

PARISH OF SAINT AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO
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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 17TH MAY

Weekday Readings: Sixth Week of Easter **Divine Office:** Week Two

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|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sixth Sunday of Easter | 17 th | | (Ken Walker RIP) |
| Tuesday | 19 th | St Dunstan | (Andrew Gardner RIP) |
| Wednesday | 20 th | St Bernardine of Siena | (Sylvia Ryan) |
| ASCENSION DAY | 21 st | | (Cynthia Longthorpe RIP) |
| Friday | 22 nd | | (V.Hedgecox & deceased family) |
| Saturday | 23 rd | | (Mary Coupe RIP) |
| Seventh Sunday of Easter | 24 th | | (The Parish) |

FROM FATHER MICHAEL

“On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.”

Today’s celebration takes Easter to a wholly new level. Not just the coming back to life of a man crucified on the Cross.

Not just the demonstration that this Jesus really is the Chosen One as taught in the Old Testament. Not just the promise of eternal life for those who believe in him.

And not just the birth of Christ’s body on earth – the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

The clue to this wholly new level is to be found in today’s psalm: “Cry out with joy to God all the earth”, all the earth, the universe, the cosmos, the whole of creation, potentially at least, is transformed, renewed, resurrected. We now live in a wholly new creation; a new creation where the sea is turned into dry land, where mountains are brought down and valleys raised up, where the dead are raised, where orphans find a home, and finally where war, oppression and injustice are replaced with love, joy and peace.

We will see Jesus. We will understand everything. And in Jesus we will discover complete union with our loving God.

What’s more this week is the 5th Anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis’ Encyclical *Laudato Si’* which is the proclamation of this Easter message. All of life, the least as much as the greatest is sacred. This is God’s world and He loves us so much that despite our greed and our lust, our violence and our viruses, He **is** making all things new.

On Thursday of this week we will celebrate the Ascension. St Paul wrote this: “When it says “he ascended”, what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended,”

(Eph4 9f.) Here is the Christian Mystery in a nutshell. To redeem our world, our humanity, to fill all things with his love and glory, God in Christ first of all descended to the very depths.

We are in Christ and He is in us. We share his journey. We share in the “resurrecting” of our world. In this we too, together with the whole of creation are being brought into complete union with the Father.

There are direct links to Daily Mass from our Website: www.augustineofhippo.com

Facebook page: **St Augustine of Hippo R C Church** (please note the space between R & C)

YouTube: **Saint Augustine of Hippo St Austell** Twitter: **augustine_rc**

OPENING OUR CHURCHES? LET'S HOPE !!

A Statement from the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales in response to the Government's 11th May COVID-19 Recovery Strategy.

The timing and manner of the opening of churches touches profound sensitivities and spiritual needs. The government's document and statements fail to recognise this.

The government's position includes these steps aimed at opening churches as soon as possible:

the establishment of a task force for places of worship, to work closely with "stakeholders" in ensuring that premises are COVID-19 secure; and heading the experience of other countries in which churches are already open for worship.

In dialogue with the government, the Catholic Church will continue its engagement in this process and has already submitted a detailed plan, in full accordance with public health guidelines, for churches to be opened for private prayer.

The church is ready to play its full part in the taskforce, understanding that this includes the possible earlier use of churches for private prayer, as a first step towards their use for public worship.

PREPARING FOR REOPENING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

A one-way street system may be required, a reconfiguring of the pews and regular cleaning of all the surfaces will be needed. And if the church is to be opened for private prayer a rota of "stewards" would need to ensure everyone's safety. Bishop Mark has asked us to form parish teams to help with these tasks. You would need to be under 70 and without any underlying serious health conditions etc. If you think you might be able to help please make contact with Fr.Michael.

PASTORAL CARE DURING LOCKDOWN

I am available on the telephone if you want to talk or pray with me. With appropriate protection and precautions I am available to administer The Sacrament of the Sick to those in danger of death. We can and must all pray for one another and discover new depths of faith and love.

FUNERALS DURING LOCKDOWN

I am still available, as required, for funeral services at the graveside or in a crematorium chapel so long as social distancing is maintained.

MESSAGE FROM THE SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

I don't have to tell you that we are undergoing a national crisis, which as well as bringing all the problems of the pandemic, also creates increased safeguarding risk in many areas. These include domestic abuse, mental health issues, the vulnerable being scammed, to mention but a few. If you have any safeguarding concerns either personally or for any other person then do not hesitate to contact the safeguarding office who remain open and available to assist. robert.brown@prcdtr.org.uk or on 01364 645431 (Safeguarding Coordinator Diocese of Plymouth)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK and especially:-

Helen Ledwidge, Pauline Abdey, Yvonne Bradbury, Annie Turvey, Fr.Mike Stack, Denis O'Gorman, Fred Abraham, Sylvia Austin, Brendan Bowe, Teiaia Bradbury, Paul Briscoe, James & Margaret Clapp, Joanne Clarkson, Maureen Coles, Sue Dugmore, Pat Giles, Elaine Gladwin, Nick Haskins, Suzi Hill, Teresita Hill, Elizabeth McKie, Carmen Matthews, Sarah Mitchell, Mary O'Brien, June Parsons, Edwina Porter- Duncan, Sylvia Ryan, Amanda Stickney, Paddy Wellington, Pauline Whitford and Sally Wilson.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:-

Veronica Nicholls, Felicity Truscott, Cynthia Longthorpe, Jim Ferguson, Fran Beeler and Andrew Gardner. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

A PRAYER FOR THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI'

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic. Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good. Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected in our efforts to lift up the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.