



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

WOOD STREET, SOUTHAM CV47 1PP

Parish Priest: Fr Arul Samy Deacon: Rev. Terry Hum (Rtd)

Tel: (01926) 812351 E-mail: presbytery@stwulstan-southam.co.uk www.stwulstan-southam.co.uk

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216



Masses & Intentions: May 10 - May 17, 2020

Sunday 10	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> People of the Parish
Monday 11	<i>Feast of English Martyrs</i> Mass
Tuesday 12	<i>Easter feria</i> (<i>Ss Nereus & Achilleus, St. Pancras mm</i>) Mass
Wednesday 13	<i>Easter feria</i> (<i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>) Arul Thomas Selvam RIP (Anniversary)
Thursday 14	<i>Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle.</i> Mass
Friday 15	<i>Easter feria</i> Mass
Saturday 16	<i>Easter feria</i> Mass
Sunday 17	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> People of the Parish

Our Royal Priesthood

We are called to reflect on our vocation to exercise our royal priesthood and to offer the spiritual sacrifice which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God our Father.

Jesus Warns of his Departure (John 14:1-12): As the festival of the Ascension approaches, Jesus begins to prepare his followers for his own departure from the world. There are two aspects to this teaching. Firstly Jesus speaks of the final purpose, union with the Father, and his preparation of a place for us there. He says that there is a 'room' for each of them, suggesting not that there are plenty of separate cubicles for different sets of people (bishops, babies, monks and maniacs), but that there is no lack of space in heaven. No problem of 'only one wins the prize' in this case. The second aspect is preparation for the future Church on earth, and the almost shocking promise that in the absence of Jesus – but in the strength of his Spirit – his people will do 'even greater works'. Paul teaches that believers 'make up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ', for in every age the Church fills up the measure of Christ's sufferings; it is a Church which shares its Master's trials. In the same way in every age the Church must carry on the works of Christ. In John the 'works' of Jesus are the marvellous deeds, beyond mere human powers, which show who Jesus is. We too are called on to perform marvellous deeds, beyond mere human powers, works of grace and generosity.

What is the real joy and excitement of heaven? How may we best carry on the 'work' of Christ? Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Pope's Prayer Intention for May - (For Deacons): We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

RIP: Please pray for **Bishop Leo McCartie, Fr. Andy Kenney, Fr. Bernard O'Connor OSA, Fr. Antony Conlon, Lucy Barwell, Mary Adams** and all who died in recent times and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Telephone support: Some of our parishioners are supporting each other by telephone. Please phone 811703 (Shirley) or email (shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com) if you want a chat or to receive calls or if you would like to join those who are calling others.

Rosary: The Parish Rosary group are continuing to pray the Rosary at 10am on Thursdays in their own homes, but connected spiritually. Please join if you can and would like to.

Ss Nereus & Achilleus were Roman soldiers during the reign of Diocletian. They embraced the true faith. As a result they were martyred.

St. Pancras (+304): Hardly fourteen years old, St. Pancras was martyred during the reign of Diocletian. According to tradition he preferred rather to die than renounce his faith in Christ. He was buried in the Via Aurelia where Pope Symmachus built a basilica over his tomb.

Our Lady of Fatima: The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children at Fatima (Portugal) on the thirteenth day for six consecutive months in 1917. She brought the message of peace and reparation for sin, encouraging devotion to her Immaculate Heart and the recitation of the Holy Rosary.

St. Matthias, Apostle (+64): After the Ascension of Our Lord, St. Peter proposed that the disciples select an apostle in the place of Judas. They chose Matthias, who joined the eleven apostles. He worked for the faith in Palestine, and later was stoned to death.

On line donations: Parishioners will be pleased to know that 'on line donations' are possible now: There is a donate button (top right) on the home page of the diocesan website – www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk

From these donations which can also be gift aided can be made to any parish via credit or debit card.

Funds will initially be passed to the diocese but will be passed on to each parish as soon as possible.

There are transaction charges levied by the card processing company which amount to 20p + 1.9% of the value of the donation – so for a £10 donation this will amount to £0.39 which will be deducted from the amount we receive.

Please do note therefore that standing order remains the most cost effective way for our parishioners to donate.

The Regina Caeli

O Queen of heaven, rejoice! **Alleluia.**
For he whom you did merit to bear, **alleluia.**
Has risen as he said, **alleluia.**
Pray for us to God, **alleluia.**
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
R. For the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia.

Let us pray

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your son our Lord Jesus Christ, grant that we may obtain, through his Virgin Mother, Mary, the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

(N.B. From Easter to Pentecost the 'Regina Caeli' is said in place of the Angelus)

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR RENEWAL IN OUR PARISH

Father, pour out your Spirit upon your people, and grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your Word, and a new consecration to your service, that your love may grow among us, and your kingdom come: Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CAFOD's Covid-19 Emergency Appeal: CAFOD launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries where CAFOD works are likely to be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water and healthcare are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus. The poorest and most marginalised

communities will be pushed further into poverty. Your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever to help protect the lives of those in poor communities. While we are not able to hold physical collections in our church, you can donate as individuals at cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal.

In response to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, and in compliance with the Government regulation the churches will remain **CLOSED** until further notice.

Hope and pray things will get better as soon as possible, when we shall gather for our daily and weekly worship. The Government and our dioceses will direct us accordingly as and when this happens and we shall be guided by them.

In the meanwhile, priests continue to celebrate Mass on a daily basis, for your intentions and for any other specific intentions.

Parishioners are also encouraged to take part in Mass online if possible and have 'Spiritual Communion'.

List of a few 'Live Streaming' Churches within Archdiocese of Birmingham and beyond, are available on our parish website. An extended list is also available at:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/whats-on-now/>

Those who wish to celebrate the *Liturgy of the Hours*, or have access to the Readings at Mass, please visit: <https://universalis.com> for assistance.

www.wednesdayword.org offers reflections (Lectio Divina) as well as reflections / activities for children & family.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you have already come and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. — St. Alphonsus Liguori

PRAYER DURING CORONA-VIRUS PANDEMIC

God our Father, we come to you in our need to ask your protection against the Corona virus that has claimed lives and has affected so many people.

We pray for your grace for the people tasked with the studying the nature and cause of this virus and of stemming the tide of its transmission.

Guide the hands and minds of doctors, nurses, medical staff, experts and all health care workers – that they may minister to the sick with love, compassion, and skill.

We pray for all those who have died with Covid - 19 and for their families and friends.
May the Lord bring them to the glory of heaven.

We pray for all who are ill from the virus that the Lord may heal them soon through the ministry of others.

We pray for all who work in any way at this time to keep our society functioning – those who are involved with producing, selling and delivering food, those who keep our transport system and utilities going and all those in other frontline jobs.

We pray for all who are struggling with isolation, loneliness, depression and financial problems.

Give us all the grace to deepen our faith and trust in you O Lord, and so support each other in every way we can.

Our Lady, health of the sick. *Pray for us.*
St. Raphael the Archangel, *Pray for us.*
All holy men and women, *Pray for us.*

(With grateful acknowledgement to Corpus Christi Church, Headington, Oxford where this prayer is prayed daily during Mass at 10.00am and at the Eucharistic Adoration at 5.00pm).

Why is (the month of) May called "Mary's Month"?



This is why May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Among Catholics, May is most well-known as "Mary's Month," a specific month of the year when special devotions are performed in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Why is that? How did May become associated with the Blessed Mother?

There are many different factors that contributed to this association. First of all, in ancient Greece and Rome the month of May was dedicated to pagan goddesses connected to fertility and springtime (Artemis and Flora, respectively). This, combined with other European rituals commemorating the new season of spring, led many Western cultures to view May as a month of life and motherhood. This was long before "Mother's Day" was ever conceived, though the modern celebration is closely related to this innate desire to honour maternity during the spring months.

In the early Church there is evidence of a major feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated on the 15th of May each year, but it wasn't until the 18th century that May received a particular association with the Virgin Mary. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "The May devotion in its present form originated at Rome where Father Latomia of the Roman College of the Society of Jesus, to counteract infidelity and immorality among the students, **made a vow at the end of the eighteenth century to devote the month of May to Mary**. From Rome the practice spread to the other Jesuit colleges and thence to nearly every Catholic church of the Latin rite."

Dedicating an entire month to Mary wasn't a new tradition, as there existed a prior tradition of devoting 30 days to Mary called Tricesimum, which was also known as "Lady Month."

Various private devotions to Mary quickly became widespread during the month of May, as it is recorded in the *Raccolta*, a publication of prayers published in the mid-19th century.

It is a well-known devotion, to consecrate to most holy Mary the month of May, as the most beautiful and florescent month of the whole year. This devotion has long prevailed throughout Christendom; and it is common here in Rome, not only in private families, but as a public devotion in very many churches. Pope Pius VII, in order to animate all Christian people to the practice of a devotion so tender and agreeable to the most blessed Virgin, and calculated to be of such great spiritual benefit to themselves, granted, by a Rescript of the Segretaria of the Memorials, March 21, 1815 (kept in the Segretaria of his Eminence the Cardinal-Vicar), to all the faithful of the Catholic world, who either in public or in private should honour the Blessed Virgin with some special homage or devout prayers, or other virtuous practices.

In 1945, Pope Pius XII solidified May as a Marian month after establishing the feast of the Queenship of Mary on May 31st. After the Second Vatican Council, this feast was moved to August 22, while May 31st became the feast of the Visitation of Mary.

The month of May is one rich in tradition and a beautiful time of the year to honour our heavenly mother. (Philip Kosloski | May 02, 2018)

<https://aleteia.org/2018/05/02/why-is-may-marys-month/>

"The Rosary is a long chain that links heaven and earth. One end of it is in our hands and the other end is in the hands of the holy Virgin... The Rosary prayer rises like incense to the feet of the Almighty. Mary responds at once like a beneficial dew, bringing new life to human hearts." (St. Therese of Lisieux)