

# SS LAWRENCE AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR B

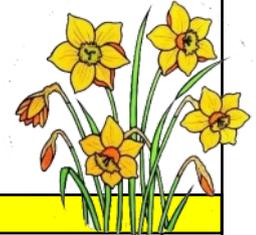
8th and 9th May 2021

Psalter 3, Proper of Season

**DPL: St Gregory the Great / St Thomas More, Cheltenham**



SAT 8th	CS	5.00pm	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Mary Keane Intention
SUN 9th	StP	11.00am	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Martins, Goncalves Intentions
Tue 11th	CS	9.30am	Mass	
Wed 12th	StP	9.30am	Mass	Calder Thanksgiving Intention
Wed 12th	CS	7.30pm	Vigil Mass of the Ascension	Crew of HMS Hood (Anni)
Thur 13th	StP	9.30am	SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Also Evening Mass at OLOL 7.00pm)	O'Rourke Thanksgiving Mass
Fri 14th	CS	9.30am	Mass	
SAT 15th	CS	5.00pm	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
SUN 16th	StP	11.00am	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Augustine Special Intention
Tue 18th	CS	9.30am	Mass	
Wed 19th	StP	9.30am	Mass	
Thur 20th			No Service (9.30am Mass at OLOL)	
Fri 21st	CS	9.30am	Mass	
SAT 22nd	CS	5.00pm	SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST	
SUN 23rd	StP	11.00am	SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST	



**Confessions by appointment only. Please phone if in isolation.**

To contact a Priest: Fr Jim Williams (01454) 312161 or Canon Frank Bermingham 0117 9833939. Parish Office Our Lady of Lourdes: 0117 9498743. To send items for the Newsletter e-mail Hélène: [bush.helene@gmail.com](mailto:bush.helene@gmail.com)

**HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**  
*Fr Frank and Fr Jim wish you every blessing for the Easter Season.*

### GIFT AID INFORMATION

Many thanks to all parishioners who have been able to donate the parish collection through the gift aid/Ad-hoc envelopes and cash, some envelopes passed on in bulk. As we approach the end of the current Tax Year in lockdown could all parishioners, if possible under the ongoing restrictions, get their contributions to the parish office to enable the completion and return gift aid information to the Diocese.

**Hand delivered donations** If donations are posted directly via the presbytery letterbox, I have been asked to clarify by Fr Jim, that any envelope needs to be addressed to 'St Lawrence Catholic Church'. (Personal gifts to the clergy should be marked Private & Personal or 'Easter Offering' for example.)

**AD-HOC gift aid envelopes** Anyone who is a taxpayer and wishing to make a gift aided donation can use an AD-HOC gift aid envelope. I have been made aware that if you cannot get a preprinted envelope it is acceptable to use a standard envelope ensuring the following information clearly: Title, full name, full home address including postcode, date, signature and what it is for.

**Gift Aid Small Donations** Cash donations that would have been collected in church can also be claimed for so if you are not a taxpayer and wish to donate please address it to 'St Lawrence Catholic Church' Any Queries ref gift aid, joining etc, email [GA.chippingsodbury.stlawrence@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:GA.chippingsodbury.stlawrence@cliftondiocese.com) Thanks, Terry Organ

## CAFOD EMERGENCY APPEAL

just one world

India is facing a devastating second wave of coronavirus, with more than 16 million cases and 200,000 deaths confirmed. Frontline workers and volunteers from our partner agency Caritas India are working around the clock to provide healthcare, reaching out to the most vulnerable households. CAFOD has already pledged £200,000 to Caritas India. If you could help by donating to our Coronavirus Appeal (visit [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)), it would allow us to reach more families around the world and help support Caritas India's response.

**THE HOLY FATHER'S Prayer Intention for May** - Universal: The World of Finance: That those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

### BONUS BALL - Games 922 #10

**Winner: Mary Townsend**

**£25 to Building Fund**

The lottery is a fun way of supporting the Parish. The monies raised are for the building fund, which helps towards the continuig maintenance of all our Parish Buildings. If you don't feel safe enough yet to return to Mass, you can still take part by posting your lottery money, preferred numbers, and **contact details** through the Presbytery front door.

Many thanks for your continuing support. Please speak to P O'Rourke or K Chapman for more information.

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It is a registered charity with number 1170168.

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# What's on?



## Livestream Mass from Clifton Cathedral

The Cathedral continues to live stream daily Mass and Sunday Mass, with recordings saved so that they can be watched later on. To watch, go to [cliftondiocese.com](http://cliftondiocese.com) and scroll down until you see the heading **Live Daily Mass** - next to that will be the player. Pressing play will show the live view. Under Schedules you will be able to see the Masses for the week, and under Recordings are the videos of previous Masses.



**Fundraiser for Pax Christi.** - In the week from 15 to 21 May, Pax Christi, the Catholic Peace organisation, will be trying to raise funds to make up for lost income due to Covid19. Fausta is having a dance-a-thon, Bruce is delivering a peace message to foreign embassies in London, Matt is cycling 50 miles visiting peace sites, Pat is going on a walk from Victoria to the Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park, Rachel will be cycling for 75 miles, to celebrate Pax Christi's 75th anniversary. More fundraisers are joining the fun. Please go to their website [www.paxchristi.org.uk/register-you-interest/](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/register-you-interest/) for details on how you can sponsor them.

## Reflections for Sixth Sunday of Easter Year – B

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48.

This episode is of immense importance for the history of the Church. The question of whether non-Jews (Gentiles) could be admitted to the Community. It was an extremely difficult one, and one which could have destroyed the Church at its very conception. We should regard this as Peter's conversion, and it is of such significance that Luke will retell it in Chapter 11, and the issue is still under a difficult discussion at the Council of Jerusalem in Chapter 15. Luke has been preparing us for this issue of Gentile acceptance since his Gospel (Luke 2: 32, & 24: 47), and again in the Acts (1: 8, 9: 15). We should try to understand just how toxic this issue was for the Early Church. Jewish thought was "How could someone with no knowledge of the scriptures or Jewish thought, grasp exactly what the Messiah was about? Or have a concept of the ten commandments, and what sin really was or meant?"

We, just accept it automatically, but within the Early Church it was a, make or break, issue. In this extract, the Holy Spirit intervenes, allowing Peter to overcome his prejudices and take this ground-breaking decision to admit Cornelius and his family to baptism and entry into the life of the Community. This decision was going to land Peter, and the Church in very hot water.

### Psalm 97: 1-4,

This is a cry of triumph, for the Lord is coming, "All the ends of the earth have the Salvation of our God. Shout (sing) to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (exult and utter a psalm). The words in brackets are alternative translations.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading from the First letter of St. John 4: 7-10.

John is here proclaiming the absolute centrality of Love. It is telling us that the basic model for our love is the Love that God has shown to us in Jesus His beloved Son. This model of love should then reveal itself in our subsequent loving response to this, all enveloping Love which God has shown. Like a child loves his parents, because they have loved and nourished them, clothed and protected them, so we respond likewise to the Love which God has shown us by letting us be called his children. God loves us, so we love Him, we have been purchased by his Son, so we are now free, and this freedom should lead us to love and cherish the Lord our God. Alleluia.

### The Holy Gospel according to John 15: 9-17.

Here we see the Love that we should emulate, as called upon in the second reading. The commandment that Jesus gives us is that we love one another as he loves us. This love is firstly God's love for Jesus, which he has then shown to us. It is such an, all embracing love, that he will lay down his life for us, his friends. We are not slaves, we are his friends, simply because he has shared everything with us. The world will not understand this love, so just as it hated Jesus, it will also hate us, hence we might have to endure sacrifice and hardship, as we travel this road of love. It is not a selfish love, it is a total love of God's creation and God's creatures, especially his friends. Our task is to take this love out and make all people God's friends, by sharing all he has bestowed upon us. God is love, not judgemental, so we also should be the embodiment of love, loving everybody into the salvation of our God.

Let us always be thankful. Alleluia.

**God Bless you all & Stay Safe. Deacon Vincent**

Children's Liturgy [cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy)

[www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv)

**Safeguarding our Vulnerable Adults and Children:** All church activities are subject to safeguarding policies and procedures. We encourage everyone to access these policies which can be found in the Diocesan Resource along with important contact numbers on the safeguarding pages. *Parish website:* <http://www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk/cliftondiocese.html>  
<http://www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk/safeguarding.html>



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
TURNING CONCERN INTO ACTION  
Meets regularly at St Paul's. To join please phone  
01454 312161  
Email [csandyatesvp@gmail.com](mailto:csandyatesvp@gmail.com)

Useful links:  
[www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk](http://www.stlawrenceandstpaul.co.uk)  
[www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com)  
[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)

If you are interested in learning about the ethos, aims, and works of the Legion of Mary Tel: 01454 321749