



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 5 May 2024 – Sixth Sunday of Easter
Readings: Year B

Dear Parishioners

"What I command you...is to love one another" The words of Jesus to His closest friends, at the Last Supper, the evening when He washes their feet as their servant, and the day before He will walk the Way of the Cross to an agonising death on the Calvary Cross.

What sort of Love? Scientists and psychologists have examined and analysed the effects of love on the brain and body and discovered some amazing changes that this primal emotion can affect. Raised dopamine to give feelings of euphoria, heightened immune systems...even a claim that being in love can work against cancer. On the other hand, lowered serotonin and mood-swings point to a darker side. The conclusion must be that love can affect us for good or bad, depending on exactly what sort of love it is!

In our readings today we hear of the love that God shows to His world. St Peter realises that salvation and grace are for everyone, not just the chosen few, and he begins to break the mould of his nationalistic upbringing. St Paul will go further in his exposure to Christ's mercy and bring the message of God to the Gentiles despite his own strict Jewish upbringing and training. St John in his letter states: "God is love" which he sees in the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, a saving action for all men and women not just one race.

In that sacrifice of Christ our eternal High Priest, the love of God is shown clearly and wonderfully. In our daily Masses we can share in that once-for-all event every time the Holy Eucharist is offered up on our altars. It is the most vivid and simple of demonstrations that "God is love." No matter who we are or what we have done, we are forgiven, accepted and loved by our Heavenly Father.

God bless everyone this week Father Clive

Parish Notices

Masses next week: 9:15, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday Ascension Day School Mass. 9:15 Friday Rosary for Peace.

Confirmations at Holy Trinity May 8th this week at 7pm when Canon Paul Fitzpatrick, our Episcopal Vicar, will be leading our Confirmation celebration. This year we have 12 young people for this Sacrament, five from our school and seven from the parish. Please keep them in your prayers.

Saturday 11 May Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians (5 May 2024): On this annual International day of Prayer for Eastern Christians, we pray in solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters of the East, especially in the Holy Land and Ukraine. We ask the Lord to sustain them, many of whom are suffering persecution, displacement and discrimination, in their faith in the Risen Christ. We pray that stability and peace may flourish in their lands; the place where the Gospel was first heard and proclaimed, the origins of monastic life and in the unbroken lived tradition of our common Christian faith.

An extract from the Vatican Weekly Newsletter and Pope Francis Prayer Intention for May 2024:

'It is important to note that formation does not end at a specific moment, such as ordination, but rather continues throughout life, integrating the person intellectually, humanly, affectively, and spiritually. Preparation continues into that of living in a community. "Life in community is so enriching, even though it can be difficult at times". "Living together is not the same as living in community", adds the Pope.

Finally, Pope Francis asks that we pray *For the formation of religious women and men, and seminarians grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.*

A reminder of Upcoming Parish Events: 21 June at 7pm Wine Tasting (always competitive!) at the home of James and Juliet Byrne. More details to follow, including price of ticket to raise funds for CAFOD. Food will be served.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes: Carol Wilson, Tom Cantwell, Bridget Kennelly, Audrey Nellis, Richard O'Farrell, Mary Ward, Paula Biggs, Lynette Murphy, Betty, Ania.

In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

