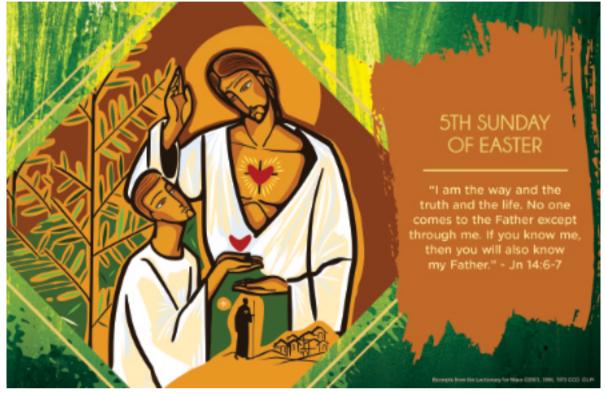


# newsletter

7 May 2023 | Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

# I am the way and the truth and the life!



### **Father John Muir**

If you had to summarise the hood.

St. Peter says to us, "You are a 'chosen race, a royal priesthood..." To be part of a community to survive and one perfect sacrifice which Apostle wants us to know that core of our faith. all the baptised share in this priestly ministry. The whole of our lives, including every de-

tail, is meant to become our acceptable offering to God.

The baptised exercise this essential core of the Christian priesthood in many ways, I'll life, what would it be? Mercy, mention three. At Sunday truth, or love, perhaps? The Mass, in private prayer, and in readings today suggest an- daily work. At Mass, we offer other word which may sur- the sacrifice of our lives with prise you. That word is priest- that of the priest, who symbolises Christ the Priest. In our prayer, a "morning offering" prayer is a great way to offer up all the joys and sufferings priesthood is to offer a partic- of the day to come. In our ular sacrifice in order for the daily work, we sacrifice our time, comfort, money, and thrive. Jesus is the great high energy to do good for others. priest because he offers the All this gives the deepest possible meaning to our lives: we heals and perfects the entire share in the priesthood which human race. Peter the saves the world. That's at the



### The Word of God this Week

The readings for the fifth the first letter of Peter (3:15- cept through me." Jesus re- teering in our parish, support- are called to embrace Jesus as with Christ, and our role as "sanctify Christ as Lord in your tial to our relationship with around us. disciples of Christ. They help hearts" and to be ready to God. us reflect on our own lives "give an explanation to anyand consider how we can one who asks more fully live out our faith.

Acts of the Apostles (8:5-8, 14- As disciples of grow in our love for the our role as dis-17), tells of the spread of the Christ, we are **Good Shepherd and that we** ciples of Christ. Gospel message beyond Jeru- called to share may be faithful to our call There are sevsalem. Philip, one of the our faith with to be like him." apostles, travels to Samaria and proclaims the Good News of Jesus Christ. The God's love. people of Samaria hear his others to Christ.

The second reading, from one comes to the Father ex- many ways, such as volun- eternal life. As Catholics, we with him, and be witnesses of messages in our daily lives.

JOHN 14:6

you for a reason The first reading, from the for your hope." "Let us pray that we may Catholics and others and to

be witnesses of

In the Gospel reading daily lives. message and are baptised, re- (John 14:1-12), Jesus speaks to ceiving the Holy Spirit. This his disciples about his rela- News: Just as Philip traveled reading emphasises the im-tionship with the Father and to Samaria to spread the Gos-

portant insights into our lives as eral ways we — Pope Francis can live the message of the readings in our

First, spread the Good

Sunday of Easter, Year A, offer 18), encourages us to always minds us that he is the path to ing OpenHouse or other charthee way and to follow him in us a powerful message about be ready to explain our faith salvation and eternal life, and ities, and simply by being a all that we do. This means God's love, our relationship to others. Peter tells us to that our faith in him is essen- positive influence on those

> Second, be a witness: These readings all offer im- Peter encourages us to be ready to explain our faith to others. This means being knowledgeable about our faith and being willing to share it with others. We can do this by attending Mass regularly, participating in Bible studies and faith-based groups, especially the opportunities for faith formation in the parish, and by sharing our

portance of spreading the their relationship with him. pel message, we too are the Way: In the Gospel read- spreading the Gospel mes- God's love in all that we do. Gospel message and bringing He tells them, "I am the way called to share our faith with ing, Jesus tells us that he is sage. Let us embrace Jesus as May the Holy Spirit guide us and the truth and the life. No others. We can do this in the way to salvation and the Way, build a relationship as we seek to live out these

striving to live a life of love, mercy, and forgiveness, and always putting Christ at the center of our lives.

Fourth, build a relationship with Christ: Our relationship with Christ is essential to our faith. We can build this relationship by praying regularly, reading the Bible, attending Mass, receiving the sacraments, and participating in spiritual retreats and other faith-based events.

As we reflect on the readpersonal stories of faith with ings today, we're reminded of our role as disciples of Christ Third, embrace Jesus as and the importance of



# Practising) Catholic Court

### Building on the Cornerstone altogether.

**Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman** 

I assumed there were "ugly houses" and "pretty houses," and that was that. But Matt is an architect, someone who reads books with titles like "A ture like he knows what it for lack of a better word.

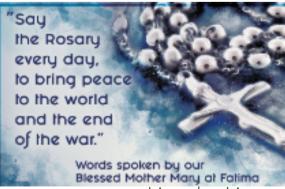
learn a lot about why certain original. If you want to depart structures simply don't have a dramatically from the original pleasing look. There is a logic style of a building, it's better

One of the main reasons a building or a home might "cornerstone." We know we are Before I married my husband, strike some of us as ugly is be-called to model ourselves on cause it has undergone a Christ, to build on his excareless renovation. Whether out of laziness or an effort to be cost-effective, additions are made that depart from Field Guide to American the architectural style of the Houses" for fun and who uses original structure. The result is the term vernacular architec-slapdash, confusing — ugly, us, at our lives, they should be

What is added on later Through him, I've come to must somewhat resemble the to ugliness, as it turns out. to build a separate structure God the Son. You can't chart

I think of this principle when I consider Christ as the ample. But so often we cherry-pick elements of his build on it with additions that any thought for its past. make no sense.

able to tell after whom that Father without embracing



When someone looks at tion, he will be our contradic- the truth is a living stone,

life is patterned. We must re- yourselves be built into a spir- who despair of faith, it is a semble the cornerstone, if we itual house...to offer spiritual stumbling block. The truth do not, it will be apparent, un- sacrifices acceptable to God will always be in their way. seemly. You can't see God the through Jesus Christ." — 1 Peter 2.5

message and attempt to the future of a house without LIVE the LITUICIV

If Christ is not our inspira- To those who persist in faith, strong enough to support the "...like living stones, let weight of real joy. To those



**First Reading:** 

"Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, Lord, as we place all our hope filled with the Spirit and wis- in you. (Ps 32) dom." (Acts 6:2-4)

### **Psalm:**

May your love be upon us, O

### **Second Reading:**

Questions for the Week

the growing Church in Jerus- week to carry a burden?

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the people of his own, so that Truth and the Life. No one you may announce the can come to the Father expraises" of him who called cept through me.' you out of darkness into his Alleluia! wonderful light. (1 Pt 2:9)

First Reading: We hear today alem. They solved the prob- announce the praises of God

of some of the practical problem with division of labor. to those without faith who

lems (assisting widows) the Which of your co-workers or disobey God's word. How do

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Second Reading: Peter con-

who are without faith?

### **Gospel:**

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ]If you know me, then you will also know my Father." (Jn 14: 6-7)

Saturday

6.00 VIGIL MASS St Cecilia's

John & Catherine McConville (RIP)

Ints of Marie Harris

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel 9.00 MASS Convent Pat Allen (RIP) 10.30 MASS St Mary's Private Intention 5.00 MASS St Mary's People of the Parish

Monday

**8.00 Morning Prayer** Mercy Chapel

9.30 MASS Convent

Ann & Bill Murray (RIP) 12.05 MASS St Mary's

**12.45 Chaplet of Divine Mercy** St Mary's **5.15 Evening Prayer** Mercy Chapel **6.30 Catholicism: Pivotal Players** Upper Room

Tuesday

10 Wednesday

Saint John of Ávila, Priest, Doctor

8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel

9.30 MASS Convent MASS St Mary's 12.05

Holy Souls Over 60s St Mary's Catholic Centre

Chaplaincy Tuesday Upper Room

8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel

9.30 MASS Convent

12.05 MASS St Mary's Holy Souls

**4.00 Confirmation Class** St Mary's Catholic Centre

**5.15 Evening Prayer** Mercy Chapel

**6.30 RCIA** Upper Room

Thursday

8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel

9.30 MASS Convent

10.00 Open House St Mary's Catholic Centre

10.00 Confessions St Cecilia's

10.30 MASS St Cecilia's

12.05 MASS St Mary's

8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel 9.30 MASS Convent

12:05 MASS St Mary's Ints of Ann & Gordon Forster (50th Anniv.)

**12.45** Holy Rosary St Mary's

**5.15 Evening Prayer** Mercy Chapel

13 Saturday Our Lady of Editina

**EASTER** 

12 Friday

Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs

or Saint Pancias, Martyr

8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel **Confessions** Mercy Chapel

11.00 MASS St Mary's

11.45 Confessions Mercy Chapel Agnes Mullen (RIP)

6.00 VIGIL MASS St Cecilia's

SIXTH SUNDAY OF 8.00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel

9.00 MASS Convent 10.30 MASS St Mary's People of the Parish

**5.00 MASS** St Mary's **6.30 Parish Stewardship Committee** Upper Room

TO THE SICK

Bernie, Craig, Veronica, Joe, Mary, Vicky, Marjorie, Paul,

Barbara, Bill

If you would like a name put on the list please let us know.

### BEREAVEMENT

Holy Souls

Dorothy White

Bill Devine (RIP)

Bridget Brewster, Elizabeth Gladys Baister, Norah Flanagan, Fr John Reid, Brian Jackson

Are you interested in finding out more about mindfulness ther. Your donation is guick, and how it may support your

There will be a taster sesguided meditations and The cost of living crisis has gentle mindful movement. 7TG. It'll also look at short mindful activities and how it can support our spiritual life.

Once you've tried the taster session, there will be a **Thank you for all the flowers!** 

to go a little deeper for those who is stepping down after who are interested on 1st, 8th, doing the flowers in St 15th, 22nd June.

Why not try something us are using cash less and from the piety stall and for sion on Christian Mindfulness new and see how this ancient run by Andrew Carton that practice can help with modern living.

The taster session is on health and wellbeing? As well Thursday 25th May at 11.15–12. duced the possibility of mak- standing order and GiftAid is as an introduction to short, 30 at St. Cecilia's Church Hall, Ryhope Rd, Sunderland. SR2

> andrewcar-Email ton56@hotmail.com to reserve your place.

Communion are outlined in Catechism of the Catholic sanctification of these days. Church (no. 2042):

and rest from servile labor") tify the day commemorating "Precepts" of the Church, the Resurrection of the Lord

intended to stand alongside gical feasts honouring the the Ten Commandments as mysteries of the Lord, the as obligations that are simply fundamental practices for Blessed Virgin Mary, and the to be fulfilled out of a sense of Catholics and are outlined in saints; in the first place, by duty, Pope Saint John Paul II the Code of Canon Law. The participating in the Euchar- reminds us of the grace that is obligations related to Mass istic celebration, in which the made available to us when attendance and receiving Christian community is gathered, and by resting from tions of the Eucharist: the first and third precepts, those works and activities "Sunday is the day which is at which we find quoted in the which could impede such a the very heart of the Christian

The first precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of time gained, so that our relashall attend Mass on Sundays the Eucharist at least during Mass attendance and the re- and holy days of obligation the Easter season") guaran- whole life may become more tees as a minimum the recep- profoundly human" (Dies requires the faithful to sanc- tion of the Lord's Body and Domini, no. 7). Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and

trasts those with faith who Gospel: Jesus assured his disciples that "whoever believes in me will do the works that I do." How do you think you imearly Christians faced with friends need your help this you react to family or friends itate Jesus?

Why do we do that? These specific teachings are as well as the principal litur- center of the Christian liturgy.

Rather than seeing these we gather for Sunday celebralife... Time given to Christ is The third precept ("You never time lost, but is rather tionships and indeed our

## Saint of the Wee



Question: Are Catholics oblig-

ated to attend Mass each

Sunday, or receive Commu-

**Answer:** The questions about

ception of Holy Communion

are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the

nion each Sunday?

Miriam Teresa Demjanovich epidemic influenza

was the seventh and youngest child of Ruthenian immigrants to the USA from what is now Eastern Slovakia. She grew up in Bayonne, New Jersey and, after graduating from high school, wanted to become a Carmelite sister. Instead, she stayed in the family home to care for her ailing mother who later died of the of November 1918. Teresa then went on to graduate summa

cum laude from the College through prayer and the book

gree in literature. After years of discernment

and a novena specifically which congregation she was called to join, she entered the gious habit as a novice on May 17, 1925.

During her short time as a postulant and novice, before her death, Teresa taught at the Academy of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station where she ector, she wrote a series of conferences on the spiritual life for use in the education of the other novices. These 26 conferences would later be published under the title The Greater Perfection; A means of achieving union with God of Saint Elizabeth at Convent is still available to this day Station, New Jersey with a de- from the Sisters of Charity's tion she was involved in. She

Cecilia's for over 20 years!

online bookstore.

she was buried on the grounds of her congregation's motherhouse at the Holy Station, New Jersey.

school, church, or congrega- 2014.

It seems like so many of us are law, it is a person: Jesus Christ.

looking for a way, for a truth, The Life is not something you and for a life. Although some- can find at the bottom of a

times, in desperation, we bottle, in a tablet or on the

settle for any way, any truth pages of a self-help book, it is

Way, the Truth and the Life. are our relationship with Je-The Way is not a set of direc- sus. He is the Way that leads

tions to follow on Google us to Heaven, the Truth that

Maps, it is a person: Jesus sets us free and

Christ. The Truth is not some- our Life for all

thing you'll find in a philo- eternity.

sophy book or in a court of

a person: Jesus Christ.

The Way, the Truth, the Life

spent time helping with Shortly into her second many different ministries, year in the congregation, singing in choirs, and spend-Teresa became very ill. After a ing time with friends by gotonsillectomy, months of ill- ing out on the town shopping ness, and, eventually, an op- and attending concerts. Deseration for appendicitis, she pite all of these activities and prayed to help her discover passed away on May 8, 1927. a packed social schedule, she Before her passing, though, was known to always find she made her profession of time to go to the chapel to Sisters of Charity of St. Eliza- permeant religious vows pray and could be frequently beth and received her reli- from her hospital bed. Her fu- found there in-between neral was held on May 11, and classes and her social engagements.

Her life mission resonates clearly throughout her writ-Family Cemetery in Convent ings — to educate people about the universal call to Throughout her short life, holiness. In the first of the was originally educated. Teresa was known for her con- conferences in The Greater Prompted by her spiritual dir-templative and mystic rela-Perfection she writes, "The tionship with God as well as saints did but one thing her incredible compassion the will of God: But they did it and selflessness toward oth- with all their might." Teresa, ers. While in college, her too, strived to do the will of friends nicknamed her Treat God with all her might and, and would seek her out for after the official recognition guidance, help, and support. of a miracle through her inter-She was very active in the cession. Pope Francis decommunity life of whatever clared her Blessed on Oct 4,

### Announcements

ing a cashless donation at St Mary's. You'll see two 'digital collection plates' at the back of the church that you can Lady of Mercy continue to be use to make either a contact- so grateful for your ongoing less or a chip-n-pin donation. generosity and financial sup-You can even GiftAid it to port of the parish. God bless! make your donation go fur-

While many people still rely safe and secure. You can also Christian faith? on cash, more and more of use it to pay for purchases less, and some of us have special collections. We'll still stopped carrying cash at have the normal collection will cover: What is Mindfulbefore the offertory and you ness? How it can help our That's why we've intro- can still make your offering by always welcome.

hit everyone and we at Our

short four week programme A big thank you to Rita Hewitt Fr Christopher Hancock MHM • Parish Priest • christopher@sunderlandcatholic.com

Rebecca Leighton • Lay University Chaplain • rebecca@sunderlandcatholic.com Canon Alec Barrass • Bishop Séamus Cunningham

### **Rev Eddy Barker • Parish Deacon**

Fr Emmanuel Nuh Mbeh MHM • Assistant Priest • emmanuel.mbeh@diocesehn.org.uk



and any life.

What Jesus offers us is the



**Our Lady of Mercy Parish** 27 Bridge Street, Sunderland, SR1 1TQ

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