

SUNDAY BULLETIN

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, MAY 17TH, 2020

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| <p>CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BURSLEM & TUNSTALL</p> <p>The Sacred Heart Tunstall Queens Avenue ST6 6EE thesacredhearttunstall@gmail.com www.thesacredhearttunstall.org.uk</p> <p>Saint Joseph's Burslem Hall Street ST6 4BB stjosephburslem@gmail.com www.stjosephsburslem.org.uk</p> <p>Fr Stanislaus Chukwube CSSP Parish Priest parishpriestsht@gmail.com</p> <p><i>Parish Secretariat:</i> Carol Critchlow Office hours: Wed, Thurs and the Fri 10 am to 2pm 13 Queen's Avenue Tunstall ST6 6EE 01782 838357</p> <p><i>Safeguarding:</i> Mrs May Algar 07817212552 Mrs Ellen Churchill 07859916416</p> | MASS TIMES | Sacred Heart | Saint Joseph's | | <i>Mass Intention</i> |
| | Saturday May 16 th <i>Easter feria</i> | | | Mass in Private | People of the Parish |
| | 5 th SUNDAY of Easter | | | Mass in Private | Intentions of Margaret Brittain |
| | Monday 18 th <i>Easter feria</i> | | | Mass in Private | People of the Parish |
| | Tuesday 19 th <i>Easter feria</i> | | | Mass in Private | Special Intention |
| | Wednesday 20 th | | | Mass in Private | Special Intention |
| | Thursday 21 th Ascension of the Lord, Solemnity | | | Mass in Private | Special Intention |
| | Friday 22 th <i>Easter feria</i> | | | Mass in Private | Intentions of St Wilfrid's |
| | Saturday 23 th <i>Easter feria</i> | | | Mass in Private | Special Intention |
| | 7 th Sunday of Easter <i>World Communications Day</i> | | | Mass in Private | People of the Parish |

CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS ON REOPENING OF CHURCHES:

"What we want to say (to ministers) is that the issue of how people are able to practice their faith are profound and are sensitive and we would like a bit more sensitivity from the government. And we would like to remind them that the Catholic Church certainly has put forward already detailed protocols, agreed with Public Health England about how we can start the process, step by step, of making churches available for people.

We want to do this for a couple of reasons, one is because they offer a private, quiet space for individual prayer and that helps people's inner stability, and also because the faiths are a terrific motivator for aspects of the service that are given in society today. Within a mile of here there are two Catholic institutions that feed 300 people every day and that is motivated, in a good part, by their faith.

Now, in these last weeks, we've been creative, we've been faithful. Mass has been celebrated every single day in Catholic churches. People have joined in online but there's something, a big, big feeling in the religious communities, of wanting to get back to a fuller practice of their faith, as long as we can do it safe."

Just in case you missed the short interview with Cardinal Nichols on the radio 14/5/20 please find below a link to the Bishop's Conference website which has the text of the interview along with an audio version.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-on-safely-re-opening-churches-for-private-prayer/>

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH FINANCIALLY

During this technical age, please consider setting up a **standing order**. It is very straightforward and simple to do and gives you control over how much you give and the frequency. It is a method of giving that can continue into the future, replacing the need to bring in your offertory donations when Masses resume. It is also the preferred means of depositing our offertory donations in the bank; and it also helps the Parish budget for the future, knowing that money is still coming in. We can still claim **Gift Aid** on your donations. If you don't have online banking, standing orders can still be set up, we can email you a form to print and fill in, just email the parish office.

Our websites now host a **Donate button**. This gives you the opportunity to help the parish during this time, with a **one-off donation**, once again, if you are online, it is a very quick and straightforward means of getting money into the parish accounts.

Parishioners can also save their offertory donations until restrictions are lifted and then bring them in. However, since the Parish still has continued financial commitments even during this lockdown, we are taking **cash and cheque** donations at the Presbytery.

Thank you for supporting our Parish at this difficult time.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL of Ann Platt and all those whose anniversary occur at this time.

BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE

For all enquiries for Catholic Marriage and Baptism, kindly contact the Parish Priest at the parish office.

PRAYER A DAY FOR VOCATIONS

Please email or Facebook Carol to choose a day in May to pray for vocations during the month on behalf of the parish.

HOLY FATHER'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.

PRAYER REQUESTS: *Please pray for:*

1. Children, parents and staff of our schools
2. The recently bereaved families
3. All the sick of our Parish
4. The youth of our Parish

DAILY MASSES

Our daily Masses (9.30am Weekdays, 11 am Sundays) is celebrated for you and on your behalf. Please join me in spirit. Be assured that you are being prayed for at these Masses.

MAY DEVOTION

MAY is a special month of Mary. Daily recitation of the Rosary is highly encouraged. Pope Francis encourages "everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May."



THE GROTTO AT SACRED HEART

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH THROUGH LOCAL LOTTERY

If you feel like supporting our parish and having a go on a local lottery please support our page. £1 a ticket, 50p a ticket guaranteed comes direct to the parish with a top prize of £25,000.

<https://www.pottolotto.co.uk/support/the-sacred-heart-catholic-church>

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

Since we celebrated Easter, the liturgy has been telling us one central Christian truth: that Christ is risen, he is alive, and still present with us. This truth is recalled in the various appearances of the risen Christ to his disciples, because these appearances were in order to show that this resurrected Christ was indeed the exact, same identical bodily, human Jesus that the disciples had known in life. They saw him, touched him, talked to him, and ate with him just exactly as they had done before his death.

As Jesus gets ready to leave his disciples, he promises to send them another Paraclete. He was a Paraclete to the them, and in his absence the new paraclete will be in charge: "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Paraclete" (John 14:16).

Paraclete is from the Greek *Paracletos*, literally means someone who is called to stand beside a client. In legal terms that would be an attorney. But a Paraclete is much more than an attorney. Probably the word that captures the true meaning of Paraclete is the word "coach." The Paraclete is our coach, always by our side, to instruct and correct us when we make mistakes, to encourage and motivate us when we feel down, to challenge and inspire us to be the best we could, to defend us and fight for our rights when the judges are unfair to us. In short, the Paraclete means for us all that Jesus meant for the disciples.

Why do we need a Paraclete? For the same reason that athletes and sports people need coaches. No matter how good they are, sports people always need coaches. Even Andy Murray, the UK tennis star has a coach. Left on our own, we are prone to mistakes and errors. Pelagius, the 5th century British thinker taught that human beings have the natural ability to fulfil God's commands if they so choose. The church condemned his teaching as a heresy, insisting that human beings always need God's grace in order to please God. Pelagianism is the belief that we can fulfil our human destiny just by being ourselves, and that we do not need the grace of God that comes through faith, prayer or the sacraments. Many people today are Pelagians without even knowing it. Jesus tells us in today's gospel that we all stand in constant need of divine help. We all need the divine Helper, the Holy Spirit who stands always by our side, the Paraclete.

How then do we receive this all-important Spirit Helper? Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Paraclete to be with you forever" (John 14:15-16). The Paraclete is a special gift Jesus gives to those who love him and keep his word.

This Thursday is Ascension Thursday. Between Ascension and Pentecost, the church invites all her children to a period of prayer and waiting for the renewal of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let us observe this period as a special time of prayer just as the disciples did, because we need the Holy Spirit today as much as they needed it two thousand years ago. The Novena to the Holy Spirit begins on Friday 22nd May, 2020.

Come O Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.