

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we look forward to an easing of lockdown and a partial return to normality let us give thanks to the Lord Jesus that through the miracles of science the world has worked in unity to fight the pandemic so far. As we in the United Kingdom receive vaccinations let us support all efforts to strengthen the generosity towards parts of the world in greater need. India, South America and Africa come to mind as being in most urgent need of help and support. May we canvas and support all agencies who try to alleviate the problems and sufferings of poorer regions. After all God call us to recognise the equal dignity of men and women throughout the world, creed, colour or ethnicity. We are all God's children and created in his image and likeness. Through the Easter Resurrection we are all invited to the Godhead and eternal life.

Thank you again to you all for your support through these testing times. Work in and around parish life have been very different and has provided many challenges especially that of working at a distance from people and their needs. Emails, phone calls, zoom and Google meetings are not the same as being able to be present with people face to face and then be able to administer the sacraments to the sick and needy. But it is as it is. It is all part of the sacrifices that need to be made in order to help keep our local society safe and well.

I pray in particular for all who have struggled through financial difficulties, all those who have suffered from loneliness and mental health issues. I continue to pray for all medical and social care staff who have had to overcome their fears in order to minister to people placed in their charge. May it now produce the love and care needed from us all to help heal and strengthen the hearts, minds and souls of each of us!

This weekend we recall that May 1st is that of St Joseph the Worker, a reminder of the dignity of work and the right of all men and women to be given the opportunity to earn a living for themselves and their families. Work is a very important part of our personas and fundamental to the quality of life.

Pope Francis has suggested that May is the time to pray for all those involved in finance. He says, "Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers."

God bless and keep you all safe in his care!

Father Anton s.c.j.

**Our Lady & Saint John the Baptist, Ashley
and
Our Lady & Saint Werburgh, Clayton**

The parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216

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[Parishes Office Hours: Wed/ Thur/Fri/Sat 10.00 am – 1 pm]

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**Sunday 2nd May 2021
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