

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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**Sixth Sunday of Easter – 8-9 May**

“If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will send you another Advocate.”

**John 14, 15 - 16**

## IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL A MASS BOOKING

If you are unable to take up your place at Mass for some reason please let the stewards know on these numbers so that your space can be used :

**Saturday 17.30 07544260440**

**Sunday 10.00 07753605972**

Even when the website says sold out, it is worth phoning the relevant number on a Saturday as there are sometimes seats available at the last minute.

## GIFT AID ENVELOPES

For those who use envelopes, there are new boxes available. Thank you to those of you who set up direct debits over the last year.

For some people you will have a new number but your money will go to the same place.

## PUBLIC MASSES DURING MAY

For the month of May, we will have one public Mass a week. For those who would like to book an intention (that will be published in the bulletin) please contact the parish office.

Thursday, May 13th (*Solemnity of the Ascension*) **19.30 Book on Eventbrite.**

Wednesday, May 19 **18:30** – intention taken. No pre-booking required

Wednesday, May 26 **18:30** - no pre-booking required

## WELCOME

We welcome back Fr Paul Martin on Sunday mornings who will be with us until the end of June.

## SPONSORING OUR LADY'S LAMPS

We are preparing to organise for people to have a seven-day lamp lit for their intention in the Shrine Chapel. Would you like one of these to burn in memory of a loved one, or for a particular intention? To buy a lamp which will burn in front of our Blessed Lady will cost a donation of £10 per week, which will go towards the costs of running the sacristy. Please take an envelope from the window in front of the shrine and place it in the basket marked SHRINE LAMP at the back of the church.

Please make sure you write on the envelope a note stating your particular intention. The intentions will be published in our weekly bulletin and mentioned during the weekend Mass.

The diocesan Privacy Policy is available at

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy> or by request from the parish office.

Our Lady & St Anne Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Charity No. 234216

## The Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B – Mark):

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

## Mass Intentions for Sixth Week of Easter

### Sixth Sunday of Easter

### Year B

Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup> May	17.30	Canon Giles Goward RIP
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00	Terry Colehan RIP
Monday	10 <sup>th</sup> May	No Mass	
<i>Monday of the 6<sup>th</sup> week of Eastertide</i>			
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup> May	No Mass	
<i>Tuesday of the 6<sup>th</sup> week of Eastertide</i>			
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup> May	<u>No Mass</u>	
<i>Wednesday of the 6<sup>th</sup> week of Eastertide</i>			
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup> May	<u>19.30</u>	Olga Rangel de Vicci RIP
<i>Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord</i>			
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup> May	No Mass	
<i>Feast of St Matthias, Apostle</i>			
Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup> May	No Mass	
<i>Saturday of the 6<sup>th</sup> week of Eastertide</i>			

### Seventh Sunday of Easter

### Year B

Saturday	15 <sup>th</sup> May	17.30	People of the parish
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00	Carmen Coromoto Sarmiento RIP