

Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 17th May 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter (A) Psalter Week 2

The Parish of the Holy Trinity,
Stroud Green



with
Holy Innocents, Hornsey



Seeking to know and serve God and our local community



A Friend in Need (John 14:15-21)

What an Easter this has been! Severe restrictions on movement, no possibility to gather to receive the sacraments and all the while feeling the distress and anxiety the threat of pandemic causes. There are some people too that in this time have suffered the darkness of sickness and death, in contrast to the message of life that Easter brings.

In this, the second half of Eastertide we are encouraged to turn towards the season's culmination in Pentecost by thinking of work of the Holy Spirit. Referring to the Spirit as a 'Paraclete' is unique to John's Gospel. Paraclete means 'called alongside'. Hence Paraclete includes meanings such as Counsellor, Advocate, Mediator, Helper, or Comforter. In other words, a friend that we could all do with right now. Certainly the Holy Spirit is a friend that the disciples, on the brink of seeing their Lord crucified - their hopes crushed and themselves scattered - will need if they are to experience and transmit the light of the resurrection to all humanity. The promised Spirit is to be that other friend to the disciples, just as Jesus had been.

The Spirit is also one who allows the teaching and saving Lordship of Jesus to remain with his followers. The presence of the Spirit allows all of us to see and know Jesus and to experience his love and friendship. The knowledge of God's saving work by raising his Son is given to anyone who, across space and across time, loves Jesus. In this moment, when we need a light in the darkness and a friend when we cannot reach out and hold our loved ones, let us remember that the Spirit is the one who 'remains with and in you' (Jn 14:17) as a comforter, counsellor, and friend.

May Devotion

May is traditionally a month of devotion to Our Lady, and Fr. Ben is leading a streamed May Devotion this Sunday afternoon at 5.00 pm. To watch it on Facebook (you do not need to have a Facebook account) please go to www.holy-innocents.org.uk

News from Fr. Max Drinkwater - former Holy Trinity Pastoral Assistant

Max has just become a father of a different sort. Baby Cynthia Drinkwater arrived safe and well last week, and she and Charlotte are both doing well. Fr. Max has been appointed to the parish of St Mary's, Haverhill in Suffolk as priest-in-charge, and the family expect to move there at some point later in the year. He sends his best wishes and hopes and that everyone is well at Holy Trinity.

Christian Aid Week 10th to 16th May

There is still time to consider giving something to this very important charity directly. You can go online to <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week> or for details on how to pay money directly into their bank account please call 020 7523 2226. To donate by telephone call 020 7523 2269. Cheques can be sent to Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL.

No internet? - Daily Hope Telephone Service

An organisation called Daily Hope is offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

Tuesday Easter Groups at 8.00 pm

This Tuesday we will again use Zoom to look at two short passages chosen from Acts 9:32 to 15:40 and focus on two important figures in the early church, Peter and Paul. You may want to read the section of Acts before the meeting to get a general sense of the context of what we will be discussing. You will need to email Fr. Patrick for a Zoom meeting ID and password if you do not already have it.

Sunday Zoom Service at 11.30 am - Readings, Prayers followed by a chance to catch up

Please contact Fr. Patrick for the meeting code and password if you don't already have it.

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