

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



5 MAY 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## Our life on earth

It has only been a few weeks since Good Friday, when we commemorated the agonising death of Christ on Mount Calvary. This was an excruciating, shameful death, even for hardened criminals who deserved it. But for our loving Saviour, the innocent lamb of God, one who had never offended God or neighbour, it was something of which the whole human race should be ashamed forever. What caused Christ that torment and death on the cross were our sins, the sins of all mankind and not the spite and hatred of his Jewish opponents, who were only instruments in the tragedy. Atonement had to be made to God for the sins of the world so that men could reach the eternal inheritance which the incarnation made available to them. However, not all the acts of the entire human race could make a sufficient atonement to God. A sacrifice, an expression of infinite value, was needed. The death of the Son of God in his human nature was alone capable of making such an expression.

That Christ willingly accepted crucifixion for our sakes, that he gave the greatest proof of love which the world has ever known, by laying down his life for his friends, did not make his sufferings any less and did not ease any of the pains of Calvary. His agony in the garden before his arrest shows this: he foresaw all the tortures and pains which he was to undergo and sweated blood at the thought of what awaited him. But he was to keep his Father's commandment, "*not my will but thine be done.*"



We Christians must have hearts of stone, hearts devoid of all sense of gratitude, when we forget what Christ has done for us and deliberately offend him! Alas, this is what all of us do sometimes, and many of us do it all the time. Christ died to bring us to heaven, but we tell him, by our sins, that he was wasting his time. We do not want to go to heaven; we are making our happiness here!

How far can human ingratitude and thanklessness go? Christ told us, through the disciples on Holy Thursday night, that he had made us his friends, his intimates. We are no longer servants in the household, who merely earn their daily wage

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Visit our website: [www.catholicwestbourne.org](http://www.catholicwestbourne.org)

## MASS TIMES

**Sunday 5 May - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
9.00am and 11.00am

**Tuesday 7 May - SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER**  
10.00am

**Wednesday 8 May - SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER**  
7.30pm - *Vigil Mass for The Ascension*

**Thursday 9 May - THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**  
10.00am

**Friday 10 May - ST. JOHN OF AVILA**  
10.00am  
*Mass is followed by Adoration.*

**Saturday 11 May - SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER**  
10.00am  
4.00pm - *Vigil Mass for Sunday (Portuguese)*

**Sunday 12 May - SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
9.00am  
11.00am

## OUR PARISH

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH**  
**SEAMOR ROAD, WESTBOURNE,**  
**BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Leslie Adams  
**Telephone:** 01202 764027

**Email:** ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk  
*(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,  
Funerals and Confessions)*

**Parish Administrator:** Peter Murdock-Saint  
General enquires and hall bookings  
**Telephone:** 01202 760640  
**Email:** oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Safeguarding Officers:** Dee and Edward  
safeguarding.boush@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Donations:** CDP Bournemouth  
**Our Lady Immaculate**  
**Sort code:** 309304 **Account:** 00875075

## SUNDAY MASS READINGS

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Is 48: 20**  
*Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;  
proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has  
freed his people, alleluia.*

**Gospel Acclamation - Jn14:23**  
*Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me  
he will keep my word, and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.' Alleluia!*

**Communion Antiphon - Jn 14: 15-16**  
*If you love me, keep my commandments, says the  
Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you  
another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.*

### THE ASCENSION (Vigil Mass)

**Entrance Antiphon - Ps 67: 33, 35**  
You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; praise the  
Lord, who ascends above the highest heavens; his  
majesty and might are in the skies, alleluia.

**Gospel Acclamation - Mt28:19,20**  
Alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all the  
nations. I am with you always; yes, to the end of  
time. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon - Cf. Heb 10: 12**  
Christ, offering a single sacrifice for sins, is seated  
for ever at God's right hand, alleluia.

### THE ASCENSION (Mass on the day)

**Entrance Antiphon - Acts 1: 11**  
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.

**Gospel Acclamation - Mt28:19,20**  
Alleluia, alleluia! Go, make disciples of all the  
nations. I am with you always; yes, to the end of  
time. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon - Mt 28: 20**  
Behold, I am with you always, even to the end  
of the age, alleluia.

## PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

**OUR LIFE ON EARTH (CONTINUED)** and have no intimacy with the family and no hope of ever sharing in the family possessions. Instead, we have been adopted into the family by Christ becoming wo/man; we have been guaranteed all the rights of children intimacy with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the future sharing in the eternal happiness of that divine household. Christ's incarnation made us God's children, and Christ's death on the cross removed sin. Sin is the one obstacle that could prevent us reaching our eternal inheritance.

Because God gave us free will, we can, in a moment of folly, a moment of madness really, deprive ourselves of the privileges and possessions that Christ has made available to us. We can choose to exchange an eternity of happiness for a few fleeting years of self-indulgence on earth. We can fling Christ's gift of love back in his face and tell him we don't want it. God forbid that we should ever act like this, that we should ever forget God's purpose in creating us. It is a marvellous thing to be alive if we have hope for a future life. If nothing awaited us but the grave, then to live on this earth, which is a valley of sorrow and tears for the vast majority, would be the cruellest of jests. But of this we need have no fear.

Life on earth is but a short prelude to our real existence. If we use this brief period as Christ has told us how to use it, death for us will be the passage into the eternal mansions. Be grateful to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; love the Blessed Trinity; prove your love by loving your fellow humans. By doing this you are fulfilling the whole law and the prophets; and you are assuring yourself of the place in heaven.

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL?** Please contact the Catholic Chaplaincy so that appropriate support can be given to you during your stay. Fr. Leslie would be happy to administer the Sacrament of the Sick before you go into hospital.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE.** We will be undertaking extensive maintenance work in the hall and church this week. For this reason, for the Feast of the Ascension, there will be an evening vigil Mass on Wednesday 8 May at 7.30pm and at 10.00am on Thursday 9 May.

**THERE WILL BE NO 10.00AM MASS** this Wednesday 8 May, nor coffee afterwards.

**DON BOSCO BOYS CAMP.** We are delighted that this camp will be going ahead again this summer for boys of secondary school age (leaving Year 6 to leaving Year 11) at St. Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sports, outings, competitions and games to ensure the boys have a fantastic week. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic faith, including daily Mass and morning prayer. The cost of the camp is £230 (part bursaries may be available on application). For more information please email: [dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**POPE'S INTENTION FOR MAY.** *For the formation of religious and seminarians.* We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

**VOCATIONS.** Pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially for our diocese. If you are considering such a vocation, talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. Email him at: [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 01329 318869.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** all the sick and housebound of our parish: *Mairead Holbrook, Cecilia Agnes Grimston, Geoffrey Dixon, Christopher Browne, Teresa Wraith, Elizabeth Lubrow and Win Sheridan.*

**MASS INTENTIONS.** Please email these to Peter in the office. [oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Visit our website: [www.catholicwestbourne.org](http://www.catholicwestbourne.org)

## 'What I command of you is to love one another'

Jesus said to his disciples: *'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.*

*This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'*

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION.** Please pray for our 11 children who will be making their First Holy Communion on Sunday 9 June at 11.00am: Christian, Mila, Maya, Sophie, Samantha, Fabiana, Thomas, Zara, Victoria, Esther and David.

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY.** This will be for World Communications Day.

**CONFESSIONS** will take place after Mass or by appointment. Please speak to Fr. Leslie or email him at [ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). His telephone number is 01202 764027.

**MARRIAGE CARE VACANCY.** Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation providing a marriage preparation and relationship counselling service. It is looking for trustees to strengthen its board and to help it continue to provide vital relationship support services to the Catholic community and beyond. Visit: [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk).



**REGINA CAELI.** During the Easter season, the words of the hymn "Regina Caeli" ("Queen of Heaven") are substituted for the Angelus prayer before Mass:

Queen of Heaven

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

While the authorship of the Regina Caeli is unknown, the hymn has been traced back to the twelfth century. It was in Franciscan use, after Compline, in the first half of the following century. There is a legend that says St. Gregory the Great (d. 604) heard the first three lines chanted by angels on a certain Easter morning in Rome while he walked barefoot in a great religious procession and that the saint thereupon added the fourth line: "Ora pro nobis Deum. Alleluia."

# Love your priests

According to recent studies, a great number of priests quit each year. They don't quit because they have a lack of faith in God. They don't quit because they no longer believe in the calling God has placed in their lives. They don't quit because of financial reasons.

Priests quit because they are overwhelmed by mental exhaustion.

Until you're a priest, you never fully understand what it's like to carry spiritual burdens for people. Getting up in the middle of the night praying for your family of faith, awakened in the night because of someone in need, or your heart being overwhelmed with a person's absence or distance.

A priest's mind is continuously occupied with the presentation of the Sunday message. How to preach it? What to teach? How do we apply it?

Priests are criticised on a continual basis. They are told to do better or that the church building needs to be better.

Priests invest their whole lives in people, and yet people will turn their backs on their priest at the first sign of a storm, usually without even a conversation first. Priests stand in the middle of disputes; they stand in the middle of gossip. They counsel broken marriages and comfort those who've suffered loss.

Priests navigate the waters of imperfect people, desperate to see each one thrive in their faith. They long for spiritual breakthroughs. Your priest craves the very best for you. They do all this while trying to battle their own faith and grow in their own faith with God.

Priests see the posts, hear the whispers and endure



the negativity.

Priests are continually caring for the sheep while fending off the wolves. Priests pour out and pour out, rarely being poured into.

### **What keeps a priest going? YOU!**

You - the person who is genuinely hungry.

You - the person who worships with passion and freedom.

You - the teenager who is striving to be a follower of Jesus.

You - the single mum who understands the beauty of the hope found in Christ.

You - the one who walks through the door for the first time because you are searching for peace, hope and community.

### **Please pray for your priest.**

Serve your priest.

Talk with your priest.

Encourage your priest.

Your priest is human.

They need you more than you think.