
Devotion to Our Lady

May is a month of devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. It's a good time for all of us to turn more fervently to Our Lady in prayer, trusting that she cares for us as a mother and intercedes for all our needs. Ever since Jesus, speaking from the cross, told the Beloved Disciple, "This is your mother", the disciples of Jesus have always experienced Mary as our mother. Perhaps during this month we could all commit to some simple prayer to Our Lady: a daily decade of the Rosary, or even just a Hail Mary, to ask for her protection for ourselves, our families, our parish, the Church and the world. Throughout this month there is a worldwide commitment to praying the Rosary for an end to the pandemic. In our parish we pray the Rosary publicly Monday-Friday after the morning Mass. There are also many other prayers to Our Lady which can be said privately – you can find some online or in prayer books.



Our primary school will play a big part in our May devotions this year, as always. The May Procession is planned for 18th May, in the afternoon, with the whole school taking part in a procession with the statue of Our Lady. This will take place in the school grounds and will not be open to parents or parishioners, due to Covid. But it will be streamed live so we can all pray with the school and see for ourselves the love and devotion the children have for Mary.

Today's Readings

We hear in the first reading that the disciples were afraid of Saul after his conversion on the Damascus road. They didn't trust him, but learnt to accept him by God's grace and with the help of Barnabas. He would go on to be a great missionary, St Paul. The second reading and the Gospel together invite us to reflect on how we live in the Lord and He lives in us – this mystical union is the source of all grace and leads us to heaven, in which this union will be complete.

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 1; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: of Eastertide

Morning Mass is livestreamed each day and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Allwin Rodriguez RIP and deceased family members
Sunday 2 nd	9:30am*		People of the Parish
	11:30am*		Monguit Lepcha RIP
	6pm		Virginia Roger RIP
Monday	9:30am	Sts Philip and James	Pilar Caton RIP
Tuesday	9:30am	The English Martyrs	Ben Hunter RIP
Wednesday	9:30am		John Myerscough RIP
Thursday	9:30am		Les Burns RIP
Friday	9:30am		Michael Hampson RIP
Saturday	9:30am	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Ints Carmen Rocca
	6pm (vigil)		Josephine Mann RIP
Sunday 9 th	9:30am*		Gerard Machin RIP
	11:30am*		Susan and Charles Gordon RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish

*** These Masses can only be attended by those who have booked in advance.**

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for all who have died recently.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 11am-12noon and by appointment.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Tuesday-Friday 5pm-6pm, Saturday 11am-12noon, Sunday 3-4pm.

ANNIVERSARIES: Patricia Josephine Tallat, Rita Medway, Pilar Caton, Geoffrey Pike, Vivian Ball, Cliff Jackson, Mary Kate Clague, Les Burns, Barbara McCann, Thomas Lupton.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY: Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Some of the children of our parish will shortly resume their preparation for receiving the Eucharist. These are children in school year 4 and upwards who were due to receive Holy Communion for the first time last summer. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR: This Friday, 7-8pm. An opportunity to spend some time in prayer before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. All welcome.

CHURCH OPENING THIS WEEK: The church will not be open for private prayer on Monday afternoon this week. Mass will be celebrated at 9:30am as usual.

ATTENDING EVENING MASSES: It is no longer necessary to book for the Saturday or Sunday evening Masses. We will still need to keep a record of those who are attending, including contact details, to assist with track and trace. Records are kept for three weeks, then destroyed, in line with government guidance. Booking remains necessary for both Masses on Sunday morning – please contact us if you would like to attend these.

SEEKERS AND SENT GROUPS: Our youth groups for school years 4-6 (Seekers) and Years 10-11 (Sent) have started again, but numbers are limited due to Covid restrictions. Please contact us (or Ruth or Joe directly) if you'd like to attend.

VIRTUAL TRIP TO JERUSALEM: On behalf of the whole Metanoia Project team, this is a huge thank you to all those who donated or supported our fundraiser; with your help we exceeded our £5000 target, thank you!

CATHOLIC VOICE OF LANCASTER: May edition is now available to download from our website. Take a look at the latest news from around the diocese.

THE CASTLERIGG LOTTERY: In order to support for our diocesan youth service, Castlerigg Manor have started a lottery. It's just £3 a month to join; the winner takes half the pot each month! Register at www.castleriggmanor.co.uk/lottery

LAY CHAPLAIN JOB VACANCY at Corpus Christi Catholic High School, beginning from September. Application deadline 17th May. See poster or visit school website.

ABORTION CONSULTATION: Earlier this year the Northern Ireland Assembly voted on the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill and it passed Second Stage by 48 votes to 12. The Northern Ireland Health Committee is now undertaking a consultation on the Bill and is seeking submissions from the public. It is important that as many people as possible submit to the consultation in support of the Bill to clearly show that there is widespread support for this important change. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool on their website that makes it simple to complete your submission. You can do so by following the link here. It only takes 30 seconds! www.righttolife.org.uk/nidisabilityconsultation

Events this week (occasional/one-off events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Every day	Anytime	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 2 nd	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	7pm	Sent group (school years 10-11)	Parish Hall
Tue-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Tuesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
Friday	7pm	First Friday Holy Hour	Church and YouTube
Saturday	11am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 9 th	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	7pm	Sent group (school years 10-11)	Parish Hall

Events marked 'YouTube' are streamed live on our channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

A prayer of spiritual communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 13th May – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Tuesday 18th May – May Procession (in school; online for parishioners)

Wednesday 9th June – Blessed Sacrament Procession (online only)

A "thank you" from CAFOD

Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped

provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

