

"Every day, as long as this 'today' lasts,
keep encouraging one another" (Heb 3:13)

May 7th 2023

5th Sunday of Easter
Readings p. 265

Acts 6:1-7

Seven deacons are chosen to distribute food to widows, leaving the apostles free to preach and pray.

1 Peter 2:4-9

Jesus is the keystone, holding together the people of God. Through him, we are chosen to be God's people and called to walk in God's light.

St. John 14:1-12

Jesus describes his relationship with the Father, and it is clear that in that relationship, there is room for us too.

"I am
the Way,
the Truth
and
the Life."



In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus say 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life'. By calling himself the Way, Jesus is stating that the way to the Father was through him. It is also interesting that the early Church community described themselves as followers of the Way (see, for example, Acts 9:2).

The First Reading today, which is taken from the first section of the Acts of the Apostles outlines one of the more fundamental concerns which faced the early followers of the Way – some of the widows from the Greek-speaking part of the community were not being fed. The disciples did not want to neglect the work of God, but they also saw the importance of acts of charity, and seven men 'full of the faith and the Holy Spirit' were appointed to look after the welfare of the more vulnerable members of the community.

These seven, the first deacons, not only served in acts of charity, but also began to serve the Word, with Stephen explaining the Scriptures before facing his martyrdom, and Philip spreading the gospel to Samaria and converting the Ethiopian who was struggling to understand a passage from Isaiah. We, who are following the same Way 2,000 years later, can take comfort that the earliest followers of Christ, who placed their trust in the Holy Spirit, were able to achieve so much while building the Way on the solid foundations of justice and charity
Francis Cousins

Today's Psalm
Psalm 32

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

What a beautiful prayer. Picture God's love upon us like overshadowing hands transmitting life, warmth and energy. In the intimate section of any gospel, the Lord consoles the disciples who are distraught at the thought of his leaving them. His going is for their sake...to prepare a place for them. Truly his love is upon us.

This love must not remain secret. The psalm urges us to ring out our joy, our praise and thanks. As Peter writes in today's 1st Reading, Christians are a chosen people, a chosen priesthood, a people set apart to sing praises of God.

Like the psalmist, we are filled with trust because the *word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.*

Easter keeps the resurrection before our minds as the model of our calling...that he will *rescue our soul from death and keep us alive in famine.* He has gone to prepare a place for us.
Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton - Tel: (01257) 262665

Mass Intentions for w/c May 7th 2023

5th Sunday of Easter

8.30.am. Fr Michael McCormick & Many others

10.30.am. Tom O'Donahue

Mon: Easter Weekday

9.30.am. Thomas Kevin Beardsworth

Tues: Easter Weekday

9.30.am: James Loughlin

Weds: Easter Weekday

9.30.am. Ronald Carter

Thurs: Easter Weekday

9.30.am.: Veana & Harold Fish

Fri: Easter Weekday

7.00.pm: Maire Christine John

Sun: 6th Sunday of Easter

8.30.am. Veana & Harold Fish

10.30.am. Parishioners

Mobile (only for emergency use)

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Confessions

At your request

Cemetery

There have been a lot of improvements in the cemetery recently. But the one we need to improve is grass cutting.

We have the mowers, all we need are volunteers

We pray for the Sick, especially the sick of the parish including Ryan Troop; Catherine Thompson; Maureen Beardsworth; TThomas Halligan.

Refreshments available after 1030 am. Mass next Sunday, May 14

.Many thanks to Children, families, Catechists and School, for completing our Communion course, and we await them selecting the day of their First Communion.

Over the next few days and weeks our younger parishioners **will be** busy taking exams. Remember to keep the young people of the parish in your prayers. We petition for clear thinking, inspiration, guidance and calm.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May 2023 This month Pope Francis reminds us that it is the job of everyone to evangelise. We are asked to make a daily commitment to igniting God's love around the world, in prayer, in giving and in action. This month we are invited to join Pope Francis prayer, "... that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world."

Peace Actions for May 2023. Pray the Rosary every day this month for world peace

• May 13th is World Fair Trade Day. Play your part in bringing about trade justice.

• 14th -20th May is Christian Aid Week. Consider how you and your family can play a part in eradicating poverty.

Join in 'Walk to School Week' from the 15th May.

To mark The King's Coronation thousands of organisations are getting together to give us all the chance to help out in our own local communities. Churches across the UK are invited to join #TheBigHelpOut on Monday 8 May 2023 to recognise the contribution of volunteering to our communities. The idea is to give us all an appetite for making our communities happier and better connected.

To celebrate the King's Coronation, thousands of schools have been sent free flower seeds. This is a great time to sow flowers in gardens and pots. Think particularly of flowers that will attract and protect our bees.

"Have courage for the great sorrows of life and patience for the small ones; and when you have laboriously accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace. God is awake."