

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Gospel Acclamation:

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

Gospel: John 14:15-21

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time, the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

Love one another as I have Loved You

Please stay well and stay safe. God Bless



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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 8:5-8,14-17

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result, there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 65(66):1-7,16,20

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,

O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men.

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might.

In our Gospel, Jesus reminds His disciples that if they loved him, they would keep his commandments; He has come to instruct and teach His followers, another "Paraclete" will come after He is gone.

The Holy Spirit who will continue to defend, strengthen, help, and instruct those who have been marked by the Spirit. In the Catholic tradition, the further outpouring of the Holy Spirit is celebrated in the church in many ways: God has spoken to us too, as well as his disciples "I do not leave you orphaned, I will come back to you". Mercifully, in God's kingdom there are no orphans

One of the greatest personal fears in life is that of being forgotten, ignored or abandoned. And in our modern world there is no greater contemporary crisis than the massive abandonments now happening all over. There are the victims of war, especially the children, often forgotten, casualties of divorce.

Considering the events of our present day, the stresses placed on our lives and those of our families and friends, the tensions over jobs and finances, we can be reassured that now, at this moment, God is always present. Sometimes when we are hit by disappointments, illness to ourselves and family members, death of a loved one; we tend to forget that God is always with us. as reminded in the poem Footprints by Carolyn Carty:

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you; You would walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed you most, you would leave me. "The Lord replied, "My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I Carried You."



On Tuesday we celebrate the Feast of St Dunstan. Dunstan was born near Glastonbury and educated at the abbey. He started his ministry at Winchester. Later he became Abbot of Glastonbury. King Edgar of Baath appointed him Bishop of Worcester and London followed by Archbishop of Canterbury.

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

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 Dulverton, Minehead and Watchet.

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.

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

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.