

St John's, Pevensey Road



Pews News & Service Sheet for Sunday 16th May 2021

The Seventh Sunday of Easter
(Sunday after Ascension Day)



Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - also viewable later via the Broadcast Page of our church website www.stjohnspevenseyroad.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, 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: Robin Allcorn, Simon Counsell, and Marjorie Fibbens,

...and all who mourn.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: “The Head that Once was Crowned with Thorns”, by Thomas Kelly, sung by Sally from the choir

Thomas Kelly’s words are built around two passages from the New Testament: Hebrews 2:10 and 2 Timothy 2:12. It is possible that Kelly derived his first line from a poem by John Bunyan, which includes the lines:

*“The head that once was crowned with thorns
Shall now with glory shine;
That heart that broken was with scorns
Shall flow with life divine.”*

Erik Routley, the hymnologist and musicologist, described this hymn as “*perhaps the finest of all hymns – Thomas Kelly has here comprehended the whole Gospel, and he tells of the Good News and of the mysterious mercy by which we may lay hold of it*” (‘Hymns and Human Life’, 1952).

Thomas Kelly (1769-1854) was ordained into the Church of Ireland in 1792. He became well known as a preacher, but the Archbishop of Dublin eventually prohibited him from preaching in the diocese because of the evangelical emphasis of his message. As a result, Kelly preached as an independent minister in two unconsecrated buildings in Dublin. Those who followed him were known as ‘The Kellyites’.

Like John Wesley, he planted church congregations in other towns, became active in many good causes, and was particularly esteemed by the poor. Like Charles Wesley, he was a prolific hymn writer, penning some 765 hymns. *Info from The Methodist Church website*

Mass for Easter 7

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

What God has prepared for those
who love him,
he has revealed to us through the
Spirit;
for the Spirit searches everything.
Therefore, let us in penitence
open our hearts to the Lord,
who has prepared good things
for those who love him.

**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, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and
compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father
All Amen.

A reading from Ezekiel

Ezekiel 36.24-28

Thus says the Lord GOD: I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 1.15-17,21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people). He said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus – for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.

So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.'

So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords
Is his, is his by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And heaven's eternal Light:

The joy of all who dwell above,
The joy of all below,
To whom he manifests his love,
And grants his name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is given;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heaven.

They suffer with the Lord below,
They reign with him above;
Their profit and their joy to know
The mystery of his love.

The cross he bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to him;
His people's hope, his people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.

Thomas Kelly (1769-1854)

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.
Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

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 17.6-19

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:
'Father, I have made your name known
to those whom you gave me from the
world. They were yours, and you gave
them to me, and they have kept your
word. Now they know that everything you
have given me is from you; for the words
that you gave to me I have given to
them, and they have received them and
know in truth that I came from you; and
they have believed that you sent me.
I am asking on their behalf; I am not
asking on behalf of the world, but on
behalf of those whom you gave me,
because they are yours. All mine are
yours, and yours are mine; and I have
been glorified in them. And now I am no
longer in the world, but they are in the
world, and I am coming to you. Holy
Father, protect them in your name that
you have given me, so that they may be
one, as we are one. While I was with
them, I protected them in your name that

you have given me. I guarded them, and
not one of them was lost except the one
destined to be lost, so that the scripture
might be fulfilled. But now I am coming
to you, and I speak these things in the
world so that they may have my joy
made complete in themselves. I have
given them your word, and the world has
hated them because they do not belong
to the world, just as I do not belong to
the world. I am not asking you to take
them out of the world, but I ask you to
protect them from the evil one. They do
not belong to the world, just as I do not
belong to the world. Sanctify them in the
truth; your word is truth. As you have
sent me into the world, so I have sent
them into the world. And for their sakes I
sanctify myself, so that they also may be
sanctified in truth.'

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

Let us join our prayers with those of our
Saviour Christ,
seeking the Father's blessing and the
gifts of the Spirit.

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 brothers and sisters in
need, distress or sorrow ...
Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, 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

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a
pledge of what is to come, has given the
Spirit to dwell in our hearts. 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 voluntaries by John Stanley (1713 - 1786)

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

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, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is our great high priest who has entered once for all into the heavenly sanctuary, evermore to pour upon your Church the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit. He is the one who has gone before us, who calls us to be united in prayer as were his disciples in the upper room while they awaited his promised gift, the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost. Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

**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, 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

Being made one by the power of the
Spirit, 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 voluntaries by John Stanley (1713 - 1786)

Prayer after Communion

The priest prays the Post Communion for the day:

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us
into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we
proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
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

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,
give you grace to confess that Jesus
Christ is Lord,
and strengthen you to proclaim the word
and works of God;
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.

*We are encouraged to sit to listen to
the organ voluntary, before leaving
via the exit door*

**Concluding Voluntary: Toccata in D
minor (Dorian) BWV 538 by J.S. Bach
(1685 - 1750)**

Thank you all for your magnificent response to my call for help to feed Indian sufferers from Covid who are starving in the poor villages served by my charity. Altogether, with on-line and personal donations, St John's congregation gave £1,593 and our villagers have sent their thanks to you all. They will live to see another day. **Bishop Laurie.** www.bbf-intl.org.uk.



Hiding, waiting, hoping – FREE!

After many long months during the Covid pandemic we are at last beginning to be able to come together again. Some countries, and some areas of some countries, will be more open than others and we can only hope, pray and wait for all of us to be able to be 'free' again.

May, in the Church's calendar, is supremely the month of freedom.

During the first few weeks of May we continued to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the Bible stories of those who met him after his crucifixion and resurrection.

Then we celebrate his Ascension – Jesus' return to His Father.

And finally, next Sunday, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and all those locked in that Upper Room – with the subsequent birth of his Church.

Freedom indeed!

This last year has for most of us felt like a time of waiting - waiting to see and hold friends and family again. We have some understanding of fear, and of the hope within us.

What a celebration there must have been when Jesus returned to his Father – and what a celebration also when the Holy Spirit so powerfully descended.

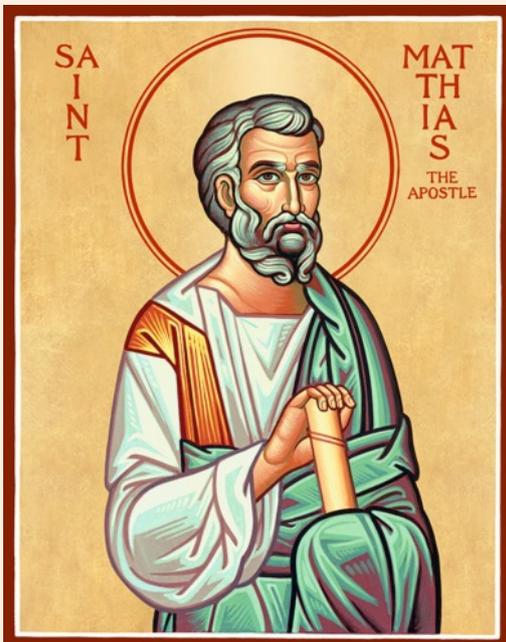
It is the story of those 'simple' disciples who were scared and hiding one day, and bold and outspoken the next, that speaks to me of something outstanding happening.

As I received my anti-Covid vaccination I felt that same freedom from fear. Not that I would be 100% safe and never ill again, but rather that whatever happened now would be manageable.

To do: Have a think about fears that you may have held inside you during this past year and how you have been able to manage them. Have you known the Spirit of Our Lord by your side as you have walked these roads? I hope so, and I hope also that together we can help others to know his reassurance from fear. Freedom indeed.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of all people and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be re-created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

The Rev'd Dr Jo White



14th May - St Matthias, the replacement apostle

If you're saying to yourself, 'Who?' you'll be in good company. Friday, May 14th, was the feast day of Saint Matthias the Apostle, and in describing him thus we have said just about all there is to know about him. He gets just one mention in the Bible, in the first chapter of Acts, immediately prior to the day of Pentecost, where it tells us that he was elected to take the place, in the ranks of the twelve apostles, recently vacated by the betrayer Judas Iscariot.

Eusebius, in the fourth century, says in his history of the apostolic era that Matthias was one of the 70 disciples sent out by Jesus (Luke 10:1), and that seems reasonable. When it was necessary to fill the vacancy among the apostles it would be natural to turn to someone who had followed Jesus from earlier years, as well as being a witness of the resurrection. Two names were suggested and prayed over. When they did, 'the lot fell on Matthias'.

Casting lots to fill vacancies on committees or councils, or even to appoint bishops, might seem to us to be rather risky. The Victorian preacher Campbell Morgan even suggested that the 11 acted in haste and pre-empted God's choice of Saul, later known as Paul, who at that time was busy persecuting the Church, arresting Christians and having them thrown into prison. He hadn't yet travelled the Damascus Road.

Be that as it may, Matthias was elected, and for us he can stand for all those excellent, consistent, reliable and faithful servants of Christ who never make a headline, not even in the parish magazine. Yet still he was chosen because he could be a 'witness', and so are we.

Doubtless he fulfilled that responsibility admirably, without, as we say, 'setting the Thames on fire'. Let's salute him today - the 'Unknown Apostle'.



Have you noticed that the St John's sanctuary bell tower is different to the architect's original drawing for it: it's a rather sweet mini version of the church!

A prayer for today

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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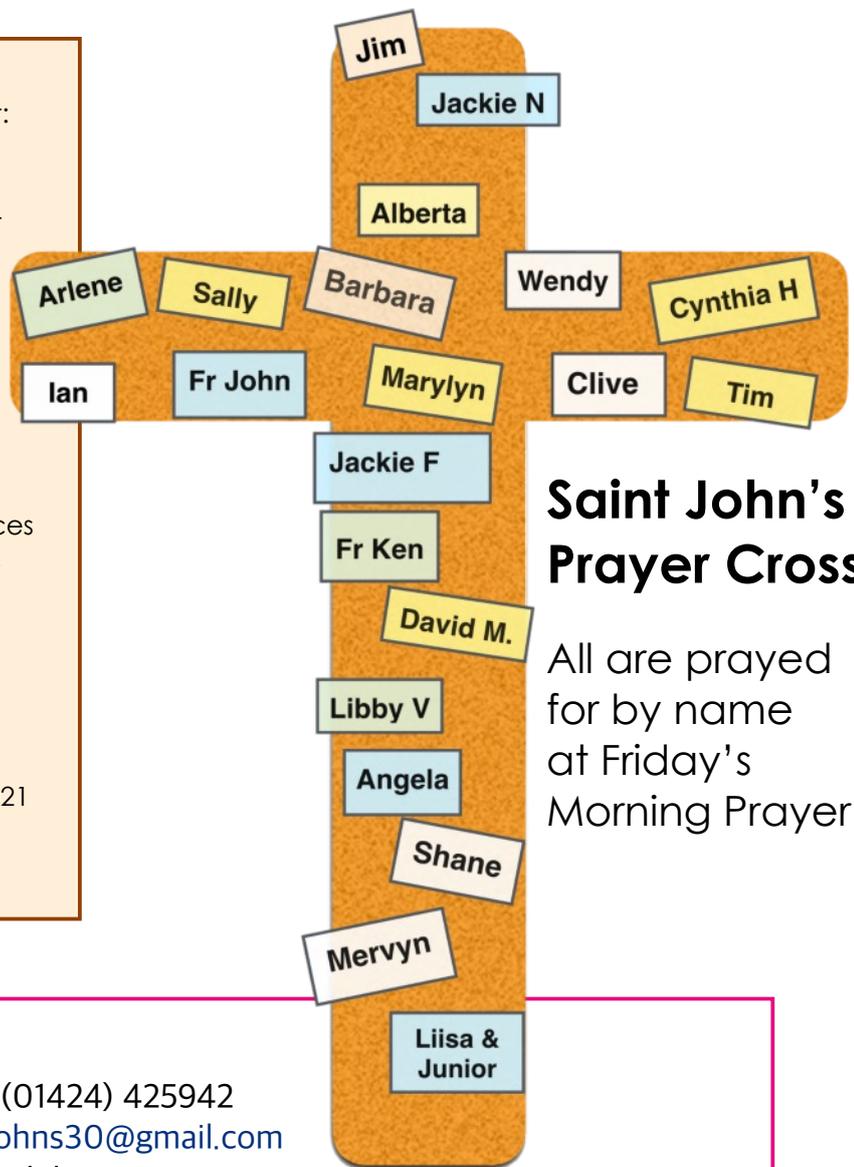
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Some other items from Parish Pump, May/June 2021



Saint John's Prayer Cross

All are prayed
for by name
at Friday's
Morning Prayer

St John the Evangelist
Pevensey 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.StJohnsPevenseyRoad.org.uk

