



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

WOOD STREET, SOUTHAM CV47 1PP

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



18.04.2021 – Third Sunday of Easter

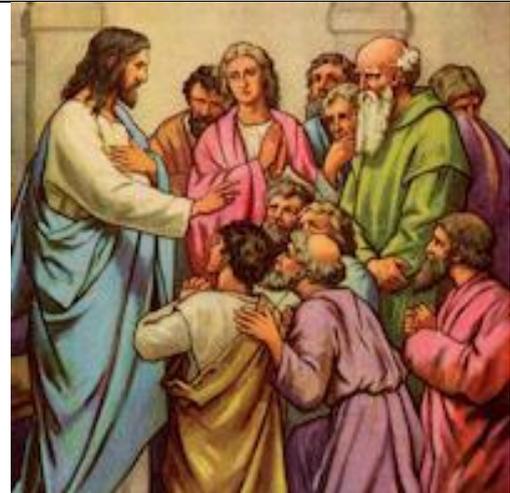
Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

Peace be with you!

When the apostles, wounded in heart and in spirit, gathered behind closed doors, Jesus appeared to them, gave them his peace and breathed new life into them. He does the same for us. Let us open ourselves to the gifts the risen Lord wants to give us.

Masses & Intentions

Saturday 17 5.30pm	Vigil – Third Sunday of Easter Frank & Julia Vials
Sunday 18 10.00am	Third Sunday of Easter People of the Parish
Monday 19 9.15am	Easter Feria Ann Reilly
Tuesday 20 9.15am	Easter Feria Ann Johnson
Wednesday 21 7.00pm	Easter Feria Trevor Clark RIP
Thursday 22 9.15am	Easter Feria Kieran Bradbury & Family
Friday 23 15am	Solemnity of St. George, Martyr, Patron of England Wardens, Stewards, Readers & Ministers
Saturday 24 5.30pm	Easter Feria Jonathan Ravenscroft
Sunday 25 10.00am	Fourth Sunday of Easter (Vocations Sunday) People of the Parish



The Easter Season

Easter Season is also known as the season of 'The Great Fifty Days'. These fifty days, "are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better, as one 'great Sunday' (Athanasius).

The Paschal candle remains on the Sanctuary and is lit at all liturgical celebrations from Easter Sunday until Pentecost Sunday inclusive.

Believing Christ died – that's history.

Believing Christ died for me – that's salvation.

Wish you all the graces and blessings of this Holy Season.

Weekday Masses: As the Covid restrictions are gradually being eased, we have restarted the weekday Masses in our Church since last week. Only a small number is expected. Thanks to all those who were able to attend.

If you are shielding, self-isolating or still feel uncomfortable to venture out, please stay at home and continue to take part in the Masse livestreamed.

If you are feeling safe and comfortable to come to church for Mass, please remember to sanitise your hands as you enter and exit the church, wear face masks and observe social distancing. For practical need, please occupy the seats at the front. If you could help cleaning your places, it will be much appreciated.

First Holy Communion Classes: Lessons for the children attending non-Catholic schools commences this Sunday 18th April at 9.00am. They will make their First Holy Communion on Sunday 6th June, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.

Children from our Primary School, St. Mary's will make their First Holy Communion separately on Sunday July 11 in our church. This arrangement is made to keep in line with Covid restrictions. Let us remember the children preparing for their First Holy Communion and their families in your prayers.

RIP: Please pray for all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

Fish for Supper (Luke 24:35-48): The two disciples had met Jesus on their way to Emmaus. There Jesus had used the Eucharistic meal to reveal himself to them, for the Eucharist is always an occasion for us to get to know the Risen Christ better. Now he meets the whole group of disciples in their refuge, the Upper Room. It is perhaps an account of the same incident that we heard last Sunday, but with different emphasis. Now the stress is on the meeting with a real person, and not with a ghost. That is why Jesus eats a piece of fish. The important lesson of this is that, in our resurrection to true life, it is the whole person that is raised, not just the soul. Christian teaching is that a person is an animated body. We work out our salvation with fingers and toes and other bodily members, and all will be raised to life. It is not just a matter of thoughts and intentions! The whole body is baptised into Christ and is the instrument of our salvation. The body will be changed, and St Paul reminds us that we should not get bogged down with worrying about what sort of body we will have at the resurrection, but rejoice that each of us will be raised as a whole person.

What do you imagine the risen life to be like? Is love, friendship and companionship part of this? Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Pope's Prayer Intention for April

Fundamental Rights: We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

THANK YOU very much for your generous Easter offerings for the priest. I appreciate them and the many cards and gifts. Fr. Arul Samy

Vocations Sunday: Next Sunday is Vocations Sunday. There will be retiring collection for the **Clergy Training Fund.**

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.

Gift Aid Envelopes: ‘Thank you’ to every parishioner for your generous giving through the year at the offertory. ‘Thank You’ too, to all those who have gift aided your weekly offerings either by using the Gift Aid envelopes or by standing orders, as this brings in a substantial increase to the parish funds.

The envelopes for the new tax year are ready. Please remember to collect them in the church this weekend.

The parish will be very grateful for any tax paying parishioners to join the Gift Aid scheme. If you wish to do so, please speak to Fr. Arul, and be reminded that this could also be done by standing order and this method is highly encouraged.

Weekly Rosary: Our sincere thanks to the Isaacs Family for organising the Weekly Rosary. We thank Mike Brown for his paintings and brief, thoughtful commentaries in recent weeks.

We shall continue this initiative. However, from now on, it will be on **Thursdays at 7.30pm**. We are very grateful to Shirly Rush for hosting it. All are welcome.

You can use the same link each week to join which is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9792463880?pwd=UUFGSWJCOHdnQ01sRDFVY1dMR01TZz09>

Regina Caeli: Please be reminded that from Easter to Pentecost ‘The Regina Caeli’ is said in place of the Angelus.

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.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

(St Alphonsus Liguori)

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.

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.

Eastertide Walk with Me: A small number of booklets are still available in our church. Parishioners are encouraged to make use of them for their personal prayers and reflection.

Easter Calendars and a few prayer booklets have been already distributed to children attending St. Mary’s Primary School.

PEACE BE WITH YOU

Its heritage is not exclusively Christian. It’s a traditional Mediterranean greeting.

The liturgical use of the classic Latin salutation “pax vobis” (“peace to you”) or “pax vobiscum” (“peace be with you”), with which early Christians used to greet each other, has a deep

spiritual meaning. **This is the classic greeting one finds in most epistles in the New Testament (Paul’s, Peter’s, and John’s) as well as in John’s Revelation.** Moreover, **Christ himself uses this very same salutation formula four times after his Resurrection**, according to the gospels of Luke and John.

Luke 24:36: “While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, **‘Peace be with you.’**” John 20:19: “On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, **‘Peace be with you!’**” John 20:21: “Again Jesus said, **‘Peace be with you!’** As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” John 20:26: “A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, **‘Peace be with you!’**”

However, as is usually the case with this kind of formula, one needs to look not only at the original Greek but also to the tradition such formulas belong to. To begin with, the Greek word we commonly translate as “peace” is *eirene*, which refers to a very particular kind of peace that is the product of a proper administration of both justice and goods. In fact, in Greek mythology Eirene is the sister of Eunomia (which we can translate broadly as either “good ordering,” “good administration,” or even “good law”) and of Diké (“Justice,” in Greek). Eirene is also associated with springtime, as the Greek word for “spring” is *eiarios*. Spring being the season in which nature blooms and bears fruit, **the kind of peaceful harmony spring brings about implies this abundance of goods that then needs to be properly administered.**

Such associations seem to suggest peace is the result of a correct administration of not only legal justice but also of the goods of the land **and the shared responsibility in the production of such bounty.** Harmony and peace among people belonging to the same community, then, are not only something one wishes for—as in “hey, I hope you find some peace!”—but **the result of human activity.** What the biblical Greek greeting seems to suggest is that **Jesus is not only wishing the apostles peace, but also reminding them of their duty to be fair and just, as suggested in Psalm 85: “justice and peace will kiss.”**

But the fact that we find this greeting written in Greek in the Gospels **doesn’t mean it is a traditional Greek salutation only.** In fact, “peace be with you” is a traditional Jewish and Arabic greeting (also commonly used by Arab Christians, both as a greeting and as a liturgical formula). In both languages, when one is greeted with “*shalom aleichem*” or “*as-salaam alaykhum*” (Hebrew and Arabic respectively for “peace be with you”), the proper, typical reply is “*aleichem shalom*” or “*wa alaykumu as-salaam*” (“and peace be upon you, too”), **just as Christians reply “and with your spirit” in liturgical services.** In fact, the Latin liturgical formula—which is drawn from the Latin Bible, the Vulgate—is even more similar to both the Hebrew and the Arabic, and is inspired by a passage found in Matthew 10:13 (“If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, *let your peace return to you*”): it reads “*pax vestra revertetur ad vos*,” “**may your peace return to you.**”

In sum, it seems clear that this salutation is not only about wishing each other a peaceful existence but, moreover, is a reminder of the evangelical maxim telling us that “in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” **It is a reminder of the Christian duty to actively build harmony where there is dissonance, as in the quintessential Franciscan prayer: “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love.”**