



PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

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Feast of the Ascension – year cycle B – 17th May 2015

Entrance: *Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go Alleluia*

Responsorial psalm: *God goes of joy the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.*

Gospel: Alleluia, alleluia: *Go, make disciples of all nations; I am with you always; yes, to the end of time. Alleluia*

Communion: *Behold I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Alleluia*

Message for the Ascension from Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today the Ascension of Jesus into heaven is being celebrated, 40 days after Easter. The Acts of the Apostles recounts this episode, Jesus' final departure from his disciples and from this world. Matthew's Gospel, on the other hand, reports Jesus' mandate to his disciples: the invitation to go and announce his message of salvation to all peoples. "Go," or better "leave" becomes the key word for today's feast: Jesus leaves to go to the Father and commands his disciples to leave to go out to the world.

Jesus leaves, he ascends into heaven, he returns to the Father from whom he had been sent into the world. He has completed his work, so he returns to the Father. But this is not a separation because he remains with us forever under a new form. With his Ascension the risen Lord draws the gaze of the Apostles – and our gaze – to the heights of heaven to show us that the Father is the goal of our journey. He himself said that he would be leaving to prepare a place for us in heaven. Nevertheless, Jesus remains present and active in the vicissitudes of human history with the power and gifts of his Spirit. He is near to each one of us, even if we do not see him with our eyes. He is there! He accompanies us, he leads us, he takes us by the hand and lifts us up when we have fallen. The risen Jesus is near to Christians who are persecuted and discriminated against. He is near to every man and woman who suffers. He is near to all of us. The Lord is with us! Do you believe this?

Jesus, when he returns to heaven, brings the Father a gift. What is the gift? His wounds. His body is very beautiful, without bruises, with no sign of the flagellation, but the wounds in his hands, feet and side remain. When he returns to the Father he shows him the wounds and says to him: "Look, Father, this is the price of the forgiveness that you give." When the Father looks at Jesus' wounds he always forgives us, not because we are good but because Jesus has paid for us. Looking at Jesus' wounds, the Father becomes more merciful. This is the great work of Jesus in heaven today: showing the Father the price of forgiveness, his wounds. This is beautiful and it moves us not to have fear of asking forgiveness. The Father always forgives because he looks at the wounds of Jesus, looks at our sin and forgives it.

But Jesus is also present through the Church, which he sends to extend his mission. Jesus' last word to his disciples is the command to leave: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations". It is a precise mandate, it is not optional! The Christian community is a community that is "going out," "departing." Even more, the Church is born in "going out." And you will say to me: But what about the cloistered communities? Yes, they too because they are always "going out" with prayer, with their heart open to the world, to the horizons of God. And the elderly and sick? They too with prayer and union with the wounds of Jesus.

To his missionary disciples Jesus says: "I am with you always even to the end of the world". By ourselves, without Jesus, we cannot do anything. In the apostolate, our own strength, our own resources, our own structures, are not enough. Without the presence of the Lord and the power of his Spirit, our work, even if it is well-organized, is ineffective. And thus we go out to people to tell them who Jesus is.

And, together with Jesus, Mary our Mother accompanies us. She is already in the house of the Father, she is the Queen of the World and so we invoke her now. But like Jesus, she is with us, she walks with us, she is the Mother of our hope.

Dates for Your Diary

Please come along and enjoy tea and coffee in the parish room after the Sunday morning Masses

The numbers drawn week 33 were 30, 45, 20 & 31
No winner
Prize money for week 34 is £275.00, and four numbers to be drawn

Second Collection World Communications

Tuesday devotions: Divine Mercy chaplet and Novena before Mass and the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary afterward.

The Gift

Belmont Abbey Parish will be running a course between Easter and Pentecost called The Gift. Open to everyone from any parish, this is an inspiring and practical series aimed at people of all ages to help them encounter the Holy Spirit and empower them to share their faith. The talks are on DVD and include a time for discussion in small groups. The teachings are relaxed, personal and informative, rooted in the Bible, the Catechism, Evangelii Gaudium and reflections on the Holy Spirit from Pope Francis.

They will be held on consecutive Wednesday evenings in Belmont Abbey Parish Hall from 7.00pm on April 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13 and 20 concluding in time for the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday 24 May.

Archbishop Kevin McDonald said, "The speakers are offering witness to God's action in the world and in their own lives. I warmly commend this resource." More information is available on www.thegiftofthespirit.org or from Chris Moore on 01432 358699

Jumble Sale Many thanks to all who donated and helped at the jumble sale last Saturday. £630.50 was raised. We were a bit low on cakes. If anyone is missing an item of small value, one was found. Please see Mary or Lindsaye

Sung Vespers at Tintern Abbey - Sunday 6th September 2015 - 3.00pm We are hoping to organise a coach from the Herefordshire Deanery joining other members of clergy and parishioners of the Archdiocese of Cardiff in attending this annual ecumenical service.

To give an indication of numbers of those who are interested please email tintern.herefordshire@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01989 563463 with your name, contact details and number of places required by Monday 18th May. Further details about this year's service may be found at www.ourladyoftintern.co.uk The date to register if you would like to join the coach has been extended by a couple of weeks to 30th May 2015

Pentecost Vigil A vigil will be held here on Saturday 23rd May at 7..30.pm this will include music, prayer, scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

We would encourage everyone to pray the prayer of Pope St John XXIII for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit

"Renew Your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost. Grant to Your Church that, being of one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Amen"

Sick & Housebound Please if you know of any parishioner unable to get to mass and would like to receive the Blessed Sacrament please give the name and address to either Father Paul or Father Andrew.

St Francis Xavier's School are looking for a clerk to the governors. Full details available from the school office on 01432 273941, or from the school website.

National Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life. On Thursday 21st May, the Vigil of St Rita please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed so that the women helped, by The Good Counsel Network, will receive the Grace from God to continue their pregnancies. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting contact The Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740 or see www.goodcounselnetwork.com

St Mary's School reunion class of 75, Saturday 6th June Imperial Hotel from 7pm. Contact Denise Edwards, (Francis) 07802829592 email denisefrancis353@hotmail.com

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today we keep the Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord and so we begin a week of prayer leading up to Pentecost, in which we pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the whole world, but more especially on our parish and on our homes and families. In a particular way we pray for young people, that, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, they might come to know and love the living God and centre their lives on Christ and the Gospel. We pray especially for the children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion in the next few weeks.

Do remember that next Sunday, the Solemnity of Pentecost, the annual Missionary Appeal takes place, made this year by the Columban Fathers.

This short message comes with every prayer and blessing,

Abbot Paul

Feast of the Ascension

Psalter week III

<p><i>Today:</i> 9:30 am <i>Helena & Kaz Domalik</i> 11:30 am 6:30 pm <i>Edith Young Intention</i></p> <p><i>Monday 18 May</i> <i>10.00 am Mass – Anne Maloney RIP</i> <i>St John 1 Pope and Martyr</i></p> <p><i>Tuesday 19 May</i> <i>7.00pm Mass –</i> <i>Feria</i></p> <p><i>Wednesday 20 May</i> <i>10.00am Mass –</i> <i>Feria</i></p> <p><i>Thursday, 21 May</i> <i>10.00am Mass – Feria</i></p> <p><i>Friday 22 May</i> <i>7.00pm Mass – Duncan Anderson</i> <i>Feria</i></p> <p><i>Saturday, 23 May</i> <i>10.00am Confessions & Exposition</i> <i>Feria</i> <i>11.00am Mass – John Hepworth RIP</i></p> <p><i>Sunday 24 May Pentecost Sunday</i> 9:30 am 11:30 am 6.30pm <i>Father Nicholas</i></p>	<p>Rota Schedule for 17 May – 24 May 2015</p> <p>Flower Arrangers: <i>Lesley Meredith</i></p> <p>Cleaners: <i>Denise Schofield</i></p> <p>Ushers: <i>9:30am M Whent E Pawlowicz</i> <i>11:30am Mr & Mrs Cotterell</i> <i>6:30pm C Milsom M Netting</i></p> <p>Readers: <i>9:30am C Thompson</i> <i>11:30am M Langley</i> <i>6.30pm R Seamarks</i></p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers: <i>9.30am C Sharland T Bray F Keogh</i> <i>11.30am M Davies C Mulloy D Lissaman</i> <i>6.30pm R Jones</i></p> <p>Altar Linen: <i>A Hepworth</i></p> <p>Counting <i>Marlene Kathy & Paul</i></p> <hr/> <p>Polish Information: Następna Msza Św w języku polskim odbędzie się w niedzielę, 24 Maja godz 16:00</p> <p>Finance: Collection on Sunday 12th May £342.82 Thank you</p>
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Please pray for: The sick, especially Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Sue Watkins, Shelaigh Fawcett, Dymphna and John O’Neil, Andrew Walker, Sylvia Jones, Sylvia Aiello, Chris Turville, Eva Zakrzewska, Pat Franklyn, Anna Foggo, Katie Richardson, Agnes McGowan, Michael Morris Rita O’Leary Pat Spence, Joshua Isada and all in our prayer book

The recently dead, especially, Marjorie Berry Glyn Mathews Pat Cotterell

Those whose anniversary falls in the month of May, including: Kaz & Helena Domalik, Harold Halls, Joseph Greene, Mary Robbins, Desmond Joyce, Hilda Bindon, Mary Turner, Bernadette Lynch, Veronica Lowe, Ann Maloney, Milborough Plummer, Gerhard Kostorz, Josephina Rizzardini, Elizabeth Donovan, Bernadette Graham, Ellen Elkin, Alice Derrick, David Martin, Marguerite Jacobs, Margaret Jones, Francis Meigh, Geoffrey Staton, Ron Tyler, Florence Pockett, Jacqueline Cotton and Franciszek Drynda, Joyce McDermott, Natalie Chadwick, Ryszard Dabek Grace Gillespie

Recently at Mass the gruff priest’s homily was just four minutes long a fraction of his usual ramblings, Why? “I regret to inform the congregation” he explained from the pulpit, “that my dog which is very fond of eating paper, ate that portion of my sermon which I was unable to deliver this morning.”

Following Mass a visitor from another parish shook hands with the priest and said “Father if that dog of yours has any pups, I want to get one from my priest,”

Happiness often sneaks through a door you didn’t know you had left open