

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

TRINITY SUNDAY (a)
June 7th 2020



*Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning,
is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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TRINITY SUNDAY (A)

Psalter Week 2

Introduction: We sign ourselves frequently in the name of the Trinity, whose feast we celebrate today.

First Reading : Ex 34 : The loving and faithful God renews his covenant with his people.

Second Reading : 2 Cor 13 : The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is ours.

Gospel : Jn 3 : In our rebirth in Baptism we are incorporated into the Trinity.

MASS INTENTIONS

The following Mass intentions have been handed in.
It is my intention to honour these requests in due course,
respecting where possible any wish for a particular date:
Richard Whyte RIP, Agnes Whittemore RIP, Roy Whittemore
RIP, Janie Wain RIP (LG); Dave Wiedemann RIP (DW)
My thanks for your kindness in requesting Mass Intentions

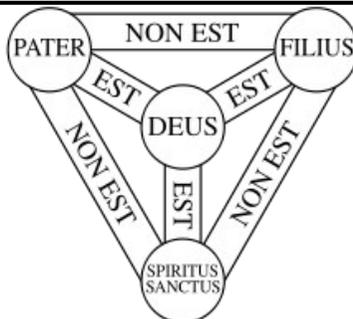
SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:

Mary Perry, Peter James, Adrian McHugh, Fr John Cairns, Cn Michael Moore, Pauline Anderson, Eileen Berry, Phillippa Phillips, Monica Krommendijk, Una Wilkinson, Nella Lewykyj, Evelyn Matthewman, Neil Appleton, Alice Canning, Dorothy Yarwood.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time : Bishop Francis McNulty, Fr Peter Doyle; *Bernard McGaughey, Catherine Millington, Ronald Bailey, David Wiedemann, Joan Drabble, Doreen Williamson, Jim Hampson:*

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, may they rest in peace. Amen



PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND Although we have returned in the church's calendar from Easter and Whitsun to ordinary time, we are still a fortnight away from "ordinary" Sundays.

The divine exclamation mark at the end of Whit Week is the celebration of the Holy Trinity—the core doctrine of the Christian creed. Our every prayer begins with the Sign of the Cross, in which we acclaim our God as Father, Son & Holy Spirit; our "Gloria" is a peon of praise of the Trinity; our creeds, whether Apostles' or Nicene are extended proclamation of our belief in the Trinity. Every prayer we make is centred on the Trinity: the Spirit gives us voice; the Son is our chief intercessor, who bears our prayer to the Father.

Furthermore, as we journey on into June, we recall that we are in the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. May he comfort those heavy of heart, broken-hearted and even those with cardiac curiosities.

THE SUNDAY READINGS emphasise the unity and compassionate love of the Trinity.

In the reading from Exodus we escort Moses, bearing the tablets of the decalogue, up the mountain and into the cloud of God's presence. With him we adore the one true God.

The second reading invites us to listen to St Paul as he writes to the Corinthians. The familiar Trinitarian greeting is at its heart, and underlines our close communion with the triune God.

The Gospel is the famous John 3.16 "God sent his Son into the world . . ." The Father's greatest gift to mankind, through the power of the Holy Spirit in the heart of Mary the Mother of Jesus.

SAINTS ALIVE honoured this coming week : on Thursday we celebrate the patron saint of our Cathedral, in remembering St Barnabas. He was St Paul's travelling companion and disciple, and preached with him in distant lands; and on Saturday we find St Anthony of Padua (as if we ever lost him!) A chance to thank him for the countless occasions he has led me to where my keys are 'mislaid'.

NEXT SUNDAY is Corpus Christi—the solemnity of the Blessed Sacrament of Christ's Body & Blood. In more normal times, eager hands would be adorning our churches and sanctuaries with candles & flowers for the quiet time of adoration and prayer that is Quarant'ore, or Forty Hours. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week, I hope you can find a corner in your homes to place an image of Our Lord, with a careful candle or two, and pray in that place in thankful adoration - and supplication that Holy Communion will be open to us soon. And that the First Holy Communion candidates will patiently wait with holy hunger to receive Our Lord for the first time.

KINDLY PARISHIONERS occasionally bring church-collection to the rectory letterbox. Thank You! From time to time such offering may contain cheques. The bank is quite precise these days about payee-names. "St Charles church" or St Margaret's church" is perfectly and simply acceptable. And if you are setting up a BACS standing order or transfer, in the message box put HAD or BB or GAM. That's enough!

And in that vein, another message from the diocesan finance office urging towards Standing Orders and Gift Aid.

"GRAPEVINE" is a relatively new publication from the diocese, which tries to bring together a host of diocesan and national news in the Catholic family. You will find the above message, and much more, in that place, which you can access via the parish website.

RESPONDING TO PASTORAL EMERGENCIES Fr Martin and Fr Daniel are taking turns at being the priest on call for 24 hours at a time. To ring the duty priest, at any hour of day or night, please phone the special number: 01457 620272. You will hear some information, then you can press a button on your phone to be connected automatically to whichever priest is on call.

ODDMENTS

- ◆ 'and the Lord poured forth a generous rain' which in the later part of this week He certainly has. My reference last weekend to Dennis Howell, the Minister for Drought might have generated a prayer or two. And the clouds returned, and the wind came from the north, and with it, welcome rain. Thanks be to God! Should stop me and my garden-helpers - for a while - hauling garden-watering hoses all over the place twice a day.
- ◆ Back to a remembrance evinced by this Sunday's first reading. In 2009 I was lucky enough to take a minibus journey across part of the Sinai desert in Egypt - following a perfectly white cloud. We were on a day-trip to Mount Sinai, the site of Moses great enterprise with the burning

bush and the Ten Commandments. The journey was in the blistering heat of the desert. The only tiny cloud hovered above the sacred mountain and beckoned us from 50 miles away. Mystic moment!

- ◆ *'Zooming in' has become very commonplace these never-endingly isolating days. My brother & sister have persuaded me to take the zooming plunge for a family video chat this weekend. Fingers crossed. . .*
- ◆ *And two diocesan meetings to which I should have travelled this week, and now being held virtually (or whatever the word is) by Zooming in.*
- ◆ *Read about St Kevin of Glendalough whose feastday was last Wednesday. A lovely legend relates that on Ash Wednesday one year he was at prayer in his hermitage, with arms outstretched. So distracted in prayer that he failed to notice a blackbird building a nest in the cup of his hand. As he returned from prayer he kept his arm outstretched till the nest was built, the eggs laid & hatched and the chicks fledged and fled. . . During these recently-sunny days I have been transfixed by devoted blackbird parents attending their nest and chicks in the kolomikta shrub on the church wall. And with the recent wind and rain, all is quiet. I do so hope they are safe.*
- ◆ *A pound for every time I am asked when we can return to public church & Mass would make me rich. Archbishop Wilson of Southwark wrote this week to the Prime Minister to urge re-opening. He wrote 'As restrictions have been lifted, there is growing frustration that churches remain closed for private, individual, visits of prayer. This comes when restrictions on access to other 'non-essential' facilities are being relaxed. For Catholics, access to church buildings is spiritually essential, something recognised by other Governments internationally. Respectfully, I believe that it is now time for churches to be allowed to open for individual visits for private prayer. Supervision and hygiene regimes can be put in place akin to those in supermarkets and any churches that cannot implement these would remain closed.' Lord, let it be!*
- ◆ *Good to meet faithful parishioner Mary Revell, returned from broken-arm repair in Cumbria. She was in good form and fine spirits. Also good to hear that equally-faithful Josie & Peter Cowden and due soon to return from relative-refuge in East Anglia to their home nest in John Dalton St Hadfield.*
- ◆ *A message from Sister Ethel in faraway Zambia, reporting on closure & lockdown there, but noting that the watch I recently sent her has broken down. Anyone got a not-longer used quartz battery watch - not I think a 'lady's watch', but a robust big-face one? Please message me.*
- ◆ *Renewed thanks to Damian & Cathy N for facilitating the audio Sunday service of Word.*
- ◆ *Mgr Tom McGovern led our diocese as interim administrator for a year or so as we waited for Bishop Patrick to become our Bishop. Congratulations this weekend on his ordination Golden Jubilee!*
- ◆ *My computer one day this week asked me to fill in a questionnaire on lifestyle during lock-down. Lots of boxes to tick about eating, knitting, fitness-regimes, conferencing - and crawling up the walls. How was I using the extra minutes? Nowhere could I find a box indicating that more 'time to pray' was available to me. And you.*
- ◆ **Live Stream Mass for the Sick, their Families and Care-givers**
Recognising that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting everyone, particular Masses are being celebrated for the sick, their families, care workers and NHS staff by one of our diocesan Bishops of England and Wales, in his Cathedral every Thursday. This Thursday 11th June (Feast of St. Barnabas), Bishop Patrick will be taking his turn as part of this important initiative. He will be offering Mass at 7 pm, which will be live streamed from St Barnabas Cathedral on the Bishop's YouTube account: <https://www.youtube.com/bishoppatrickmckinney>. I hope you will be able to join the Bishop that evening.

AND FINALLY *This week I have kept somehow company with parishioners & friends whose mental health has been affected during these difficult days. Please continue to join me in prayer for them.*