

PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

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Ascension Sunday of Easter, Year A – 1 June 2014

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

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

Gospel: *Alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all the 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*



In the Nicene Creed, we profess our belief in Jesus' Ascension when we say: "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father." The Ascension is a mystery of faith, just like Jesus' Resurrection, with which it is closely associated. The event is mentioned briefly by the Evangelist Mark (16:19) and Luke (24:50-53). A more detailed account is given by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles (1:1-12). The Ascension of Jesus can be defined as the transfer of his risen, glorious body to heaven, that is, to the world of the divine. In the Old Testament, God is described in some texts as "descending" from heaven to accomplish something on earth; he then "ascends" or returns to the world of the divine. Jesus himself speaks of descending to this earth and ascending again to the Father once his work of redemption has been accomplished (cf. Jn 3:13, Eph 4:10). Except for the mention of the forty days by Luke in Acts, Mark, Luke and John think of the Ascension as occurring on the day of the Resurrection. The idea is that the final glorification and exaltation of Jesus takes place at his Resurrection – they are two aspects of the same thing. Through his Resurrection-Ascension, he leaves the earth and the created universe to take his place at the right hand of the Father. This image of sitting "at the right hand of the Father" is influenced by Psalm 110 (1): "The Lord said to my lord: 'Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool.'" The image itself comes from the ancient world of kings and courts where the all-powerful king was surrounded by his ministers, with the most powerful and favoured one sitting just to the right of the king. Hence, it means in this case that Jesus is one with the Father and shares in his sovereign power over the world and the cosmos. If Jesus had not entered immediately into his final glory at the Resurrection, it would be difficult to explain where he was during the interim between the Resurrection and the Ascension. We are dealing here with a divine mystery and it is hard for us to grasp the full meaning. There are enough indications in the Gospel accounts of the appearances of Jesus to support the belief that he was already in the glory of the Father when he appeared to his followers. But there was a period of instruction after the Resurrection during which Jesus gave his Apostles their final preparation before going out to bear witness to him to the ends of the earth. So it is commonly held that the Ascension means the final appearance of Jesus to his Apostles before his definitive departure for heaven. Thus the Ascension has a pedagogical character. The number "forty" in Scripture means a full period of time, a rounded-out period; it does not necessarily mean literally forty calendar days. In this context, then, it means that Jesus appeared to his disciples regularly for a period and then left them permanently. From then on they had to live by faith and communicate with him through prayer and the sacraments. Thus, this mystery has two aspects: 1) the heavenly glorification of Christ which coincided with his Resurrection, and 2) his final departure from his Apostles after a period of apparitions. The feast of the Ascension commemorates this second aspect. FR. KENNETH BAKER, S.J.

Dates for Your Diary

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

The numbers drawn for week 6 were 30, 36, 15, 16, 6, 43, 29, 44, 25 & 14 – no winner

Prize money for week 7 is £360.00 and eleven numbers to be drawn

The second collection: is for the work of the parish

Tuesday Devotions: Divine Mercy Chaplet before Mass, and the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary after Mass

Hearing the Faith: the next talk is by Fr Robert Barron, on Tuesday evening after Mass, in the parish house

Wednesday: due to Fr Cenydd being in London for the day, there will be no parish Mass on Wednesday

Hereford Catholic History Society: the next meeting of the HCHS will be on Wednesday 4th June in the Kemble Room at Belmont Abbey at 2:30pm, when we will hear about St. Thomas Cantilupe. We plan to combine the talk with a look at the west window in the Abbey Church, which depicts the detail of the life of St. Thomas of Hereford. Visitors welcome. Further information from bmwarde@aol.com or 01432 760601

Vigil for Pentecost: there will be a Vigil for Pentecost here at 7.30pm on Saturday 7th June. There will be hymns, scripture readings, the rosary and a quiet time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our deanery parishes and communities. All welcome

PAC meeting: on Monday, 9th June at 7:30pm in the parish rooms

"I Believe" Conference: at St David's Cathedral & the Cornerstone, (Cardiff CF10 2SF), 7pm Friday 13th - 4pm Sunday 15th June 2014; Free entrance, Donations Only. Speakers include Fr Keith Windsor OFM (Director of the Franciscan Friary and Retreat Centre at Pantasaph; Sr Seraphim; Ros Powell and Erika Gibello. Healing Services to be held on Friday and Saturday night, and Inner Healing Seminars on the Saturday morning and afternoon. Please visit www.sdcrf.org.uk for more details

Pimm's & Pudding Evening: in aid of Life and St Michael's Hospice; to be held at Withington Village Hall at 7:00pm on Friday, 20th June. Tickets cost £7.50, which includes one Pimm's and all the pudding you can eat! Please see poster in the church porch for details

Our Lady's Parish BBQ: will be held on Sunday 29th June, from 12.30pm (after the 11.30am Mass). Tickets must be purchased or ordered in advance; they will be on sale after Sunday Masses, or to reserve tickets please contact Fran Keogh on 01432 840847 - Adults & children over 12yrs - £5, Concessionary & children 5-11 years - £3, Children under 5 - free. If the weather is inclement, we will be in the Parish Hall

Annual APF-Mill Hill Mission Mass: to be held this year at the Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, Wrexham on Sunday, 6th July. Please see poster for details

Stonyhurst College: the Hereford Deanery is organising a Day Pilgrimage to Stonyhurst College on Friday 18th July 2014. Please see poster in the porch for more details

Jumble Sale: a very big thank you to all involved with the parish jumble sale – the revised total raised now stands at **£719.88**

Priest Training Fund: the parish sent a cheque for **£1,190.90** to the Archdiocese as a result of the collection on Vocations Sunday. Two thirds of this total came from *one* donor. Many thanks to all who gave something towards the education of the future priests of Our Lady's parish

Confirmation 2014: our candidates are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation which will be celebrated by Archbishop George at Belmont Abbey on 13th July. We would very much like all our Parishioners to pray for the young people over the next few months. We would also like some Parishioners to act as "Prayer Sponsors" to our candidates - there is a list at the back of the Church for you to sign up as a prayer sponsor, so please make a positive effort to share in this very special sacrament. Thank you for your support

Seventh Week of Eastertide

Psalter week III

Today:

9:30 am Anna Niedzielska
11:30 am Special Intention (JB)
6:30 pm

Monday 2 June 9:30am Mass – Int of Ann Morris
Ss Marcellinus & Peter, Martyrs

Tuesday 3 June 7:00pm Mass – Natalie Chadwick
Martyrs of Uganda

Wednesday, 4 June No Mass
Eastertide

Thursday, 5 June 9:30am Mass – Prince Rupert zu
St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr Loewenstein

Friday, 6 June 7:00pm Mass – Forgotten Souls
St Norbert, Bishop

Saturday, 7 June 9:30 am - Confessions
Eastertide 10:30 am Mass – Int of A McGowan

Sunday, 8 June (Pentecost)

9:30 am Edward Dzierza
11:30 am Thanksgiving (J & H Meenaghan)
6:30 pm *Fr Nicholas Wetz*

Please pray for:

The sick, especially Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Sue Watkins, Julie Martin, Shelaigh Fawcett, Dymphna and John O'Neil, Andrew Walker, Sylvia Jones, Sylvia Aiello, Chris Turville, Eva Zakrzewska, Pat Franklyn, John O'Donahue, Joe Carroll, Dorothy Dzioba, Joan Sheeran, Glyn Matthews, Sam Thomson, Ian O'Donahue, Anna Foggo, Catherine Rollings, Katie Richardson, Pearl Bray, Tony Constantine and all in our prayer book

The recently dead, especially Joyce McDermott, Natalie Chadwick, Ryszard Dabek and Prince Rupert zu Loewenstein

Those whose anniversary falls in the month of June, including: Russell Sabel, William Collins, Enid Uden, William Lynes, Robert Derbyshire, Irene Gecks, Evelyn Lavell, Iris Croke, Alexa Laszowskyz, Gerald O'Hagan, Esther Scott, Dermot Kelleher, Lewis Murgatroyd, Zbigniew Pawlowicz, Albert LeSurf, John Donelon, Teresa Scraba, Tony Pye, Rose Rattle and Dorothy Rohde

Toward the end of the Sunday service, the Minister asked, "How many of you have forgiven your enemies?" 80% held up their hands. The Minister then repeated his question. All responded this time, except one man, an avid golfer named Walter Barnes, who attended church only when the weather was bad. "Mr. Barnes, it's obviously not a good morning for golf. It's good to see you here today. Are you not willing to forgive your enemies?" "I don't have any," he replied gruffly. "Mr. Barnes, that is very unusual. How old are you?" "Ninety-eight," he replied. The congregation stood up and clapped their hands. "Oh, Mr. Barnes, would you please come down to the front and tell us all how a person can live ninety-eight years and not have an enemy in the world?" The old golfer tottered down the aisle, stopped in front of the pulpit, turned around, faced the congregation, and said simply, "Because I outlived the so-and-sos."

Rota Schedule for 6 to 12 June 2014

Flower Arrangers: T Forder & R Jones

Cleaners: Wagner family

Ushers: 9:30am J Sullivan & M Went
11:30am J McGowan & J Kelly
6:30pm R & R Seemarks

Readers:
9:30am T Bray
11:30am V Thomas
6:30pm G McAleer

Eucharistic Ministers:

9:30am D Lissaman, A Hepworth (H Fishlock)
11:30pm E Cotterell, M Davies, C Balestra
6:30pm C Sharland, G McAleer, R Jones

Altar Linen: J Callingham

Polish Information:

Następna Msza Św w języku polskim odbędzie się w niedzielę, 22 czerwca godz 16:00

Finance:

The collection on Sunday, 25th May came to **£393.69** – thank you



"It saves energy and makes me feel holier."