

This Wednesday's word for our school families is CARE!

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 12th May 2024**



1st Reading: Acts 1:15-17. 20-26

The Twelve Tribes of the New Israel

One day Peter stood up to speak to the brothers – there were about a hundred and twenty persons in the congregation: 'Brothers, the passage of scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, foretells the fate of Judas, who offered himself as a guide to the men who arrested Jesus – after having been one of our number and actually sharing this ministry of ours. 'In the book of Psalms it says: Let someone else take his office. 'We must therefore choose someone who has been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling around with us, someone who was with us right from the time when John was baptising until the day when he was taken up from us – and he can act with us as a witness to his resurrection.' Having nominated two candidates, Joseph known as Barsabbas, whose surname was Justus, and Matthias, they prayed, 'Lord, you can read everyone's heart; show us therefore which of these two you have chosen to take over this ministry and apostolate, which Judas abandoned to go to his proper place.' They then drew lots for them, and as the lot fell to Matthias, he was listed as one of the twelve apostles.



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.

What difference does it make to me that I belong to the Church?



2nd Reading: 1 John 4:11-16

God lives and loves in us

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us. We can know that we are living in him and he is living in us because he lets us share his spirit. We ourselves saw and we testify that the Father sent his Son as saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves. God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.



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 'circuminsession' ('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.

Do I really pass on God's love to those around me?

❖ If we take this seriously we can hardly abstain from passing on that love to others. ❖

2024

THY KINGDOM COME

In this Year of Prayer, the Catholic Church in England & Wales is supporting the 2024 'Thy Kingdom Come' worldwide initiative. All are invited to take part between the Feast of the Ascension, 9th May 2024 until Pentecost Sunday, 19th May 2024.

To find out more, head over to thykingdomcome.global & rcdow.org.uk/evangelisation/