

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT AT THE MOMENT CHURCHES AND CHAPELS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY

At the time of the Ascension, our Lord sent his disciples out to communicate the gospel to the nations As a result of that commission, **this Sunday, 24 May** will be kept as **World Communications Day**. We reflect on the many means through which Catholic Faith and life are transmitted throughout the world.

VIRTUAL LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

You are invited to an online Lourdes pilgrimage; starting **Sunday 24 May** with Archbishop Bernard's opening Mass at 3pm live-streamed from St Chad's Cathedral. Find the full programme on www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

This is the Sunday between the Ascension and Pentecost / Whitsunday. The first reading takes us from the place of the Ascension back to an upper room, and a beautiful vignette of the earliest Christian community in prayer together with our Lady. This sharing of prayer together would be the bedrock of the earliest disciples' life in Christ, enabling them and us as well, to be sustained even when called, as the second reading remind us, to 'share in the sufferings of Christ...if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then they are not to be ashamed of it' The experience of being a Christian, **in** the world but not **of** the world' is at the heart of the seventeenth chapter of St John's Gospel. Often called the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus, it reminds us of our union with his heavenly Father, and with him in the glory of his self-offering and in the hope, given to us all, of eternal life. In this world, our union with Almighty God, and gifted in the Holy Spirit, will be the source of **our** witness. I hope that you and your family will have some blessed times together in spite of all the present difficulties.

NEXT SUNDAY – SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST 2020

Our celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church is kept next Sunday. We are reminded that Whitsunday is often seen as the Church's birthday and thus encourages us to rejoice in the dynamism and courage given to the earliest Christian community. **The season of Eastertide comes to its conclusion on this day.**

JOANNA BAZEN RIP

Many of you will be aware that Father David's wife, Joanna, has been bravely facing serious illness over the last few years. I am sorry to have to tell you all that Joanna died at home on Tuesday morning, 19 May, cared for by Father David and daughters, Alice and Emily. A lady of many talents and interests, Jo, together with Father David, has been at the heart of parish life for over fourteen years. She has been on parish pilgrimages with Father David and parishioners, read the scriptures to us at Mass and supported our parish autumn fairs and numerous other activities. With her background in education, she had a love of ornithology, gardening, speaking Italian, art history and appreciation, baking and preserving, alcohol making (and drinking!) and, especially, enjoying her three grandchildren, Mae, Thomas and Eve. We express our love and sympathy to Father David and all the family and Jo's many colleagues and friends.

May she rest in peace.

Service at Oakley Wood Crematorium 28 May at 4.00pm – please pray for Jo

ST AUGUSTINE'S AND CRACKLEY HALL SCHOOLS

With the possible return of some classes to school in the news at present, I wish to record the thanks of the parish to St Augustine's and Crackley Hall Schools.

During the time of disruption to traditional schooling, both schools have in wonderful and imaginative ways, made various courses of study available to children in their homes.

The weekly communications from the schools have given wonderful testimony to this. Furthermore, for the children of key workers and other children needing to be on site in school, an environment of stability and learning has been continued and developed. I am very aware that spiritually and socially our young people have not had all the usual blessings of this time of the academic year. We all owe **an immense** debt of gratitude to Mrs Ritchie and to Mr Duigan, and to all the staff at both schools for their continued selfless commitment.

Please be assured of our continued prayers at this challenging time of transition.

CHRISTIAN AID THANKS KENILWORTH

Churches Together in Kenilworth & District and Christian Aid formed a partnership to raise money for Christian Aid Week 10 - 16 May.

This was to raise money from our community for people in poor countries in much greater need than ourselves, due to poverty, over-crowding and poor health and sanitation, especially during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The customary collection of big red envelopes through your doors was out of the question, so a Just Giving web-based donation scheme was initiated. A target of £5,000 was set and including Gift Aid this has been comfortably exceeded.

The site is still open, so please go to www.tiny.cc/ctkdcavid and give generously. You can also donate at: www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week Keith Grierson, Chairman of Churches Together, said "We thank our community for displaying their customary generosity and compassion even during these very difficult times".

A MESSAGE FROM THE FHL PARISH GROUP

Due to the Covid-19virus, we will not be able to hold our annual fund raising event, the Afternoon Tea and Grand Draw which you have generously supported in the past. Meanwhile the impact of the virus is having a devastating effect in the Holy Land as so many Christians rely on the income of pilgrimages and tourists. The Charity has launched the "Pentecost Challenge" to raise funds before 31st May.

Three long-standing supporters have pledged to match fund the first £100,000, so every £1 donated will have the impact of £2.

We would therefore, be very grateful of your support for this appeal. Donations can be sent on line to www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/pentecost-challenge

Cheques may be sent to Friends of the Holy Land, Farmer Ward Road, Kenilworth CV8 2DH Any Queries please contact P. Highton on 859 532 or L. Morris 854 994.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES and other donations may be posted through the Presbytery inside letter-box. Thank you for this sign of kindness and generosity.

MAY OUR LORD BLESS YOU ALL DURING THESE DIFFICLT AND CHALLENGING DAYS, FATHER KEVIN