

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

May 14th 2023
6th Sunday of Easter
Readings p .268

Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

The Samaritans who whole-heartedly accept the truth of Christ are filled with joy and hope by his Spirit.

1 Peter 3:15-18

Our relationship with Christ affects all our contact with others, our whole lives.

St. John 14:15-21

Although he is going to the Father, Jesus will remain with his disciples through the Holy Spirit - guiding, encouraging and strengthening them in the way of love.

*"The Father
will give you
another
Advocate
to be with
you for ever"*



To an atheist - once described as someone with no invisible means of support - Christian hope must seem like a cry to on high for pie in the sky. What Christians hope for, i.e., a new heaven and a new earth has no scientific basis. Indeed it can't have. At present, all that science can ultimately foresee is a frozen waste of nothingness. The heart-warming prospect of blissful eternal life has no basis other than in the word of God (Rev 21:1).

In today's Second Reading (1 Pet 3:15-18) Peter exhorts us to be ready always to defend that hope. And we do that basically by showing how God has kept his promises historically and by showing that his promises continue to be fulfilled today.

Historically, God promised the seemingly impossible only to fulfill it: Abraham and Sarah in advanced age beget a son, down-trodden Hebrews gain freedom from their super-power slave-masters, an eagerly awaited messiah comes, but in the most unexpected manner. Killed and seemingly defeated, he rises from death to fulfil his mission.

Today, God's promises continue to be fulfilled. God continues to bless us with new life, with freedom from slavery to sin, with the promise and hope of resurrection. Yet, perhaps there is one other way to defend that hope: by allowing it put pep in our step.
Francis Cousins

Today's Psalm
Psalm 65

Enthusiasm, meaning God within, originally referred to the excited energy of those who really believe the in the divine indwelling, 'you in me and I in you.'

The psalmist has received an answer to prayer and is enthusiastic about God's protection. He calls on all the earth to cry out with joy to the Lord and to glorify his name. He invites all people to come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men.

God's protection was like their passing through the river dry shod. The people led out by Moses responded to God's covenant by living in accordance with the commandments carved on tablets of stone, But words, written stone or paper, are subjected to interpretation, so the the new covenant went beyond words to be based on responding to God known in love. 'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

If the psalmist had reason to cry out with joy to the Lord, how much more ought we want to be enthusiastic in celebrating the intimacy of divine indwelling.

'Reverence the Lord Jesus in your hearts' (2nd Reading).

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap

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

Mass Intentions for w/c May 14, 2023

Sun: 6th Sunday of Easter

8.30.am. Veana & Harold Fish

10.30.am. Parishioners

Mon: Easter Weekday

9.30.am. James & Mary Bagot

Tues: Easter Weekday

9.30.am.

Wed: Vigil of The Ascension of the Lord

7.00.pm. Derek Chapman

Thurs: The Ascension of the Lord

9.30.am. Fr, Gerard Snape

Fri: St. Philip Neri

7.00.pm. Private Intention

Sun: 7th Sunday of Easter

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Richard & Ann Barrow

Mobile (only for emergency use)

Mobile 0771 942 7926

eMail: stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

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

Mobile (only for emergency use) **0771 942 7926**

Mass Intentions Receive
Eddie McDermott 1/6

Our prayers and sympathies go to the family of Mary Gallagher who passed away on May 6th Her Requim will take place Thursday June 1st 11.am. May she rest in peace

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

Refreshments available in the Parish Hall after 10.30. Mass

Ascension Thursday Real and Present On this day we imagine Jesus going to some place high above the clouds, to some faraway place beyond death. But if the disciples felt any sense of abandonment that's certainly not how they acted. The disciples didn't leave the scene of the Ascension in mourning; they returned with great joy and praised God in the temple day after day. It is clear that the disciples did not experience Jesus as absent. It is clear that in everything they did from then on that Jesus was real and present in their lives

Christian Aid Week 14th -20th May This Christian Aid Week you could help make dreams come true for farming families in Malawi. For just £10 could pay for a 2kg bag of seeds to plant pigeon peas – a hardy, drought-resistant crop. For just £50 could provide seeds and farming tools for a family.

Donate online at WWW.give.christianaid.org.uk/donate

World Fair Trade Day 2023

14th May

Yes of course, every day is a Fair Trade Day. Most of us pick up one or two Fair Trade items when we visit the supermarket, but today is about encouraging everybody else to do the same.

The easiest way to promote Fair Trade is to take a jar of Fair Trade coffee and biscuits into work and enjoy! Care for Our Common Home

Walk to School Week

15th May 2023

This week thousands of children across the country are celebrating the benefits walking brings. We know that walking to school makes children feel healthier and happier, while reducing congestion and pollution outside the school gates. Yet less than half of primary school children currently walk to school. It's up to us all to reverse this decline and see every child that can, walk to school.

“One word frees us of all the weight and pain of life: That word is love.”

Sophocles

Greek tragic dramatist (496 BC - 406 BC)