
 7th Sunday of Easter (A) Mass Times and Intentions Divine Office – Psalter Week 3 		
Saturday 16 th May	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 17 th May	11.00am	Ann Ray
Tuesday 19 th May		NO MASS
Wednesday 20 th May		NO MASS
Thursday 21 st May		NO MASS
Saturday 23 rd May	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 24 th May	11.00am	Baby Theo Mohr

Sunday Liturgy

Proper of the Mass		p. 275
Profession of Faith	Apostles'	p. 12
Preface	Ascension	p. 75
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 2	p. 25

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for May



That everyone might have food. Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

May is the month of Mary. The tradition of dedicating the month of May to Mary, came about in the 13th Century. This month is the time when spring is at the height of its beauty. Spring is also connected with nature renewing itself. In her way, Mary gave new life to the world when she gave birth to our saviour Jesus Christ.

	The Roman Catholic Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians Portico Lane, Prescott, L34 2QT		
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7th Sunday of Easter (A)

17th May 2026



In these days between the Ascension and Pentecost we are taken back to the beginning of the Book of Acts. Here we find the disciples immediately after Jesus had left them to go back to his Father. They are at prayer, waiting for the Spirit that will empower them to go out to preach what they have learned from Jesus. Now, as well as having accompanied him during his earlier preaching ministry in Galilee and Judaea, they have met him in various appearances after his Resurrection. We, too, are called to prayer in these days before Pentecost, praying for a renewal of the Holy Spirit in our own lives, and in the church as a whole.

In the verse preceding today's extract Peter writes, "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes to test you..." This gives us the context in which he goes on to urge them to "rejoice" in their suffering. Such

thoughts will be far from the experience of most of us who listen to this Reading. The final sentence is, perhaps, the most challenging for those who have not had to suffer for their faith, "... if anyone suffers as a Christian... let him glorify God in that name."

Coming towards the end of our celebration of Easter, our Gospel Reading is already looking towards the next stage of sharing the Good News. Up to this point Jesus' words to the disciples at the Last Supper have been characterised as a discourse, now they become a prayer: sometimes called "The High Priestly Prayer". Firstly, he prays to the Father about his coming "glorification" which will complete his work on earth. Then, he prays that those whom the Father has entrusted to him, and who he is now leaving behind, will be protected in the world. "Eternal life" is the gift that Jesus offers to those who do accept his word. This "life" is to know in an experiential way, not simply as a piece of head knowledge, the God revealed in Jesus. The second part of the prayer (not given in today's Reading) is centred on the disciples. It includes the petition that "they may all be one". In this way people will be better able to believe in the message they will preach. Preparing for Pentecost is also about praying for unity among Jesus' present-day disciples.



Offertory Collection/Donations

If you do not have any cash you can donate by scanning this QR code with a smart phone.

Parish Feast Day

This year our Parish Feast Day (24th May) falls on Pentecost Sunday, which takes precedence. So we will celebrate our Feast Day instead with Mass at 12.00pm on Monday 25th May, which is a Bank Holiday.

After Mass we would like to invite parishioners to bring a picnic to enjoy in our beautiful garden – or in the Parish Hall if the weather doesn't behave. We will provide tea, coffee and soft drinks and you are invited bring your own picnic and something stronger to drink if you wish!

Church Cleaning

Could you (male or female) spare a couple of hours once a month to help us keep our beautiful Church clean and welcoming? We are a friendly group who clean the Church every four weeks on a Tuesday after the 9.30am Mass. We usually have a cup of tea afterwards, which is a nice way to meet people.

We are very lucky at Our Lady Help of Christians to have volunteers who work behind the scenes. If you are interested in helping to clean our beautiful Church please call Pauline Webster on 07875 486 344. Thank you!

Portico Fundraisers

Coffee morning and tabletop sale on 17th May after Sunday Mass. NEW clothes and footwear at £3. Also a great selection of books and CD's plus many more bargains.

Knitters and Stitchers Group

The K&S Group will next meet at 1.00pm on Thursday 21st May in the Parish Hall. For a future Parish project, K&S group are looking for people to help knit or crochet poppies. Patterns are available in the shop and completed poppies can be returned here. Or donations of black or red wool will also be gratefully received in the shop.

Annual Pentecost Celebrations

The Two Cathedrals Walk will take place on Sunday 24th May at 3pm. All are warmly welcome to join us in this ecumenical walk inspired by the visit of Pope St John Paul II's journey down Hope Street in 1982. Gather at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King for a walk down Hope Street to Liverpool Cathedral in a time of celebration.

May Procession

The Missionaries of Charity's annual May procession will take place on Saturday 30th May at 2pm beginning at St Peter's Square, Seel Street, Liverpool to the Blessed Sacrament Shrine.

Feast Days This Week

Monday

Pope St John I - He was born in Tuscany in Italy, and was elected Pope in the year 523 while he was still an archdeacon, despite his advancing years and ailing health. He was sent by the king Theodoric to the Emperor Justin at Constantinople, to obtain tolerance for Arians in the East. John was received with immense respect by the Greeks but only obtained minor concessions from the Eastern Emperor. On his return the king, angry at the outcome of his mission, had him imprisoned at Ravenna where he died in 526.

Tuesday

St Dunstan – Living in the 10th Century, Dunstan was born of a noble family near Glastonbury. He was educated by Irish monks at the abbey and sent to the court of King Athelstan. He became a Benedictine monk about the year 934 and was ordained priest five years later. He was the principal agent in the restoration of English monasticism after the Viking devastations. He was appointed Bishop of Worcester and London in the year 957, and was later appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. His work reformed the English Church. He also served as an important minister of state to several English kings. A man of many talents, he was renowned as a painter, musician and worker in metals. He died in 988, and is revered as one of the most popular Anglo-Saxon saints.

Wednesday

St Bernardine of Sienna – He was born near Sienna in 1380. He joined the Friars Minor and was ordained priest, and then went throughout Italy preaching with great spiritual success. His charismatic preaching brought thousands of people flocking to hear him and to participate in dramatic rituals, which included bonfires of vanities and exorcisms. He propagated devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. In addition he wrote some theological works and did much to further discipline and study in his Order. He was a renowned peacemaker, in the Franciscan tradition, who tried to keep calm feuding clans and factions in the turbulent political world of the Renaissance. He died in the year 1444.

Thursday

St Christopher of Magallanes – He was joined in martyrdom by twenty one diocesan priests and three devout laymen, all members of the Cristeros Movement, who rose up in rebellion against the anti-Catholic Mexican government during the 1920's. He established a seminary and secretly spread the Gospel and ministered to the people. After his arrest on 21st May 1927 when on his way to celebrate Mass at a farm, he gave away his few remaining possessions to his executioners and gave them Absolution. He was then martyred without trial.

Friday

St Rita of Cascia – She was born in Umbria, Italy, in the year 1381, and despite her wish to become a nun was married to an abusive husband at the age of 18 with whom she had two sons. After her husband was murdered and her two children died she fulfilled her wish and entered the Augustinian Monastery of St Mary Magdalene at Cascia., where she began a life of obedience and chastity. She is remembered for her austerity, prayerfulness, good counsel and care of the sick. She is the patroness of impossible cases.

Saturday

St John Baptist Rossi – He was born in Genoa in the year 1698, one of four children. When he was thirteen he entered the Roman College, and he had completed his classical course with distinction when the reading of an ascetical book led him to embark on excessive mortifications. The strain on his strength led to a complete breakdown, and he never fully recovered. He had to leave the Roman College but recovered enough to complete his training at Minerva. He was ordained priest on 8th March 1721 at the age of twenty three, and his fame came from his work as a confessor and his ministry to the sick.