

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

May 15 2022

**5th Sunday of Easter
Readings p. 271**

Acts 14:21-27

God continues to work through Paul and Barnabas, making himself known to the pagans.

Apocalypse 21:1-5

God promises to make all things new and to dwell among his people.

St. John 13:31-35

The Son's love leads to his glorification on the cross. He asks his disciples to love just as he has loved them.

"Just as
I have
loved you,
you also
must love
one
another."



Does it ever seem to you that Jesus can be a little unrealistic? Today Jesus tells us "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." But how can we go round loving everyone we meet? Isn't love reserved to those closest to us ... our parents, children, and partners?

Harder still, how can we love as Jesus loved? Jesus loved us to the point of death. Surely following this kind of example is a very tall order!

The main thing to remember in following Jesus' teaching is that he wouldn't ask anything of us that we couldn't do. Secondly, we might not be ready to love each other to the point of death, but Jesus gives us plenty of other lessons in how to love. We're not talking some impossible ideal or some form of idealistic behaviour. We simply need to recognise, as Jesus recognised that love is a basic human need. Jesus had a talent for seeing everyone as an individual. We too need to see people as individuals rather than lump them together into categories. We too need to recognise need and respond accordingly. Loving someone is a decision we make rather than the harbouring of fluffy romantic sentiments found in greeting cards. Loving someone is about serving the need to be liked, appreciated, forgiven or helped. We follow Jesus' lessons in love every time we seek to alleviate someone else's suffering ... every time we reject violence and retaliation every time we make a stand against neglect or greed or apathy.

**Today's Psalm
Psalm 144**

Today's readings are in tune with the new life of Easter and the freshness of May's blossoms. Paul and Barnabas put fresh heart into the disciples. Jesus speaks of a new standard of love. John the Seer takes his readers beyond the Apocalypse's tribulations and terrors to the vision of the new heaven and the new earth, the new Jerusalem coming down from heaven.

New things are exciting, but more exciting still are the good things that last forever. These are what we recognise in the psalm.

The Lord is kind, compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in love and full of goodness. These are the everlasting values, today and the same for ever. Each new day is a fresh gift of God's life and love. Each morning he makes all things new.

In the name of all creatures, with our friends we repeat their blessing.

*I will bless your name for ever,
O God, my King.*

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.

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

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday May 15 2022

Sun: 5th Sunday of Easter

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Ivanna Yacub

Mon: Easter Weekday

9.30.am. Ukraine

Tues: Easter Weekday

9.30.am.: James and Mary Bagot

Wed.: Easter Weekday

9.30.am. Fr Gerard Snape

Thurs. Requiem

10.am.: Peter John Taylor

Friday: Easter Weekday

7.00.pm: Special Intention

Sunday : 6th Sunday of Easter

8.30.am.: Hunter Family

10.30.am: Parishioners

0771 942 7926 (only for emergency use)

Confessions

At your request

On Admittance to Hospital or Nursing Home

Staff need to be made aware by you: that you, or the member of your family, or the person you accompany, are Catholic, and require the services of the Catholic Chaplaincy.

Cemetery

All visitors are asked to help keep the Cemetery tidy and to use the appropriate waste bins.

Mass Intentions received upto 13/05/2022

Mary & Harry Roden 13/06

We pray for all the sick especially the sick of the parish including

Ryan Troop; Catherine Thompson; aureen Beardsworth;
Desmond Corman.

Our prayers and sympathies go to the family and friends of Peter John Taylor, who will be buried here following a Requiem Mass here on Thursday 10 am.

And also for Raymond Garland who died recently and will be cremated on Wednesday May 25th at 12.30.pm, at Charnock Richar Crematorium. May they rest in Peace.

Mary's Meals' is a mission carried out in Our Lady's name to feed children a daily school meal in some of the world's poorest communities. During May, the month traditionally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, we are asked to pray for the children who eat Mary's Meals.

Christian Aid Week For the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed communities of the power to provide for their children. It's unjust. Look to every opportunity to call for climate justice. Donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week A single payment of £30 could buy drought-resistant seeds for 20 farmers. Call on the UK government to ban industrial fishing in Marine Protected Areas. Industrial boats destroy marine life, and leave local fishing communities with nothing left to catch. Unbelievably - huge destructive ships are allowed to fish in UK Marine Protected Areas - they spend thousands of hours fishing in them every year! They shouldn't be operating in areas that local fishing boats rely on to make a living, nor areas that are meant to be ocean sanctuaries, protecting vulnerable ecosystems and iconic wildlife like dolphins and porpoises. It's time to put an end to this.

Lots of our supermarkets are now sending support packages out to Ukraine. Find out if your local supermarket is one of them and lend your support. Some supermarkets are requesting consumers round up their payment at the self-service check-out to the nearest pound. In this way supermarkets have raised millions to provide Ukrainian refugees with warm clothes, food and shelter. They are also focussing on restoring water supplies and medical facilities. This is an easy and quick way to support. Your small change can make a big change in Ukraine.

"A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble." (Charles H. Spurgeon)