

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE SICK

Trudy Eastwood, Caroline Williams, Christine Rogers, Craig Millward, David Noble, Roxine Callow, Patrick Hullinson, Barbara Murphy, Florence Ward, Peggy Sugrue, Dale Broom, Jackie Berry, Bernard Holt, Patricia Greene, Bernadette Greene, Brenda Neiles, Joseph Arnfield, Nonie Brehony, Henry Marron and Johnny Falloon.

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE DEAD

Recently Deceased: Andrea Glorioso, Mary Skelly, Mary Hardman, Nora Gilligan, George Devlin, Pauline McLear, Paddy Collins.

Anniversaries: Andrew Sweeney, David Briggs, Patricia Vancalsteren, Gary Stephens, Bishop Christopher Budd, Brian Starr, Margaret Noonan.

WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS

“The Son is given to us and through Him, the Holy Spirit and with them comes the Father. Thus we already have here the beginning of eternal life”
St John of Avila

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”
St Catherine of Siena



“May is Mary’s month and I muse at that and wonder why: Her feasts follow reason, dated by due season—Candlemas, Lady Day; but the Lady Month, May—why fasten that upon her with a feasting in her honour?” So the poet Hopkins wonders ... Is it only that it’s brighter and the flowers are beginning, he asks? No, he says—it’s because it’s Spring and growth in everything! All things are rising and sizing, he says. The Mother sees this sympathising—especially with the growth of Jesus in us.

	Last Week’s collection was: £1061.72. Thank you	£££	The monthly figure for Standing Orders: £1373.00
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	This week, the Sacred Heart Lamp burns for the people of the parish.		This week, Our Lady’s Lamp burns for those preparing for their exams.
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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 5th May	Holy Masses 9am & 11am
Monday 6th May	Holy Mass 12 noon
Tuesday 7th May	Holy Mass 12 noon
Wednesday 8th May	Requiem Mary Skelly 12 noon
Thursday 9th May Ascension of the Lord	Holy Mass 9.30am Holy Mass 12 noon Holy Mass 7pm
Friday 10th May	Holy Mass 12 noon
Saturday 11th May	Exposition 11.30am-1pm Confessions 11.40am-12.50pm, 4-4.40pm Holy Mass 11am Vigil 5pm

Pentecost Novena

The Pentecost Novena is really *the* original novena. The disciples gathered together with Our Lady in the Upper Room after Jesus' Ascension and prayed for the coming of the Holy Spirit: The Lord, the Giver of Life. See Acts 1:14. We, each of us, need the Holy Spirit to be Lord of our lives and to bring us the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. Perhaps you would like to use the following prayer of Cardinal Mercier each day for the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost:

O Holy Spirit, beloved of my soul, I adore You. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen and console me. Tell me what I should do; give me Your orders. I promise to submit myself to all you desire of me and to accept all that You permit to happen to me. O Holy Spirit, Giver of every good and perfect gift, grant me, the intentions I have for this novena. May Your will be done in and through me and may God be praised and glorified forevermore. Amen

Children's Liturgy

Next Sunday, 12th May, there will be a children's liturgy in the Hall during the 11am Mass. All children are welcome—and their parents too. Please meet near the side door at the beginning of Mass.

Collection

It's encouraging to so many young people coming to Mass and getting involved. A number would like to go to Lourdes to help with the sick on the Diocesan Pilgrimage. Next Sunday there will be a collection to raise some money to help with their costs. We have four people interested but I know you will be as generous as possible.

Quarant'ore—Forty Hours Devotion

This year, the Feast of Corpus Christi falls on Sunday 2nd June. I thought it would be good to mark the Feast with the traditional devotion of forty hours of continuous prayer before the Blessed Sacrament—beginning on the Friday with a Mass of Exposition and ending with the Mass of Reposition at the 11am on Sunday. I'm sure we can manage to arrange ourselves so as to ensure that the prayer will be continuous. I will provide more details and some sign-up sheets next week.

The Next Baptism Meeting will be Wed 5th June at 7.30pm in the Hall

Stand Up! Stand Up For Jesus.

“‘Stand up,’ he said.” Every single day, in the octave of Easter, standing is mentioned in the readings: “Jesus came and stood among them,” “Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd,” “Peter took him by the hand and helped him to stand up,” “It is by this name and no other that this man is able to stand up, perfectly healthy, in your presence,” So, standing was adopted by the early church as a posture for prayer that signified the Resurrection—It's why we stand for the Gospel and the Our Father: we stand because we, too, have been raised through baptism, because we, too, wait expectantly for the Spirit. We stand because we have been raised to the dignity of God's children and because of the double meaning of the phrase “to stand up,”: - to be erect and ready and to be on someone's side as a witness: to stand up for them. In the light of the Resurrection, we stand up, we stand up for Jesus. Doesn't the Easter proclamation, the Exultet, say: “Standing in the awesome glory of this holy light, invoke with me, the mercy of God almighty”? Isn't that where we stand together, each Sunday?

Dudley Atkins Tyng was a nineteenth-century, Presbyterian minister; an American, revivalist preacher, renowned for his stance against slavery. He was a farmer, too, and he identified with the black slaves, kept in poverty by their white masters. Tyng worked alongside them in the cotton fields. One day, he was involved in a terrible accident at work—his right arm was shredded in machinery. As he lay dying, his fellow pastor, George Duffield, asked if he had a last message for his flock. “Whenever you should meet,” Tyng said, “tell the brethren to stand up, to stand up for Jesus.” For Tyng's memorial service, Duffield wrote the famous hymn, “Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Ye soldiers of the Cross; Lift high his royal banner. It must not suffer loss.”

Doesn't this story help us to understand today's Gospel a little more deeply? To grasp something of what it means not to be a slave; not to be a servant but a friend of Jesus? How, to have experienced his love, through the Resurrection, should make us ready to lay down our lives and live by his commandments? To know that Jesus loves us—not despite our sins but because of them? To feel within ourselves that he has chosen us as friends and intimate companions—that he loves us and shares all his business with us—is to receive a commission, a command to stand up—to stand up for him and to freely lay down our lives for him and for all whom he loves.

What do we stand for, after all? If we stand for anything, for anyone, we stand for the conviction that Jesus died for all and rose that we all might have the quality of life our Father willed for his children. This, surely, is why he commands us to love one another—not just because it's a nice thing to do— but because that's how we stand up for him and for our conviction that he loves us and gave his life for us.