

St John's, Pevensey Road



**Pews News & Service Sheet
for Sunday 2nd May 2021**

The Fifth Sunday of Easter



Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - also viewable later via the Broadcast Page of our church website www.stjohnspevencyroad.org.uk/broadcast

Sunday Parish Mass is held at 10:30 a.m. with a socially-distanced congregation; recorded and broadcast via our church website, by about Sunday lunchtime.

The church is open for **private prayer on weekday mornings**, following **Morning Prayer** which is said in church on weekdays at 9 a.m.

Midweek Mass Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Online “Zoom” service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will send you the necessary “link”.

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Brenda R, Jane G, Jo, Amber, Shirley, Andrew N, Kath Q, Linda, Alison Nunes, Jackie A, Don F, Sue T, Eve G, and Cynthia C.

Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the departed, especially those whose Years Minds fall around this time: Ben Richardson, Vera Brown, Derek Warner, Beatty McNulty, and Ernest Nunes,

...and all who mourn.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: Ye watchers and ye Holy Ones, sung by Nicola B.

This hymn is based, in part, on the *Te Deum Laudamus*, ('We praise Thee, O God') an ancient hymn illustrated in the big window at the west end here at St John's.

The opening verse echoes Psalm 103, "Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word. Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will." (Psalm 103:20-21, NRSV). The opening verse calls upon the nine different orders of angels, which are depicted in the St John's Baptistry windows, (four of which are pictured here), to praise the Lord.

Verse two refers to the Virgin Mary ('*Thou Bearer of the Eternal Word*'), and is inspired by the *Theotokion*, or Hymn of Mary, used in the Orthodox Church. She is exhorted also to praise the Lord.

The third verse urges the faithful departed to join in the praise of God - namely the church patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs and saints.

The fourth verse encourages the current congregation to join in the praise. So the whole Communion of Saints - all the members of the Christian Church, living and departed - are included in the chorus of praise!

J. Athelstan Riley wrote this text in 1906 to the German medieval tune *Lasst uns erfreuen* for the English Hymnal, of which he was an editor. The tune was updated to a modern version by Ralph Vaughan Williams at the same time.



Mass for Easter 5

The Greeting

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Christ our passover lamb has been
sacrificed for us.

Let us therefore rejoice by putting
away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins
with a sincere and true heart.

All Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

The priest says the Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis is said:

All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen

The Collect

Let us pray:

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the
world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

All Amen.

A reading from Baruch

Baruch 3.9-15,32-4.4

Hear the commandments of life, O Israel;

give ear, and learn wisdom!

Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies,

that you are growing old in a foreign country,

that you are defiled with the dead,

that you are counted among those in Hades?

You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom.

If you had walked in the way of God,
you would be living in peace for ever.

Learn where there is wisdom,
where there is strength,
where there is understanding,
so that you may at the same time discern

where there is length of days, and life,
where there is light for the eyes,
and peace.

Who has found her place?

And who has entered her store-houses?

But the one who knows all things
knows her,
he found her by his understanding.

The one who prepared the earth for
all time

filled it with four-footed creatures;
the one who sends forth the light, and
it goes;

he called it, and it obeyed him,
trembling;

the stars shone in their watches, and
were glad;

he called them, and they said,
'Here we are!'

They shone with gladness for him
who made them.

This is our God;

no other can be compared to him.

He found the whole way to knowledge,
and gave her to his servant Jacob
and to Israel, whom he loved.

Afterwards she appeared on earth
and lived with humankind.

She is the book of the commandments
of God,

the law that endures for ever.

All who hold her fast will live,
and those who forsake her will die.

Turn, O Jacob, and take her;
walk towards the shining of her light.

Do not give your glory to another,
or your advantages to an alien people.

Happy are we, O Israel,
for we know what is pleasing to God.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 8.26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,

and like a lamb silent before its shearer,

so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright Seraphs, Cherubim, and Thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, Dominions, Prinedoms, Powers,
Virtues, Archangels, Angels' choirs:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O higher than the Cherubim,
More glorious than the Seraphim,
Lead their praises, Alleluia!
Thou Bearer of the eternal Word,
Most gracious, magnify the Lord:
Alleluia! Alleluia! ...

Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
Ye Patriarchs and Prophets blest,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Ye holy Twelve, ye Martyrs strong,
All saints triumphant, raise the song:
Alleluia! Alleluia! ...

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia! Alleluia! ...

Athelstan Riley (1858-1945)

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last,
says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All Alleluia

The Lord be with you

All And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus

Christ according to John

All Glory to you, O Lord.

John 15.1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and
the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the
Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Jesus, our exalted Lord, has been given all authority.

Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be perfected by his prayer.

Jesus Christ, great high priest,
living for ever to intercede for us,
pray for the Church,
your broken body in the world ...

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, King of righteousness,
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty
on high,
pray for the world, and make it subject to
your gentle rule ...

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,
drawing humanity into the life of God,
pray for your sisters and brothers in need,
distress, or sorrow ...

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus, pioneer of our salvation,
bringing us to glory through your death
and resurrection,
surround with your saints and angels
those who have died trusting your
promises ...

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,
ascended far above the heavens and
filling the universe,
pray for us who receive the gifts you give
us for work in your service ...

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ,
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to
worship at your feet;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
All Amen.

The Peace *is introduced*

The risen Christ came and stood among
his disciples and said ‘Peace be with
you.’

Then were they glad when they saw the
Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with
you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of
peace.

We may exchange a sign of peace

The Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and
wine are placed upon it.*

***Music: A selection of Easter Chorale
Preludes by J.G. Walther (1684-1748)***

Blessed are you, Lord God of all
creation.

In your loving care you spread before us
the table of life
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.
Keep us always in the fold of our
Saviour and our Shepherd, your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Blessed be God for ever.

The president takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death
and hell
and restored in men and women
the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the
powers of all creation
proclaim for ever the hymn of your glory:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of
your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given
for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for
the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his
death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the
sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and
glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our
redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of
praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this
cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Saint John
the Evangelist, Saint Peter, Saint Philip,
Saint James, Mary the Mother of God,
and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us:

All Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread

Agnus Dei is said:

All Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is
sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia.

Communion is received.

Music: A selection of Easter Chorale Preludes by J.G. Walther (1684-1748)

Prayer after Communion

The priest prays the Post Communion for the day:

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way,
the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen.

All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off,
you met us in your Son
and brought us home.

Dying and living,
he declared your love,
gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life;
we who drink his cup
bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights
give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope
you have set before us,
so we and all your children
shall be free,
and the whole earth live
to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices



An
ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT
date for your
diary...



On **Saturday 5th June** we will be taking part in the "Churches Count on Nature" project - counting the wildlife, insects etc to be seen in St John's Churchyard. Volunteers welcome! More details nearer the time...

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you

All And also with you

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his
sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

Priest Go in the the peace of Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia

All Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Concluding Voluntary: Easter Prelude
'Ere yet the dawn hath fill'd the skies'
by D. Buxtehude (1637-1707)

COVID HITS INDIA'S POOR



Bishop Laurie's charity is providing small food parcels that his people are taking into hospitals and places where the sick and their families are destitute. If you would like to help, donations would be gratefully received by Bishop Laurie. For more information, the charity's website is: www.bbf-intl.org.uk Many thanks.



This Saturday, 8th May, in the church calendar, is the Lesser Festival of Mother Julian of Norwich.

Born in about 1342, Julian was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, prayer and fasting. Little is known about her – even her name is uncertain, possibly Juliana or Julian, taken from the name of the church in Norwich where she lived alone in a “cell”. Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, and reveals a mystic of great depth and insight, writing about a God embracing both male and female qualities. Writing at the end of the 14th century – when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English – Julian was the first woman, and the first significant writer, to write in English.

Her most famous line is ‘All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well.’ These words have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.

As a scientist, I am fascinated by one particular revelation shown to Mother Julian in 1373, when she received a series of sixteen “shewings” of our Lord during a severe illness. In one, she was shown a small object, the size of a hazelnut, in the palm of her hand. “I looked at it with my mind’s eye” she said “and I thought, what could this be? And the answer came – ‘It is all that is made’ ”.



I was fascinated therefore to read in another book, Bill Bryson’s *A Short History of Everything*, about an interview with a particle physicist, who said that in the last few milliseconds immediately before the Big Bang, “the entire substance of the whole universe was such a small, concentrated particle that it could have been held in the palm of your hand.”

Wow! Who would have thought that the expression of a vision of a 14th century religious woman, describing the beginning of creation, could exactly match the expression of a 20th century particle physicist? Just a spooky coincidence? Or maybe science and religion can sing from the same song sheet after all!

Anyway, the important thing was summed up by Mother Julian as she went on to contemplate the hazelnut-type object in her hand. “I marvelled that it could last”, she said, “for I thought it might have crumbled to nothing, it was so small. It lasts. And ever shall, because God loves it, and all things have being through the love of God.”

Rosemary

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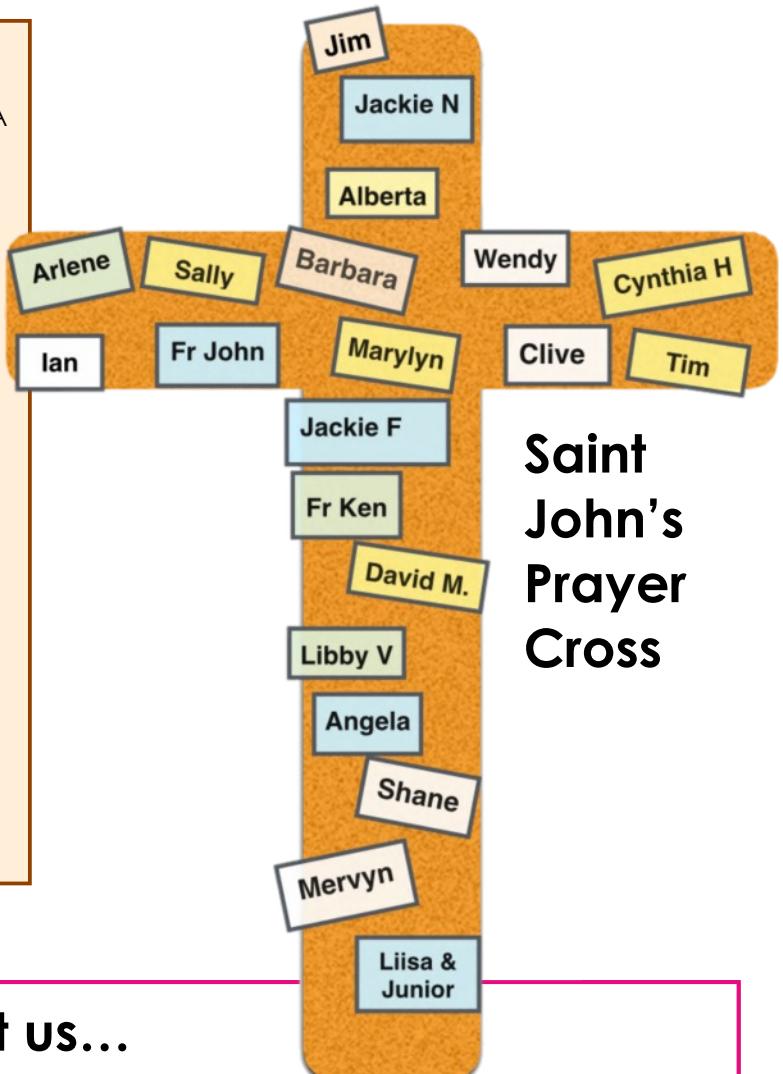
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Mother Julian biography info from Wikipedia

Hymn of the week info from Hymnary.org



Saint John's Prayer Cross

Contact us...

St John the Evangelist
Pevenssey Road
St Leonards on Sea
TN38 0LF

Parish Office: (01424) 425942
Email: admstjohns30@gmail.com
Tina is our Administrator.
Usual office hours 09:00-13:00, Mon, Tues, Thurs.
Please contact her also for **Church Hall bookings**

Website: www.StJohnsPevensseyRoad.org.uk

