

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:13-16

It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ
If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. It is a blessing for you when they insult you for bearing the name of Christ, because it means that you have the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God resting on you. None of you should ever deserve to suffer for being a murderer, a thief, a criminal or an informer; but if anyone of you should suffer for being a Christian, then he is not to be ashamed of it; he should thank God that he has been called one.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 17:1-11

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was. I have made your name known to the men you took from the world to give me.

They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now at last they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you: all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified. I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.'



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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 1:12-14

After Jesus was taken up into heaven the apostles went back from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, to Jerusalem, a short distance away, no more than a sabbath walk; and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 26(27):1,4,7-8

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.'

Readings of the day can be found on the Clifton Cathedral website: Faith; today's readings

Jesus Christ is Risen, Alleluia

We relate to God through prayers and these prayers can be personal or communal. Today's gospel Jesus speaks intimately to his loving Father; prayer was important to Jesus. When we gather for the Holy Mass or other liturgical prayers, we do so in order to worship God collectively in spirit and in truth. Jesus says 'For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them'. We have all prayed for help during our lives, when we or a member of our family are ill, before an important interview or exam. I am sure we can all remember examples of when we have asked the Lord for help. We have also given thanks for success's, happiness in our lives and for others. Prayer in whatever form has always been important in Christian lives. A patient bedridden in a nursing home once told a visiting Bishop that there are not enough hours in the day to pray. God loves each one of us and has a plan for us everything is meant for a reason; however, sometimes it is difficult to understand that but we should trust Him.

As we prepare for the celebration of Pentecost next Sunday, let us pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us. May we receive the spirit of wisdom, knowledge and understanding,

We earnestly ask the Spirit to come and strengthen us in our weakness, to open our eyes to see more clearly, our ears to listen more closely, to transform our minds and to enkindle our hearts to love him. It is a time for us to pray for that renewed outpouring of God's gift of the Spirit.

We ask for your Prayers: for those who are sick in mind and body, in our parish family, our own family, the people of Cirencester and Tetbury.

For those who have died recently especially of the Corona virus and all whose anniversaries are at this time.

In our Diocesan prayer link we remember the priest and parishioners of Dursley and Nympsfield.

This week we celebrate the following:

Monday: Memorial of St Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church.

Tuesday: Memorial of St Philip Neri, Priest

Wednesday: Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury Bishop

Friday: Memorial of St Paul VI, Pope

Parish Finances: Thank you to all those who continue to support our parishes through standing order; this is a great way to support your parish. If you do not currently donate this way; it is easy to do, whether you pay tax and 'Gift Aid' your contribution or not, please email the parish office and a form will be sent to you. A cheque made payable for your parish would also be most welcome. Make the cheque payable to the parish and put through the door of St Peter's or the post box for St Michaels. Thank you for your continued support.

Mass Obligation: There is no Sunday or weekday Mass – the Sunday obligation has been lifted for the time being. We can still pray together and look after one another. We can take care of those around us who might be in need. We can build up a sense of community in the area in which we live and maybe we relearn the simple things of faith whilst we hunger for the Bread of Life in the Eucharist.

Pentecost Sunday – Rosary Mission: As a Diocese we have had a request from Monsignor John Armitage, from the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, to participate in a May Rosary Mission on Pentecost Sunday (31st May). Each Diocese in England, Wales and Scotland has been allotted an hour in which the Rosary will be prayed either individually or in family groups. The hour allotted to Clifton is 1pm-2.00pm. At that time the Rosary will be live streamed from the Cathedral. It would be appropriate at this time if we as a parish could pray the rosary along with Bishop Declan and parishioners from the whole diocese.

Mass Livestreamed: Several parishes throughout the country are livestreaming the Mass each day: Clifton Cathedral Sunday Mass is @ 9.30am; St John The Evangelist Church, Bath Sunday Mass is at 10.00am. Please check their website for weekday Mass times and also the Rosary and other services.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are present in the 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

CAFOD: Have launched an emergency appeal for funds, because the impact of coronavirus in countries with poor health systems will be devastating. If you would like to know what CAFOD are doing or you feel in a position to help, please go to: cafod.org.uk and look up Coronavirus: what CAFOD is doing.

Memorare: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

We can still be instruments of peace, of joy, of faith and love in so many ways. We are a community of hope and faith and love, and we can still be proclaimers of the Gospel even when our normal, everyday routine is upset. May God watch over each and every one of us, and remind us – always – that he is near.

Please stay safe and well. God Bless