



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



02.05.2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

The Vine and the Branches

There is no such thing as a solitary Christian. Every Christian is linked to Christ and to all other Christians. This is clear from the words of Jesus: 'I am the vine, you are the branches.' Alas, often we ignore and hurt others, and live only for ourselves.

Masses & Intentions

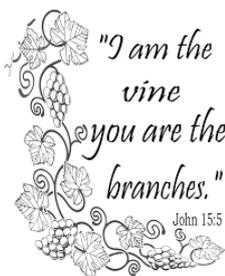
Saturday 01 5.30pm	Vigil – Fifth Sunday of Easter People of the Parish
Sunday 02 10.00am	Fifth Sunday of Easter Maurice Griffin RIP (Anniversary)
Monday 03 9.15am	Ss Philip & James, Apostles Montague William Pendleton
Tuesday 04 9.15am	Feast of the English Martyrs Sharon Sawaya RIP
Wednesday 05 7.00pm	Easter Feria Sr. Sharon pcj (Intentions)
Thursday 06 9.15am	Easter Feria Mary Hughes (In Thanksgiving)
Friday 07 15am	Easter Feria People of the Parish
Saturday 08 5.30pm	Easter Feria Matthew Tanner RIP (Anniversary)
Sunday 09 10.00am	Sixth Sunday of Easter Mary Beryl Caves RIP

Weekday Masses: As anticipated, a small but steady number of parishioners are attending Masses on weekdays. We are very grateful to them.

If you are feeling safe and comfortable to come back to church for Mass, you are very welcome. 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.

Month of May – Month of Mary: The Catholic practice of assigning a special devotion to each month goes back to the early 16th century. The best known of these devotions is probably the dedication of May as the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the early years of the 19th century, it quickly spread throughout the Western Church, and by the time of Pope Pius IX's declaration of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, it had become universal. May crowning and other special events in May in honour of Mary, such as public recitation of The Rosary, stem from this time. Sadly, such communal events are rather rare today, but we can take the month of May as an opportunity to renew our own devotion to the Mother of God by praying the Rosary and adding a Marian prayer or two to our daily routine. Parents, in particular, could encourage Marian devotion in their children, to learn to appreciate the role of The Blessed Virgin played in our salvation through her 'fiat' (*let it be*) - her joyous "Yes" to the Will of God.

The True Vine (John 15:1-8): A vine is an extraordinary plant. It can grow to a huge size, spreading over a wide area, a whole garden wall or trelliswork, from one single root, and producing a rich sap which yields grapes at the end of countless little branches. And then there is the business of pruning: cut it back thoroughly on all its many shoots and tendrils, and it seems only more determined to grow thick and strong. So the vine was the symbol of Israel, drawing from the Lord a sap which penetrated to all its shoots, and lovingly pruned by the gardener in a way which best encouraged its growth. The image was taken over by Jesus for his own community, the new Israel. Pairing with last week's picture of the good shepherd, it is one of the greatest of Jesus' images. It perfectly sums up the two emphases of this Sunday's other two readings. The only source of fruitful energy for the Christian is union with and dependence on the life flowing from Christ. Without that, the branches wither and die; a trimming cut off from a vine no longer has any chance of life. The vine itself at pruning season looks stark, rough and suffering. It is in fact bursting with new life.



What bits of your life need to be pruned away now? What more can you do to express the flow of Christ's life within you?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

May Procession: We are pleased to announce that our Primary School will organize the May Procession on Thursday 27th May at 10.00am in the school premises.



First Holy Communion: Children from our parish attending non-Catholic schools 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 at a separate Mass (Time TBC). This arrangement is made to keep in line with Covid restrictions. Please pray for the children and their families.

RIP: Please pray for **John McLoughlin** (who died on 22nd April), **Sharon Sawaya** (Sr. Sharon's sister) **Fr John Kearns CP** and all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.* May the grieving families be strengthened and supported by our thoughts and prayers.

Sanctuary Lamp: The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of the late **Sharon Sawaya RIP**. May God grant her eternal rest and strengthen and support her grieving family!

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.

Pope's Prayer Intention for May

The World of Finance: Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

Weekly Rosary: We are very grateful to Shirly Rush for organising Rosary via zoom on **Thursdays at 7.30pm**. All are welcome.

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

May Rosary Mission 2021: The Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady, Walsingham is about to launch their May 2021 Rosary Mission with the theme: **Rosary Stronghold with the Holy Family - Protecting our Families and the Family of Nations**. The peoples of the Dioceses of England, Wales and Scotland are welcomed and encouraged to pray the Rosary for the following intentions:

1. **Protecting our families and the family of nations, especially in this Year of St Joseph.**
2. **A deepening of faith, hope and love and the protection of life.**
3. **Peace in the world.**
4. **Deliverance from Coronavirus; for those working for a cure; for those who have died; for those who are suffering and those who care for them.**

Let us take part in this Rosary Mission in the light of the Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary, which took place on March 29th 2020 amidst the terrifying beginnings of the Corona Virus pandemic. Let us renew the Dedication again each time we host a Mission in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary and extend the call for Our Lady's Protection and Queenship over the entire world.

Each night at 8pm there will be the foundational Rosary – to Jesus through Mary led from a different Parish/Shrine. This will lead into three important National Days of Prayer:

1. Monday May 24th – Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church the Shrine invites a Rosary Day of Prayer to pray for our young people – to pray and intercede for the Mission and Intentions of our Schools, Youth Associations/Groups/Projects, our Young People and for Families.
2. Sunday May 30th – Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity the Shrine will host a National Rosary Relay Rally throughout the Dioceses of England, Wales and Scotland. **The designated Rosary Hour for the Archdiocese of Birmingham for the National Rosary Relay Rally on this day is from 10am to 11am.**
3. Monday May 31st – Feast of the Visitation – Bishop John Keenan will host a Crowning Rosary online at 8pm, in thanksgiving for the graces received from the Lord Jesus through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary during the May 2021 Rosary Mission.

International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians: Our Archdiocese will be celebrating the **International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians on 8th/9th May**. It offers Western Christians a moment to remember and give thanks for all we owe to the Eastern Churches, not least the first preaching of the Gospel, the monastic tradition, the different liturgical traditions and the witness of the Eastern Christians down the centuries, which has been, and still is, an inspiration to our Faith.

Now, already an oppressed minority group in the Middle East, Eastern Christians face the added crisis of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

There will be a voluntary second collection in our parish for the work of the Catholic charity, **Fellowship and Aid to Christians of the East (FACE)**, which devotes itself exclusively to supporting Eastern Christians in the Middle

East by offering grant aid to projects in education, healthcare and pastoral care which are organised under the patronage of Eastern Catholic Churches.

Following Pope Francis' recent apostolic visit to Iraq, our Archdiocese, in partnership with FACE, has started an educational exchange project between schools in the Archdiocese and the Immaculate Conception School in Beirut, Lebanon.

You will also find news stories for example on the Immaculate Conception School, Beirut Project, on the Archdiocesan website: www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/face

Further information is available at <https://facecharity.org>

Pope Francis and the Culture of Encounter, 15 May 2021:

On Saturday 15 May from 11am until 12.30pm Dr Austen Ivereigh, biographer of Pope Francis, will lead a Gidea Park live-stream study day on the theme *'The Culture of Encounter: Can Pope Francis' vision of fraternity counter the politicization of faith?'* Dr Ivereigh will explore the importance of the Abu Dhabi declaration, the Amazon Synod, the recent encyclical on fraternity Fratelli Tutti, and the March 2021 visit of Pope Francis to Iraq. To access this free live stream event simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org and follow the instructions found there.

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.**

The vine and the branches

Lord, you said:

'I am the vine, you are the branches.

Separated from me you can do nothing,

but united with me you will bear much fruit.'

Thank you, Lord, for the bond you formed with us.

And thank you for the bond that exists among us because of our union with you.

Thanks to this bond we have invisible riches to share with one another.

Grant that we may never be separated from you, so that we may produce in the world the fruits of faith, hope, and love.