

## Parish Diary this Week

Date	Time	Feast	Pray for:
Saturday May 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> <b>SUNDAY Vigil MASS</b> – St John's	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup></b>	-	<b>NO PUBLIC SUNDAY MASS</b> – St Martin's <b>NO PUBLIC SUNDAY MASS</b> – St John's or Children's Liturgy of the Word <b>NO Excellent Coffee in the Hall after Mass</b>	
Monday May 10 <sup>th</sup>	-	... of the Sixth Week of Easter <b>NO PUBLIC</b> Prayer & Liturgy of Word	-
Tuesday May 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	... of the Sixth Week of Easter <b>Morning Mass (St John's)</b>	George Milton
Wednesday May 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	... of the Sixth Week of Easter <b>Morning Mass (St Martin's Chapel)</b>	Roy Clarke
Thursday May 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	<b>Ascension of the Lord</b> <b>Morning Mass (St John's)</b>	Jackie Hamm
Friday May 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 12.30pm	Feast of St Matthias <b>Morning Mass (St John's)</b> <i>Requiem for Len Rawcliffe</i>	Rita Brotherton Invitation family
Saturday May 15 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	... of the Sixth Week of Easter <b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> <b>Sunday Vigil Mass (St John's)</b>	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup></b>	-	<b>NO PUBLIC SUNDAY MASS</b> – St Martin's <b>NO PUBLIC SUNDAY MASS</b> – St John's No Children's Liturgy of the Word <b>NO Excellent Coffee in the Hall after Mass</b>	

*Pentecost Sunday is on 23<sup>rd</sup> May this year*

**(Mass Readings: Sundays of Easter B ; Weekdays: ...of Easter )**

**Reconciliation:** If you wish to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation please contact Fr Peter and we can arrange a time to meet in the Presbytery at a distance (Providing neither of us has the symptoms)

**Please pray for:** Veronica Morris, Megan (aged 11), Louis Crowson, Christopher Brown, Pauline Cafferty, Antonio Palmer, Joanne Porter, Ann Marie Cooke,, Margaret Johnston, Pat Jackson, Shelly Caine, Fr John Walsh, Paul Bradley, and all those who are sick.

**Anniversaries: May:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Audrey Crossley, 10<sup>th</sup> Joan de Jong 15<sup>th</sup> Monica Jones, 17<sup>th</sup> Jimmy Valentine, Nita O'Neill, 23<sup>rd</sup> Angel Dominguez 24<sup>th</sup> John Smith, Frank Dunstan, 27<sup>th</sup> Enid Johnstone, 29<sup>th</sup> Susan Mackenzie, 30<sup>th</sup> Sheila Hargreaves, 31<sup>st</sup> Chris Hull

**Lately Dead:** Len Rawcliffe. *Requiem at St John's on 14<sup>th</sup> May – invitation by family, please*

**Church Services and COVID Guidelines:** My reading of the lockdown loosening suggest:

Baptisms & Wedding of up to 30 people 'no earlier than 17<sup>th</sup> May'.

End of Church number restrictions 'no earlier than 21<sup>st</sup> May.' (15 people no earlier than 12<sup>th</sup> April)



**Public Baptisms:** We have our governmental dates for when full churches might be available – as mentioned on the front of the bulletin these depend on COVID data. However it has come to my notice that social venues are already booking for all sorts of events after these dates now. If parents wish to book 'provisional' dates for Baptism please contact me by phone or email and we can see what we can do.

Parish of

# St John the Evangelist

Poulton-le-Fylde

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter

## Masses

<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30am	Mass	St John's
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30am	Mass	St Martin's
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30am	Mass	St John's
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am	Mass	St John's
<b>Saturday (Vigil)</b>	6.00pm	Mass	St John's

If you wish to join our list of readers for Masses please let us know – what day, etc. Thanks



## 10<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

We know we have collected a great deal this year for CAFOD but perhaps we could support this cause for the poor, also?

There are envelopes at the back of church

### The Lord's Day:

Thanks to and slowly increasing group of parishioners who are making a weekday Mass their 'Sunday' Mass to allow for the continuing distancing necessary.

It is, also, wonderful to hear of those of you who are making good use of this lockdown time to keep up with reading the Word of God either from the Bible, or using the daily Mass readings. It is not too late to sign up for the parish 'Virus Times' to help with the scripture – we hope that things will loosen by mid June.



*Feast of the Ascension of the Lord  
Thursday*

## Lockdown, Mental Health Issues & "being Church"

I was listening to a programme on the radio this week about teenagers and the affect lockdown has had on their mental health. We know from school that children are having to be 'reminded' and 're-trained' socially for their own sake.

I was thinking that this is also necessary for all of us – perhaps, especially, those for us who live alone or didn't need to go to 'the office'.

Lockdown has meant that we have spent more time alone and have also avoided knocking on doors in case we spread the virus. As we seem to be coming out of lockdown, and the guidelines are loosening, perhaps we need to positively remind ourselves that we can, at a distance, make contact with neighbours and local parishioners?

We can meet small numbers in the garden, but we can, then chat on someone's front doorstep to help ourselves and them to remember what that was like! If we don't start now it may take people a lot longer to feel 'safe' in society than it would need to – (Providing we have no set-backs!)

I have noticed this week that more people are feeling the need to talk in the street and in the town centre than they did even a few weeks ago. As fellow parishioners we may need to practice being active disciples again – if this year has done damage to young people it will have affected all of us in some ways, also.

It is good to continue to see people at Mass – at a distance. Now we can legally stand around in the open air in groups of six in private space this means that folks coming out of church can meet and share news, their situation and, indeed, Faith. Many have been begun to do this after Mass but others dash away – is this a sign of COVID fear?

It is hoped that further relaxation will be granted us on 17<sup>th</sup> May – let's make sure we can help each other be ready to respond.

Welcome to all parishioners and visitors to our Parish today  
and throughout the week

**Parish Priest:** Fr Peter J Sharrock  
**Parish Deacon:** Rev Bill Milton

**Presbytery:** 98 Breck Road, FY6 7HT  
**Telephone:** 01253 893184 (**New Number!**)  
**email:** saintjohnspoulton@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.stjohnspoulton.org.uk

**Parish School:** St John's Primary School:  
**Telephone:** 01253 883690  
**Website:**  
[www.stjohnscatholicprimarypoulton.co.uk/](http://www.stjohnscatholicprimarypoulton.co.uk/)

**Please pray for those living in:** Caldervale Ave, Caldicot Way, Carleton Gardens, Carleton Gate / The Crescent, Carleton Way, Carr Close, Carr Head Lane, Castle Ave, Castle Gardens Crescent, Cedar Ave, Chapel St / Alexander Court, Chester Ave, Chew Gardens, Chiltern Ave, Compley Ave, Compley Green, Compton Close, Coniston Ave, Corbridge Close, Cottam Place, Crescent Rd, Crocus Court, Croft House, Curzon Rd.

#### **Pope Francis' Prayer Intention May: The World of Finance**

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

**Baptism Preparation:** Our next gatherings for parents wishing to prepare for their child's Baptism will be on:

TBA

(When Virus development is clearer)  
at 7pm at the presbytery  
Please take a leaflet from church.

**Tea, Coffee & Biscuits** are served after the 11:00 am Mass every Sunday at St John's and after the 9:30 am Mass every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at St Martin's & St Hilda's. Please come along and join us.

**Also:** after the Tuesday morning Mass most weeks. Come along and meet others.

**St Oscar Romero Fund:** Is our parish fund for local poor – you may see the collection after Masses.

**Parish Bulletin News:** If you have any items for the bulletin please contact Elaine 886219.

#### **Parish Offertory Donations**

Thanks to parishioner who have used the last few weeks to catch up on their offertory giving from the lockdown period. Thanks to those parishioners who have taken out standing orders during lockdown to keep up your parish offerings – Bank details are across the page if you wish to do this. There are some new boxes of offertory envelopes at the back of church. If you wish to order some envelopes or deliver let us know. Gift Aid is available to be gained by the parish if you are a tax payer and wish to sign up for this. Please contact parishioner Angela Hartley if you need help with this – it is worth it for us! (Her number is: 07365 112011)

#### **Parish Bank Details:**

Although we have two church buildings this is one parish and the parish account is a business account named:

'Parish of St John the Evangelist – Poulton le Fylde'

Please could you make cheques out to this title only as banks are becoming less imaginative!

Acc Number: 71335227  
Sort Code: 40-27-02

(This information has worked online on 24.02.2021)

**Fleetwood Foodbank:** Thanks for your continued delivery of food for the foodbank – they are very appreciative. If you know of people who need help – or have food to send yourself, please phone: **07821 498161** (New number)

**Printed Bulletin:** When the church buildings are closed the bulletin and Mass sheet will be in a box on the presbytery doorstep if you want to have a walk.

**Parish WhatsApp Group:** Emily Halliwell (as part of the above group) has set up a closed parish WhatsApp account. I have finally been beaten into joining but am a bit of a WhatsApp virgin as yet! Emily says: "My number is 07969643648 if you want to be added just reply with your mobile number or text me."

**Safeguarding:** As always be aware of hoax callers. Do not give personal or finance details, or money to anyone – check with the people here or Fr Peter.

#### **THE PARISH "VIRUS TIMES"**

##### **Parish Daily Scripture Reflections & Newsletter:**

Many parishioners have asked to receive the newsletter with Mass reflections and a "hello" each day. If your relative or neighbour cannot ask for this why not print a copy, and the regular Bulletin (This!) to keep them in touch. (Email above left)

#### **From our Hospital Chaplains**

There is only **one** Covid-positive inpatient at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and none at Clifton (within 14 days of their first COVID positive test). A total of 30,239 vaccinations have now been administered by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and over 5 million by the NHS in the North West Region. The Trust has now discharged 2,234 Covid-positive patients (including readmissions). The good news is there have been no new Covid-positives deaths since last week, so the number of Covid-positive deaths still stands at 765.

#### **Pope Francis on the Ascension – The Feast 2020 in Rome**

Jesus assigns to the Apostles the mission to all the peoples. He says: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (vv. 19-20). The contents of the mission entrusted to the Apostles are the following: to proclaim, baptize, teach and walk the path traced by the Master, that is, the living Gospel. This message of salvation first of all implies the duty of witness — one cannot proclaim without witness — to which we too, today's disciples, are called to explain our faith. Faced with such a demanding task, and thinking of our weaknesses, we feel inadequate, as the Apostles themselves surely felt. But we must not be discouraged, remembering the words Jesus addressed to them before ascending to Heaven: "I am with you always, to the close of the age"

With the promise to remain with us until the end of time, Jesus inaugurates the style of his presence in the world as the Risen One. Jesus is present in the world but with another style, the style of the Risen One, that is a presence that is revealed in the Word, in the Sacraments and in the constant and interior action of the Holy Spirit. The Feast of the Ascension tells us that although Jesus ascended to Heaven to dwell gloriously at the right hand of the Father, he is still and always among us:

#### **On-going Formation or "Being a Learning Community"**

Last week, when looking at the RCIA process, the last part "on-going formation" was open-ended, no definite time period. That is because we never stop learning about what it means to be disciples in this day and age, we are continually being "formed". Richard J Reichert in his book "Restoring Catechetical Ministry" writes: "It is the very nature of discipleship to follow and learn from one's master.... We are expected throughout our life to continue to learn from Jesus. We never outgrow this responsibility". We never stop listening to Jesus and learning from him. How does this take place? It takes place through our listening to the Word of God and having it "opened up" to us at Mass. (We have been very fortunate to have had this at morning Mass during the week as well as on Sundays, and through the Virus Times that Fr Peter has sent out.) It takes place through our own private reading of the scriptures and our conversations with Jesus and our Father in prayer. It takes place through our human relationships and conversations – all the experiences of life have to be viewed in the light of our faith. We are called to be "learning communities" – never thinking we have "got all the answers" but constantly seeking to learn and to know more about Jesus and his "vision" for the world and to try and put this into practice. There are three stages in this learning – information, formation and transformation. The ultimate aim of all our learning is that we become "transformed" into Jesus' presence in the world – that we not only "put on the mind of Christ" but that we also "become Christ" in the world. Think of the recent reading from John's Gospel about the vine and the branches. Jesus, the stem of the vine, is the source of its life. Jesus gives Himself to us in the Eucharist and through his Spirit so that he may be "in us" and we "in him" – He becomes the source of life for us. I know it is "mind-blowing" but it is what we are called to and our part is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and allow this transformation to take place. It is not something we can achieve ourselves, but we do need to take every opportunity we get to learn more. Our human interactions have been curtailed during lockdown but new freedoms are on the horizon. As we emerge from lockdown, we have the opportunity to "renew" ourselves as a Christian community. How might we do this?

Elaine Brownwood

