

Coming to Church – “Hands/Face/Space”

When coming to church for services, please observe the social distancing rules, wear a face covering (unless you are exempt) and sanitise your hands frequently. Please also maintain an appropriate distance from others at all times, both inside the church and outside in the carpark.

If you would like to come to **Mass at the weekends**, please contact the Parish Office to book a place, either by telephone on weekdays between 10.00am-1.00pm, or by email. There is no need to book a place at a weekday Mass but, on arrival at church, please give your details to one of the stewards.

World Communications Day

The theme for the 2021 World Communications Day, “*Come and See (Jn 1:14): Communicating by Encountering People as They Are*”, chosen by Pope Francis, echoes the words of the Apostle Philip, recognising that authentic communication leads to “encountering people as and where they are”. The words “Come and see” are central to the Gospel. Before the Gospel is proclaimed, prior to words, there are “looks, testimonies, experiences, encounters and closeness. In a word – life.” The full text of the Pope’s Message for this Sunday can be found [here](#).

The Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales works hard to forge positive relationships and channels of good communication with media outlets to share news relating to every aspect of the life of the Catholic Church and her people, as well as through its websites, publications and social media channels. There is a second collection today to support this very important mission and outreach. You can also donate [online](#) .

“The Whole Church Prayed Unceasingly to God” (Acts 12:5)

On each day throughout the month of May a different Marian Shrine around the world will lead prayers for an end of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Prayer will begin each **morning** with the symbolic gesture of the lighting of a lamp in front of a statue of Our Lady, followed by a reading from Acts 12, from which this initiative takes its name. The time of prayer will finish with probably the oldest extant Marian prayer *Sub tuum praesidium*. At **Midday**, the Holy Rosary will be recited for the particular intention that Pope Francis has assigned for that day. **Evening** prayer consists of the *Memorare* prayer and the handing on the witness of prayer to the next Marian Shrine.

The schedule of Shrines and Prayer Intentions and the two prayers are attached to the Newsletter so that we can unite ourselves in prayer each day the Catholics worldwide for the ending of the Pandemic.

"Thy Kingdom Come"

The days between the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord until Pentecost have in recent years become a worldwide ecumenical initiative of nine days of prayer. We are invited to participate in the [Novena of Prayer](#) , with specific daily intentions.

Bishop Mark has also highlighted the importance of this time for **local evangelisation**. In his [Message](#) to the Catholics of England and Wales, in the days leading up to the Novena, he invites us to: *"...have a think about your family, your work colleagues, your friendship circle. Think about five people whom you might begin to have a conversation with about your faith in Jesus Christ...I think, especially, we want to pray for those five people during the nine days of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost and then in the period afterwards, maybe in July, when things have opened up a little more, look for an opportunity in the parish calendar, maybe a summer barbecue or a tea outside in the parish grounds that you could invite those five individuals to, so that they might begin to make a journey to encounter the Lord Jesus more deeply."*

First Holy Communion

The second of the two Tiverton First Communion Masses will take place this Sunday at 4.00pm. Please remember these children and their families in your prayers in a special way at this spiritually significant moment in their lives.

Cancel the Debt: Fund Vaccines: Save Lives

This Thursday, 20 May, 5.30-6.30pm, CAFOD will be hosting an online webinar on the impact of Covid on debt repayment burden of poor countries. The coronavirus pandemic is the worst global health crisis in a century. Yet many countries are being forced to choose between spending money on healthcare or on continuing to pay their debts. Unless urgent action is taken, countries will be plunged into a new debt crisis as they respond to the threat of the virus, while trying to manage spiralling debt payments. Join Aisha Dodwell, Head of Campaigns, and Dario Kenner, Debt Policy Lead for an update on CAFOD's work to secure debt relief for the world's poorest nations. Register [here](#).

Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

Next weekend, there will be the annual collection to support the sick and retired priests of our diocese. This collection is an expression of gratitude for the years of devoted service and commitment that these priests have given to the parish communities of our diocese.

Feast of St Rita of Cascia

The Feast of St Rita of Cascia will be celebrated at St Rita's Centre, Honiton, Devon on this Saturday, 22 May, with Mass at 12 noon followed by the blessing and distribution of roses for the sick. This celebration will be carefully prepared and will follow all national guidelines and the sanitary protocols suggested by health institutions. Because of national restrictions, places for the Mass must be pre-booked. Please book online (www.stritascentre.org) or ring the office on 01404 42635.

For those who wish to buy them, two shops will be open for the sale of religious items. Orders can also be placed online for collection on the day.

200 Club

Congratulations to Barbara Parr who won the £30 prize and to Kathy Holmes who won the £20 prize in the May draw. If you would like to join the 200 Club, please speak to Simon Coombs/Sheelagh Bourdon at St James or to Teresa Cummings at St Boniface.

Parish Services and Events This Week

Saturday 15 May – Easter Weekday after Ascension

- Baptism of Gabriela Suhanea at 1.00pm
- Holy Mass at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday 16 May – Seventh Sunday of Easter

- Holy Mass at 10.00am *Martin McKinney RIP (Anniversary)*
- Holy Mass at 11.30am (at St Boniface) *Pro Populo*
- First Holy Communion Mass at 4.00pm

Tuesday 18 May – Easter Weekday after Ascension

- Holy Mass at 10.00am *Lesław Rainczak Ints (80th birthday)*

Wednesday 19 May – Easter Weekday after Ascension

- Holy Mass at 12noon (at St Boniface)

Thursday 20 May – Easter Weekday after Ascension

- Coffee Morning at 11.00am on Zoom
- Holy Mass at 6.00pm

Friday 21 May – Easter Weekday after Ascension

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 11.30am
- Holy Mass at 12noon

Saturday 22 May – St Rita of Cascia

- Holy Mass at 6.00pm (Vigil Mass of Pentecost)

Sunday 23 May – Pentecost Sunday

- Holy Mass at 10.00am *Pro Populo*
- Holy Mass at 11.30am (at St Boniface)