

# YOU ARE CALLED TO BE HOLY

(JOHN 17:11-19)

Our Gospel passage today is an extract from what is called “Jesus’ Priestly Prayer”, during which he speaks directly to the Father on behalf of his disciples, who are present with him at the Last Supper.

Jesus is about to leave them, and knows that they are not in a fit condition, so will need the Father’s help in the face of what is to happen in the future. Jesus sums up his care for the disciples, acknowledging that one has been lost, but through that one’s deliberate choice. Jesus asks the Father to make the disciples “holy”, that is, that they identify themselves with God’s purpose, just as Jesus did. His final act of holiness will be to give himself completely to God’s will, and in this will reveal to them the love of the Father. Holiness is rooted in the unity of the disciples with the Father, and it is on the basis of this that Jesus is sending them out to continue his work of revealing God to human beings. ■

## REFLECT

The text of our Gospel reading presents Jesus as praying, “Consecrate them in the truth”. The underlying meaning is “to make holy”. This notion can be confusing for some people, as it conjures up images of individuals whose lives are totally dedicated to praying and serving others, perhaps wearing distinctive clothing or emblems of one sort or another: they are different from normal or ordinary folk.

The Second Vatican Council, in its document on the Church, rejects the idea that holiness is something reserved for special individuals, but is the calling of all baptised disciples of Jesus. To be a disciple of Jesus is the fundamental vocation of all Christians: how each one lives this out will depend on their circumstances; most are called to marriage and family life, others to a different path, but no one way of living out our baptismal commitment is better or higher than any other. Everyone is called to live as best they can by the teachings of Jesus, and, in that, each person can be said to be holy, to be committed to the Gospel values.

One religious sister, when she read the chapter entitled “The Universal Call To Holiness” in the document on the Church, said to herself that the bishops at the Council had just written the death sentence for religious life: no longer would people feel that they necessarily had to become a priest, a nun or religious sister, or a member of a teaching order of brothers to be someone totally committed to the Christian life. There would be no spiritual advantage in entering the convent or monastery. Her insight may go a long way to explaining the present dearth of what we traditionally called vocations: it is, perhaps, not due to a lack of generosity or the refusal of young people to answer the call, just that the Holy Spirit is calling us all in a different way. The “typical” Christian is sitting in the pew. ■

## DO

As you go about your daily routine, remember that holiness is found in the little, everyday things of life.



## LEARN

The official teaching of the Church is that all Christians are called to be holy.

Holiness consists in our being committed to living out our baptismal promises as best we can in our daily lives.

No state of life in the Church is necessarily holier, better, or higher than any other: each is appropriate to the person concerned.

## SAY

**Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve.**

(Ignatius of Loyola)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you;  
of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face;  
hide not your face from me, alleluia.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,  
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of  
the human race  
is with you in your glory,  
may experience, as he promised,  
until the end of the world,  
his abiding presence among us.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

One day Peter stood up to speak to the brothers – there were about a hundred and twenty persons in the congregation: “Brothers, the passage of scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, foretells the fate of Judas, who offered himself as a guide to the men who arrested Jesus – after having been one of our number and actually sharing this ministry of ours.

“In the Book of Psalms it says:

Let someone else take his office.

“We must therefore choose someone who has been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling round with us, someone who was with us right from the time when John was baptising until the day when he was taken up from us – and he can act with us as a witness to his resurrection.”

Having nominated two candidates, Joseph know as Barsabbas, whose surname was Justus, and Matthias, they prayed, “Lord, you can read everyone’s heart; show us therefore which of these two you have chosen to take over the ministry and apostolate, which Judas abandoned to go to his proper place.” They then drew lots for them, and as the lot fell to Matthias, he was listed as one of the twelve apostles.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 102

Response:

The Lord has set his sway in heaven.

or

Alleluia!

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord;  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. For as the heavens are high above the  
earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear  
him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins. (R.)
3. The Lord has set his sway in heaven  
and his kingdom is ruling over all.  
Give thanks to the Lord, all his angels,  
mighty in power, fulfilling his word. (R.)

**SECOND READING** 1 John 4:11-16

A reading from the first letter of St John.

My dear people,  
since God has loved us so much,  
we too should love one another.  
No one has ever seen God;  
But as long as we love one another  
God will live in us  
and his love will be complete in us.  
We can know that we are living in him  
and he is living in us  
because he lets us share his Spirit.  
We ourselves saw and we testify  
that the Father sent his Son  
as saviour of the world.  
If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son  
of God,  
God lives in him, and he in God.  
We ourselves have known and put our faith in  
God’s love toward ourselves.  
God is love  
and anyone who lives in love lives in God,  
and God lives in him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord;  
I will come back to you, and your hearts will  
be full of joy.

Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** John 17:11-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“Holy Father,  
keep those you have given me true to your  
name,  
so that they may be one like us.  
While I was with them,  
I kept those you had given me true to your  
name,  
I have watched over them and not one is  
lost  
except the one who chose to be lost,  
and this was to fulfil the scriptures.  
But now I am coming to you  
and while still in the world I say these  
things  
to share my joy with them to the full.  
I passed your word on to them,  
and the world hated them,  
because they belong to the world

no more than I belong to the world.  
I am not asking you to remove them from  
the world,  
but to protect them from the evil one.  
They do not belong to the world  
any more than I belong to the world.  
Consecrate them in the truth;  
your word is truth.  
As you sent me into the world,  
I have sent them into the world,  
and for their sake I consecrate myself  
so that they too may be consecrated in  
truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
*(all bow during the next two lines)*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the  
Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful  
with the sacrificial offerings,  
that through these acts of devotedness  
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

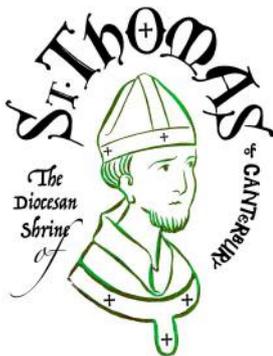
**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Father, I pray that they may be one  
as we also are one, alleluia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Hear us, O God our Saviour,  
And grant us confidence,  
that through these sacred mysteries  
there will be accomplished in the body of the  
whole Church  
what was already come to pass in Christ her  
Head.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

# NEWSLETTER



## CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com> St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: [anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: [johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk)

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): OPEN SUNDAYS FROM AFTER 9.30 MASS UNTIL 12 NOON

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: [tjherbst@gmail.com](mailto:tjherbst@gmail.com)

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin: Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is open Mondays, Tuesdays,  
Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am to 3.00pm  
(closed 12.30 - 1pm for lunch)

### ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00 pm (Vigil): David Heap - RIP (*Christine Heap*)

#### Sunday 16th May: Seventh Sunday of Easter Jn 17:11-19

8.00am: Rhys Scott on his birthday

9.30am: Becky Judge - RIP

11.00am: Welfare of Sharon Long (*Josie Carr*)

12.15: *Baptism of Thomas Spier*

6.00 pm: People of the Parish

2nd  
Collection:  
**Communi-  
cations  
Sunday**

#### Monday 17th May: Feria Jn 16: 29-33

7.30 am: Ron Goldsmith - RIP (*Angela Nichols*)

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Stella Waterman - RIP (*Pat Metcalfe*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

#### Tuesday 18th May: St John I, Pope & Martyr Jn 17: 1-11

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Frances & Michael-Joe Keavney - RIP

6.00pm: Live-streamed Prayer

#### Wednesday 19th May: St Dunstan Jn 17:11-19

7.30 am: Karen Stanley - welfare (*Sue Purbrick*)

10.30am - 11.30pm: Reconciliation

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Luke McKernan's intentions (*Hilary McKernan*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

#### Thursday 20th May: St Bernardine of Sienna Jn 17:20-26

9.30 am: Andrew Spence's intentions (*Solitude Group*)

12 noon: Requiem Mass for late Joseph Raimbault - RIP

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

7.30 - 8.30pm: Adoration for Young Adults with Fr John

8.00pm: Rodolfo Ignacio - RIP (*Ignacio Family*)

#### Friday 21st May: St Christopher of Magallanes & Companions, Martyrs Jn 21: 15-19

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Pat Gill - RIP (*Eileen Browning*)

1.00pm: Church open for private prayer and adoration

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

7.30pm: Annie Ryan - birthday (*Sophia White*)

#### Saturday 22nd May: St Rita of Cascia Jn 21: 20-25

10.30am - 11.30pm: Reconciliation

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Jimmy Aherne - RIP (*Lovelle Family*)

6.00 pm (Vigil): Jennifer Scott - birthday (*Scott Family*)

#### Sunday 23rd May: Pentecost Sunday Jn15:26-27;Jn16:12-15

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: For the Filipino Community and Families

11.00am: Mary, William & Tony Ashman (*Catherine Ashman*)

12.15: *Baptism of Kiera, Xarem and Itzae Pearson-Nunez*

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00 pm: Ruby Cookman - RIP (*Robert Cookman*)

### PARISH MATTERS

#### Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Pippa Swan, Fr John Slater, Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Sr Margaret McGrath, Angela Nichols, Jean Boyce and Sandra Monger

#### Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Patricia Collins, Andrzej Czupkowski, Chris Bateman, Pia Iannacci, Antonio Iannacci, Ellen Fitzgerald, Anna Koeller, Fr Michael Gwinnett, Ann Sexton, Paulina Manfredini, Fr Michael Boland, Fr George Webster, Theresa Ramsundar, Canon Frank O'Sullivan, Margaret Willis, Rev Paul Saunders, Sylvia Guy, Pat Gill, Baby Layla Green, Paul Card, Alan Skeet, Rodolfo Ignacio, Isabella Bannon, HRH Prince Philip - Duke of Edinburgh, Dean Brazier, Marion Nash and Fr Kevin Alban (O.Carm)

#### Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are this month:

Thomas Hodges, Gertrande Brock, Rebecca Judge

#### COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections:

##### This weekend: 15/16 May: Communications Sunday -

This collection supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CCN) providing up-to-date features, news releases and podcasts, promoting the gospel and developing the public profile of the Church and its teachings

**Next weekend: 22/23 May: SVP** Please give generously as usual to our local chapter of the SVP. Thank you

**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. Thank you, Arn Dekker

#### Dear husband and wife!

An online 'Building a Better Marriage' opportunity is being held on JULY 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 running from 9am - 1pm. The course offered means that you can attend the course from your own living room and there is **no group sharing!** For further information contact: Carole - Tel: 07983524727 - email: [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

## From Fr Anthony ...

Right from the beginning of the church there have been arguments and disagreements. We can read all about them in the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus, in today's gospel reading, is praying for the Church and for those he had chosen. Already there has been one casualty, Judas, "the one who chose to be lost." Christ's prayer for us is that we be true to his name, and that we be protected from the evil one. Jesus prays: "Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us." I think that we all agree that the disunity among Christians today is a scandal. There is no easy solution or quick fix that will unite us all. We are called to experience and work for the unity that is modelled on the imitate union of the Father and the Son. We need to be serious about healing our relationship with God, our relationship with the others and allow God to heal the disunity within our own hearts.

This time between Ascension and Pentecost is a time to pray together as followers of Christ. The bishops of England and Wales on their website suggest "Thy Kingdom Come" which they say offers us the opportunity to pray alongside our brothers and sisters from other Christian denominations for people to come closer to Christ. "We can do this using the prayers of our own tradition, by going to Mass, or exploring other Catholic forms of prayer. We hope to inspire and enable practicing Catholics to pray for evangelisation – specifically praying for five members of their family or friends to come closer to Christ – as they pray "Thy Kingdom Come" from the Ascension to Pentecost. You can see more details here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/thy-kingdom-come/>

As I write there seems to be no letup of the renewed violence and killing in the Holy Land.

Gaza is suffering daily and nightly bombings; rockets are also being launched into Israel. There is an interview with Parish Priest of the Holy Family Parish in Gaza, Father Gabriel Romanelli, on the Bishops website. His community is very small, 133 people, but very active and they extend their support beyond the Christian Arab community to their Muslim neighbours. He says there are 1,077 Christians in Gaza altogether among two million Muslim citizens; Palestinians.

In answer to the question, "What help do you need?" he says "*I think there are three key things. First of all, the spiritual help, the prayer and sacrifices for this population and for all the people of the Holy Land – in Israel and Palestine, but particularly in Gaza Strip.*

*For many years we have been in a difficult situation, as you know, and so please pray for them, to offer the sacrifices – I ask you to pray for them.*

*Second, the existential or moral support. So, to share the communications, to let the people know about the situation, the reality, it is necessary to be clear. It is not a good situation, but it's necessary that people in the world understand the situation. It is necessary sometimes to show your closeness to the people so they feel that they are not abandoned.*

*Third, the material help, through, for example, the Latin Patriarchate, our diocese. If there are people that can help, it is necessary to help because the need is real. It is not imagined. There was a very real need before these days. So after this destruction, we will need – the people will need – material help.*

*I want to thank the Conference of Bishops, the priests, the people in all your countries – not only the USA and the UK. Also our friends – for example the Holy Land Coordination of bishops, for example. We feel like the Catholic Church is with us. It's the hand of Jesus, the Lord, to console us, to comfort us, to give us power to continue to serve Our Lord Jesus and the Holy Virgin Mary. So thank you very much. And God bless you always."*

### **YEAR OF ST JOSEPH: 33 day consecration to St Joseph**

Starting: 1<sup>st</sup> May St Joseph the Worker

Ending: 2<sup>nd</sup> June with consecration to St Joseph at 6.30pm in the Church. Follow the devotion at home using the book; Consecration to St Joseph: The Wonders of our Spiritual Father by Fr Donald Calloway. You can order the book online. Join us for the Litany to St Joseph after Livestream Evening Prayer (Monday-Friday)

**Holy Hour:** Beginning on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> May and throughout the 33 day consecration, there will be a Holy Hour between 10.30-11.30 am on Saturdays, starting with 15min input on the devotion to St Joseph.

As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with experienced local Church agency, **Caritas India**, to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID & vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up safely run isolation & quarantine centres. You can donate online here: [cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/give). Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

**LIVESTREAMING IN CHURCH** . Parishioners are reminded that we use livestreaming for all Masses. If any services are to be recorded we will inform the parish of those specific services.

**TEST AND TRACE** . Please could parishioners returning to Mass use the **Test and Trace QR Code** available in the Narthex where possible, rather than the printed paper slips. This will reduce the number of people congregating in the Narthex before Mass and save on printing and paper usage. Thank you