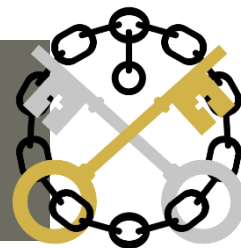


ST PETER IN CHAINS



6th Sunday of Easter

17th May 2020

6th Sunday of Easter

Parish Liturgy



SUNDAY MASS

Suspended until further notice.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

By request.

Public Mass, Public Liturgy, Sacraments and Parish gatherings in the Diocese of Galloway have been suspended until further notice.

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Introduction

Again, it is still Easter – though we are coming to end: two great feasts lie ahead: the Ascension on Thursday and Pentecost a week on Sunday. We turn towards both those feasts in our Gospel today, as we hear Jesus bidding his friends farewell and promising to send them the Holy Spirit. Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and his love.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (14:15-21)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

Reflection

Those who believe in God always trust in the future. Back in Advent, we heard how Jesus' coming into the world fulfilled the promises God made to his people in the Old Testament. And in today's Gospel we hear new promises, made by Jesus the night before his death on the cross, but read by us as we prepare to remember his departure at the Ascension on Thursday. His promise is, as always, togetherness with God: "You are in me and I am in you." This promise will be fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, when the "Advocate" – the Holy Spirit – is given to the Church. That promise is fulfilled for us every day of our lives, when we invite the Spirit in. What are the ways in which we can ask the Spirit into our lives? How can we rejoice in our "togetherness" with God?

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things
and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you
now and forever. Amen.

Sixth Sunday of Easter (A) 2020

May 2020	St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i>	Thought for the Day <i>(Thoughts about Our Lady taken from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.)</i>
Sunday 17 th May	<p>6th Sunday of Easter - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish</i> Mary is "full of grace" - The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace" (Lk 1,28). In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace. Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. [CCC 490-491]</p>	
Monday 18 th May	<p>6th Week in Eastertide - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish and William Sheehan Snr. (A)</i> Mary is the "Mother of God" - Called in the Gospels "the mother of Jesus," Mary is ac- claimed by Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her son, as "the mother of my Lord" (Lk 1,43). In fact, the One who she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly "Mother of God" (Theotokos, Council of Ephesus, 431). [CCC 495]</p>	
Tuesday 19 th May	<p>6th Week in Eastertide - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish and William Calvert (A)</i> Mary is ever-Virgin and Mother of the faithful - The deepening of faith in the virginal motherhood led the Church to confess Mary's real and perpetual virginity even in the act of giving birth to the Son of God made man. Jesus is Mary's only son, but her spiritual motherhood extends to all men whom indeed he came to save: "The Son whom she brought forth is he whom God placed as the first-born among many brethren, that is, the faithful in whose generation and formulation she cooperates with a mother's love" (Lumen Gentium, 63). [499,501]</p>	
Wednesday 20 th May	<p>6th Week in Eastertide - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for the Parish and Joseph McIver (RD)</i> Mary is the Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church - Since the Virgin Mary's role in the mystery of Christ and the Spirit has been treated, it is fitting now to consider her place in the mystery of the Church. "The Virgin Mary...is acknowledged and honoured as being truly the Mother of God and of the redeemer.... She is 'clearly the mother of the members of Christ'...since she has by her charity joined in bringing about the birth of believers in the Church, who are members of its head" (Lumen Gentium, 53). [CCC 963]</p>	
Thursday 21 st May	<p>Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish and John Ross (RD)</i> Mary is our Mother - Her role in relation to the Church and to all humanity goes still further [than being our model]. "In a wholly singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity in the Saviour's work of restoring supernatural life to souls. For this reason she is a mother to us in the order of grace" (Lumen Gentium, 61) [CCC 968]</p>	
Friday 22 nd May	<p>6th Week in Eastertide - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish and Lily McCartney (RD)</i> Mary is inseparable from her Son - Mary's role in the Church is inseparable from her union with Christ and flows directly from it. (...) Thus the Blessed Virgin advanced in her pilgrimage of faith, and faithfully persevered in her union with her Son unto the cross. There she stood, in keeping with the divine plan, enduring with her only begotten Son the intensity of his suffering, joining herself with his sacrifice in her mother's heart, and lovingly consenting to the immolation of this victim, born of her: to be given, by the same Christ Jesus dying on the cross, as a mother to his disciple, with these words: "Woman, behold your son" (Jn 19, 26f, Lumen Gentium, 58). After her Son's Ascension, Mary "aided the beginnings of the Church by her prayers" (Lumen Gentium, 69). In association with the apostles and several women, "we also see Mary by her prayers imploring the gift of the Spirit..." (Lumen Gentium, 59) [CCC 964,965]</p>	
Saturday 23 rd May	<p>Our Lady's Day for Easter - <i>Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish and Esther Tumilty (RD)</i> Mary is the object of our devotion and the measure of the Church's Greatness - "All generations will call me blessed" (Lk 1,48): "The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship" (Paul VI, Marialis cultus, 56). [The Church's] structure is totally ordered to the holiness of Christ's members. And holiness is measured according to the 'great mystery' in which the Bride responds with the gift of love to the gift of the Bridegroom" (John Paul II, Mulieris dignitatem, 27) Mary goes before us all in the holiness that is the Church's mystery as "the bride without spot or wrinkle" (Eph 5,27). This is why the "Marian" dimension of the Church precedes the "Petrine" (Mulieris dignitatem, 27). [CCC 971,773]</p>	

Turning to Our Blessed Mother in Lockdown

On the morning of Aug. 7, 1974, a tightrope stretched between the Twin Towers of New York's World Trade Centre, 1,350 feet above the ground. For 45 minutes, French high-wire artist Philippe Petit tread that steel cable confidently, knelt on it, lay down on it, and goaded police officers poised to arrest him on either end. He looked ahead, never down, and he carried a 50-pound, 26-foot balancing pole. In these unusual times, we are looking for balance. The Christian life has always been an exercise in looking ahead and carrying the pole of faith to steady us. Eight hundred years ago, St. Thomas Aquinas penned the following prayer: *"May my way to you, Lord, be safe, straight, and defined, not swerving between good times and setbacks, so that in good times I render you thanks and in setbacks preserve patience, so that in the former I may not be blown aloft, and in the latter not depressed. May I rejoice only in what spurs me toward you, grieve only at what draws me away from you. May I desire to please no one but you, fear to displease no one but you. May all transient things be worthless to me, on your account, and may all that is yours be dear to me, and you, my God, above all."* May is the month of the Woman who sets us the perfect example of that God-oriented balance which is virtue. As Aquinas prays to render God thanks in good times, she rendered Him the perfect praise at the moment of the Incarnation: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord" (Luke 1:48). As Aquinas prays to preserve patience in setbacks, Mary's patient endurance reached its fullness when she stood, hour after hour, beneath her Son's cross (John 19:25). Mary is our model of equilibrium; let us ask her help when we are walking today's tightrope: working, not over-working, from home; sharing close quarters with the same people over long periods of time; worrying and grieving. Let us imitate Mary's rich interior life of prayer — "she pondered all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:19, 51) — and her eagerness in charity — "she went in haste" to her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:39). Perhaps you could incorporate the family Rosary into your daily schedule, or a decade of the Rosary, as Pope Francis asks of us, and offer some practical help to a person who is alone.



Remember that, beneath the tightrope of our life, Mary stands with her maternal arms outstretched, ready to catch us when we fall into the excess or defect of sin, eager to set us right with her Son. "Am I not here, who am your Mother?" she asked St. Juan Diego, distraught as his uncle lay dying. "Are you not in the folds of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry you, disturb you." With her beneath us, we, like Philippe Petit, can tread confidently, kneel earnestly in prayer, sleep in peace, and even maintain a sense of humour. [Sr. Maria Veritas Marks, Dominican Sisters of Mary]

Just for a Laugh...

An Arab Sheik was admitted to hospital for heart surgery, but prior to the surgery, the doctors needed to store his blood in case the need arises. As the gentleman had a rare type of blood, it couldn't be found locally, so, the call went out. Finally a Scotsman was located who had a similar blood type. The Scot willingly donated his blood for the Arab. After the surgery, the Arab sent the Scotsman in appreciation for giving his blood, a new BMW, diamonds & US dollars. A couple of days later, once again, the Arab had to go through a corrective surgery. His doctor telephoned the Scotsman who was more than happy to donate his blood again. After the second surgery, the Arab sent the Scotsman a thank-you card & a box of Quality Street chocolates. The Scotsman was shocked that the Arab did not reciprocate his kind gesture as he had anticipated. He phoned the Arab and asked him: "I thought you would be generous again, that you would give me a BMW, diamonds & money... but you only gave me a thank-you card and a box of Quality Street." To this the Arab replied: "Aye laddie, but I noo have Scottish blood in ma veins".

Mustard Seeds

✠ The Lonely Ember

A member of the Parish Church who previously had been attending Mass regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the Parish Priest decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The Parish Priest found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his Parish Priest's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The Parish Priest made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the Parish Priest took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination. As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail." Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. Just before the Parish Priest was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the Parish Priest reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit Father, and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

✠ Novena for Pentecost

To celebrate Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Church, we are invited to pray the Holy Spirit Novena every day from the Solemnity of the Ascension onwards [Ascension Thursday is 21st May 2020]! It is a powerful prayer that is meant to help us open ourselves up to the third person of the Holy Trinity. The Pentecost Novena is the first of all novenas, nine days of prayer. After Jesus' Ascension into heaven, He commanded His disciples to come together in the upper room to devote themselves to constant prayer (Acts 1:14). They prayed for nine days before receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. On May 4, 1897, Pope Leo XIII proclaimed: "We decree and command that throughout the whole Catholic Church, this year and in every subsequent year, a novena shall take place before Pentecost Sunday in all parish churches." (Encyclical On the Holy Spirit, 13) Here is the Prayer to the Holy Spirit:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit
we may be truly wise
and ever enjoy His consolations,
through Christ Our Lord, Amen

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