



Saint Bernadette's Church

17th May – 23rd May

Sixth Week of Easter (A)

Parish Priest: Canon Geoffrey Hunton KHS, STB, BA

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Parish Centre rooms to hire

If you would like to book the Parish Centre hall or one of the three meeting rooms

Telephone: 01724 862804

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Registered No: 1134449

Co Registration No: 715164



Easter 2020 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

The final reading from the first Letter of Peter gives a heartening model for defence in persecution. In modern society any persecution faced is more likely to be verbal mockery or contempt than blood-shedding. A Christian stance on moral issues can so easily incur charges of narrow-mindedness or blindness. It is not always easy to keep one's temper and give a fair and helpful reply "with courtesy and respect", expressing the consequences of the Christian hope. Such a reply might just strike a chord deep down, rather than an explosive or sarcastic riposte, which merely deepens the divide. This can be a real and important Christian witness. The final sentences of the reading are helpful here, for the accounts of Jesus' trial stress that Jesus himself was silent "like a lamb before its shearers" as the Suffering Servant of the Lord, in fulfilment of the scriptures. The passion account is full of irony and mockery, from the High Priest, from Pilate, from the soldiers; but if Jesus himself did not explode at the false accusations and mockery, but retained his dignified silence, we too should keep our cool and reply with courtesy. (HW)

Live Streaming of Masses and Devotions in the Nottingham Diocese

For details visit the St Bernadette's website at :
<https://www.stbernadettesashby.org/livestreamingofmasses>

For details of daily live streaming of masses by Canon Geoffrey and Fr Liam visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/stbernadettesashby/>

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament,

**I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul,
Since I now cannot receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart,**

I embrace you and unite myself to you;

Permit not that I should ever be separated from You.

Amen.

From Canon Geoffrey

To all Parishioners. I do hope you are all keeping well and safe. Please continue to remember in your daily prayers those who are working hard to keep us all safe and I think you would all agree with me that this is a lot of people to pray for and give thanks to God for!

You may have heard that the Prime Minister, during his Statement in the House of Common this week, mentioned that places of worship may be able to open this summer:

'Finally, no earlier than July, we may be able to move to step 3, if and only if that is supported by the data and the best scientific advice. We would then aim to reopen some remaining businesses including, potentially, hospitality, cinemas and hairdressers, as well as places of worship and leisure facilities. This will depend on maintaining social distancing and new ways of providing services, so we will phase and pilot any re-openings to ensure public safety. I must be clear again: if the data goes the wrong way and if the alert level begins to rise, we will have no hesitation in putting on the brakes and delaying or reintroducing measures locally, regionally or nationally.'

This means that our churches will remain closed until at least July, and we will only be able to open our churches if it is safe and legal for us to do so in light of the law and any guidance issued by the Government and the Bishop. Even when our churches open again, it does not mean that we will be able to gather together to celebrate Mass immediately – we shall, I am afraid, have to wait and see. This calls for patience, but, as Jesus said in last Sunday's Gospel (John 14:1): 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me.'

Because our churches have not been accessible for several weekends now, and of course during the week, this has had an adverse effect on our weekly income, be it from the weekly offertory or Parish Hall Hire.

Many parishioners donate to our parishes via standing order; may I suggest that during these times other parishioners may consider doing so, or make a donation via BACS, or if they are able to set aside what they would usually give in cash and bring it along to mass once our churches are open? Below, are the account details for all four parishes.

In the meantime, please keep safe and well and do continue to support each other through prayers and support.

With every blessing to you all

Canon Geoffrey & Fr Liam

St Bernadette's Scunthorpe RCP Account Number 00801306 Sort Code 30-97-44	Holy Souls' Scunthorpe RCP Account Number 00207099 Sort Code 30-97-44
St Thomas' Gainsborough RCP Account Number 36893460 Sort Code 30-97-44	St Norbert's Crowle RCP Account No: 00481239 Sort Code: 30-97-44

Ascension and Pentecost

The Journey Through Art and Scripture

Ascension Day

Acts 1:8 - 11



Giotti: The Ascension of Christ c.1304-1306



Scrogveni (Arena) Chapel, Padua, Italy

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYERS TO OUR LADY FOR MAY 2020



PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM CORONAVIRUS

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Our Refuge and our Hope, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

'We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God.' In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply.

Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them.

Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew.

Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen! Alleluia!