

“Every day, as long as this ‘today’ lasts,  
keep encouraging one another” (Heb 3:13)

**6th Sunday of Easter**  
**Readings & Prayers p. 274**  
**2nd Eucharistic Prayer p. 25**

**Acts 15:1-2, 22-29**

The Holy Spirit guides the first Christians as they adapt to new situations. The same Spirit will guide us.

**Apocalypse 21:10-14, 22-23**

We are presented with a radiant vision of the Heavenly Jerusalem.

**St. John 14:23-29**

The message of Jesus is kept alive in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything.”



There are times in our lives when we feel a sense of abandonment. We might be left with feelings of panic, despair and emptiness at the break up of a relationship, the loss of a loved one; or when the future we thought so secure is turned on its head through job loss, financial ruin or illness. The disciples must be feeling a little like this today at the prospect of Jesus’ departure.

In today’s gospel, Jesus is preparing his disciples for life without his physical presence. He is teaching them how to transcend these moments of fear and uncertainty “Those who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them...” Undoubtedly, knowing we are loved helps transcend feelings of abandonment, but Jesus reminds us that love is a two way street. Love isn’t just a feeling it’s a decision, and staying in God’s love means making a decision to keep his words. This doesn’t mean God will no longer love us if we fail to keep a commandment, but it does mean that wanting to keep his words is at the heart of our relationship. It’s not about trying to live up to an impossible set of expectations; it’s about developing into confident Christians in an atmosphere of love and support.

Today’s gospel speaks to those who are suffering insecurity and fear. As a Christian community we have a responsibility for promoting belief in God’s love and in the continued support of the Holy Spirit. In this way, when any one of us comes to grief, that belief can come to the rescue. For those who know they are loved, healing comes more quickly. There can be no abandonment in a kingdom that knows no orphans.

**Today’s Psalm**  
**Psalm 66**

*O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.*

Surely one of the loveliest petitions ever composed. This psalm was originally used to praise God in anticipation of a good harvest. Rich fields and bountiful crops would reflect the smile of God on the people. At Eastertide, we apply it to the abundant fruits of the resurrection.

Today’s gospel sparkles with reasons for joy in our believing: we are loved by the Father, God dwells within us, the Holy Spirit teaches us, the gift of Christ’s peace, anticipation of the Lord returning to take us with him into glory.

The wonder of the divine indwelling must be one of the world’s best kept secrets. It is Good News for all people.

Nice words are empty unless they are backed up by witness of life. If the smile of God’s love is reflected in the lives of Christians, then *will your name be known upon earth, and all nations learn your saving help.*

*O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.*

**Fr. Silvester O’Flynn OFM Cap.**

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

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday May 222022

**Sun: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

8.30.am. The Hunter Family

10.30.am. Parishioners

Mon: Easter Weekday

P.30.am: Private Intention

Tues: No Mass

Wed Vigil Mass for Ascension

7.00.pm. Ukraine

Thurs: **The Ascension of the Lord**

10.am. Fr. Bert Shaw

Fri: St. Augustine of Canterbury

7.00.pm. John and William Haydock

**Sunday: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am.

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 21/05/2022**  
Eddie McDermott

**We pray for the Sick, especially the sick of the parish** including Ryan Troop; and Catherine Thompson; Maureen Beardsworth

**Ascension Thursday** - The trouble with the Ascension is that 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. Notice that 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.

Wednesday **Missing Children's Day Day of Prayer** Every day another family will go through the trauma of their child going missing. Some of these children you will hear about, but many more you won't. They may not all make the headlines, but each and every missing child means the world to their family. And when that world is torn apart and they feel as if no one else is listening, searching or caring. On this day we are asked to pray for the children who are missing, for grief stricken families and for the volunteers who spend their time searching. Saturday World Hunger Day 2022. World Hunger Day was founded by The Hunger Project in 2011 to call attention to the global food crisis. On May 28 each year, we join together as global citizens to highlight sustainable solutions to world hunger and declare our own role in making a hunger-free planet our reality. Support a charity that looks to feeding the hungry eg Mary's Meals. Support a charity that helps third world farmers reap the rewards for their work eg Fair Trade.

• Support the hungry closer to home. Don't forget to add something to the local foodbank each time you visit your supermarket.

The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". Switch your internet browser to Ecosia. Ecosia is the browser that plants a tree for approximately 45 clicks! Easy! Plant a new tree. The best time to plant is between October and April. Campaign to save woodland and create new woodland at [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/protecting-trees-and-woods/campaign-with-us/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/protecting-trees-and-woods/campaign-with-us/)

"Fear makes the wolf bigger than he is." (German Proverb)