



**St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Stephen Harding Catholic Church**

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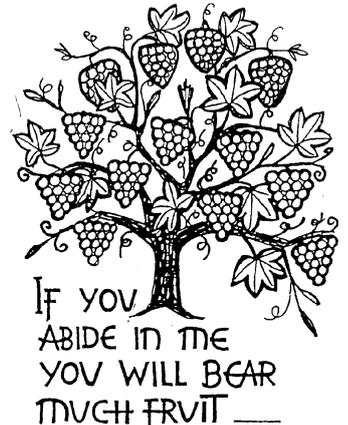
Date	Time	Service	Intention
<b>Sunday 2 May</b> <i>Psalter week 1</i>	<b>MASS 11am</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	Parishioners
<b>Monday 3 May</b>		<b>Ss Philip &amp; James</b>	
<b>Tuesday 4 May</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>The English Martyrs</b> <b>Evening Prayer over Zoom</b>	
<b>Wednesday 5 May</b>	<b>MASS 10am</b>	<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> week of Easter</b>	Priest's Intention
<b>Thursday 6 May</b>		<b>Thursday of 5<sup>th</sup> week of Easter</b>	
<b>Friday 7 May</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Friday of 5<sup>th</sup> week of Easter</b> <b>Rosary over Zoom</b>	
<b>Saturday 8 May</b>		<b>Saturday of 5<sup>th</sup> week of Easter</b> St Joseph the Worker	
<b>Sunday 9 May</b>	<b>MASS 11am</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	Parishioners

**Tuesday 4 May is a Day of Special Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse.** The Bishops transferred this from a Sunday in Lent as they think Eastertide is more suitable not only to seek forgiveness for failings, but to pray for the hope and renewal that are necessary. See Prayer on page 3



**Parish Evening Prayer & Rosary** Why not join those who celebrate **Evening Prayer (Tuesday 7pm) over Zoom** and the **Rosary (Friday 7pm) over Zoom**? It's never too late to start, email [sstomasandstephen@gmail.com](mailto:sstomasandstephen@gmail.com) or phone Wilf on 07983 981931.

**Gospel John 15:1-8** Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'



**Commentary** The vine had long been a beloved symbol of Israel. It was used by Isaiah 5.1-7 to express the Lord's complaint at the unresponsiveness of Israel. It was used by Ezekiel 15 in his painstaking unpicking of the proud symbols of Israel. It was used by Jesus in the parable of the Wicked Vine-dressers (Mark 12.1-12) to shame the irresponsible current leaders of Israel. Now, in the Last Supper discourse, on the way to Gethsemane it acquires a new dimension, the pain of pruning. However, the suffering of Jesus is not the principal point here: disciples of Jesus must be prepared to bear the pain of pruning. The image is a powerful one. To an uninstructed onlooker the wretched, seemingly lifeless twigs left on the vines appear totally unable to burgeon in a few months into the rich harvest of grapes. The most powerful of all the aspects of the symbol is the sap pulsing through those apparently dead branches. There is all the difference in the world between those docked shoots and the dead twigs scattered on the ground. Adherence to the vine, to Christ himself, alone gives life to the Church. *Henry Wansborough OSB*

Link for letter from the **Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales** Reflection the times after Covid. **The Day of the Lord** <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/04/Day-of-the-Lord-220421.pdf>

**The Pope's Intentions for Prayer: May – The World of Finance** Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

**Please keep the following Parishioners in your prayers ...** Sheila Bloxham, John McGrath, Doreen Dodd, Faye Hargreaves, Mary Goodwin, Julian and Dawn Huxley, Sheila Minnery, Emmie Justice, Shane McGroggan, Doreen Warrilow, Sylvia Mary Stanworth, & all the sick and housebound of the parish

**Permanent Diaconate Wilf McSherry** Wilf will be ordained as a Permanent Deacon on 24 July at 12 noon at St Michael & All Angels, Birkenhead CH49 5LB Further details to follow. Wilf would like to thank you for all your prayers and support during his time of formation.

### **Permanent Diaconate FAQs How does a Permanent Deacon dress?**

On church occasions he may wear clerical dress.

If the Deacon has a job, he would not be expected to wear clerical dress at that work.



**Market Drayton Churches Together - New webmaster needed** Churches Together are looking for a new webmaster to look after its website. The site uses WordPress, which is an easy to use platform. For the last ten years it has been looked after by Randall Hardy who would like to pass on the responsibility to someone else in the coming months. Randall is willing to spend time familiarising his replacement with the user interface if necessary. Could this be an opportunity for you to serve the local Christian community? Time, motivation and not being terrified by computers are all that is required. In the first instance please contact Helen McSherry



**Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries** In 2020 **our Parish raised £750** through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio & Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Communities and Missionaries around the world are so grateful for your support and have asked for their thanks to be passed on, together with their prayers for us all. [missio.org.uk](https://www.missio.org.uk)



**Market Drayton Foodbank 'Five a Day Appeal'** We have recently received some generous funding which has enabled us to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables to distribute to clients, in particular children, over the past 6 months. This has been a substitute for tinned produce which is usually part of the food parcels we give out. The funding has now finished but we feel it is important that we continue to give out fresh

fruit and vegetables in addition to the tinned produce in any way we can.

Therefore, we are launching our **'Five a Day Appeal'**. We are asking the community if they will **'Sponsor a Spud'** and be **'Fruit and Veg Champions'** by regularly giving each week/month towards the purchase of fresh fruit, vegetables and potatoes for food bank families. If you are able to help, please see our website at <https://marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/> for ways to donate. Standing order/gift aid forms are available to download and can also be collected from the Foodbank or posted out to you upon request. Please reference your donation with 'FAD Appeal'.

**Thank you for supporting Market Drayton Foodbank and helping us to feed local people in crisis!**

The foodbank needs fundamental food items such as those on their shopping list. A list of most needed foods can be found on the website at [marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/](https://marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/) Any donations can be dropped off at the Parish Rooms, Church Street TF9 1AF on Tuesdays and Fridays 9-11am only.

A list of items needed please in order of urgency (We have plenty of Tea, Pasta, Rice)

<b>UHT Milk</b>	<b>no stock</b>	<b>Shampoo/Conditioner and Shower Gel</b>
<b>Long life Fruit Juice</b>	<b>no stock</b>	<b>Men's Toiletries</b>
<b>Sponge Puddings/cake</b>	<b>no stock</b>	<b>Toilet Rolls</b>
<b>Cereals (Not Oats/Porridge)</b>		<b>Toothpaste/Toothbrushes</b>
<b>Cooking/Pasta Sauces (Pasta Not Needed)</b>		<b>Cleaning Products and Washing Up Liquid</b>
<b>Local Supermarket Gift cards, vouchers, - Morrison's, Lidl, Asda, Sainsbury's</b>		

Thank you

*See next page*

## Saints of the Week - The English Martyrs

On 4 May 1535, at Tyburn in London, three Carthusian monks died, the first of many martyrs of the English Reformation. Of these martyrs, 42 have been canonized, and a further 242 have been declared Blessed; but the true number of those who died on the scaffold, perished in prison, or were tortured or persecuted for their faith cannot now be reckoned. The persecution lasted a hundred and fifty years and left a permanent mark on English culture.

The martyrs celebrated today came from every walk of life. There were rich and poor; married and single; men and women. They are remembered for the example they gave of constancy in their faith and courage in the face of persecution. From 2001, there are also celebrated on this day the 40 Martyrs of England and Wales who were canonized on 25 October 1970. They include Saints Cuthbert Mayne, John Houghton, Edmund Campion, and Richard Gwynn, as well as Saints John Roberts and Ambrose Barlow from the Benedictine monastery of St Gregory now at Downside Abbey in Somerset. Those particularly celebrated in Shrewsbury Diocese include St John Plessington, St Ambrose Barlow, and St Margaret Ward.



## Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse



Praise to you Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
the source of all consolation and hope.  
Be the refuge and guardian of all  
who suffer from abuse and violence.  
Comfort them and send healing  
for their wounds of the body, soul and spirit.  
Help us all and make us one with you  
in your love for justice  
as we deepen our respect for the dignity of every human life.  
Giver of peace, make us one in celebrating  
your praise, both now and forever.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*