



St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Stephen Harding Catholic Church

53 Great Hales Street, Market Drayton TF9 1JL

E-mail: sstthomasandstephen@gmail.com

www.ss-thomas-stephen.org.uk

Priest Father Anthony Wild ☎ 01952 811299

Deacon David Hill ☎ 01952 813004

Deacon Wilf McSherry ☎ 07983 981931



Christ Victorious,
Rising Glorious,
ALLELUIA!

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday 8 May <i>Psalter week 4</i>	Mass 9am	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Day of Special Prayer for Vocations	Paul Sonthonnax RIP
Monday 9 May		Monday of 4 th Week of Easter	
Tuesday 10 May	7pm	Tuesday of 4 th Week of Easter <i>St John de Avila</i> Evening Prayer over Zoom	
Wed 11 May	10am	Wednesday of 4 th week of Easter Service of the Word with Holy Communion	
Thursday 12 May		Thursday of 4 th week of Easter <i>SS Nereus & Achilleus & St Pancras</i>	
Friday 13 May	7pm	Friday of 4 th week of Easter <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i> Rosary over Zoom	
Saturday 14 May		ST MATTHIAS	
Sunday 15 May	Mass 11 am	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	Priest's Intention

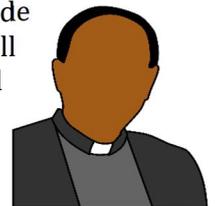
Mass held at 9am (8 May) due to road closures associated with the Market Drayton 10km Race
We welcome Fr Geoffrey O'Grady who is celebrating Mass with us today

There is a 5.30pm Mass on Saturday at Newport

Rosary for the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima - Friday 13 May is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima. On **Saturday 14 May** Rosary will be prayed at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Ss Peter & Paul Church, Newport at **5pm**. Everyone is welcome. We will be praying for our parishes, families and peace in our world. See **page 2** for further information on Our Lady of Fatima.

Andrea Wright Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Andrea Wright who has recently died and for her family and friends.

Today is a Day of special prayer for Vocations. We are invited to join the Church worldwide to pray for vocations to priesthood and consecrated life. Let us also take this time to seek the will of God our Father in our own lives as we follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd. We pray for those God is calling to the priesthood and consecrated life. May they have the courage to take the next step on their journey supported by a loving community Lord in your mercy. We pray for priests, deacons and all consecrated men and women. May they be an inspiration to those seeking a purpose to life as they proclaim the goodness of God by word and deed.



Parish Evening Prayer (Tuesday 7pm) on Zoom and the **Rosary** (Friday 7pm) over Zoom. **Why not think of joining our friendly group?** Contact sstthomasandstephen@gmail.com or Deacon Wilf.



Christian Aid week 15-21 May 2022.

In Zimbabwe, the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families like Jessica's. The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict, and drought have robbed her of the power to provide for her children. And 7,000 miles away, the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe, and around the globe. Without the fertiliser and food - like wheat and cooking oil - that Ukraine and Russia produce; vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger. With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe. Please collect your Christian Aid envelope from Church and donate what you can - thank you!

Please keep the following Parishioners in your prayers ... Fr Anthony Wild, John O'Rourke, Fedelma Cronin, David Smith, Danny Bonner, Pam Lovett, Niall Gallivan, John McGrath, Doreen Dodd, Faye Hargreaves, Mary Goodwin, Julian and Dawn Huxley, Sheila Minnery, Shane McGroggan, Doreen Warrillow, Sylvia Mary Stanworth, & all sick and housebound of the parish.

Gospel John 10:27-30 I know my sheep and they follow me

Jesus said:

‘The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life; they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.’



Commentary The figure of the Good Shepherd is the nearest approach to a parable in John’s gospel. It is so important that the Church puts it before us on the fourth Sunday of Easter in each of the three cycles of readings. Apart from its obvious sense of Jesus looking after his sheep – and silly, confused sheep at that – this image receives special sense from the figure of the shepherd in the Old Testament. God is the primary shepherd of Israel, who pastures his sheep in pastures green so that they fear no evil (Psalm 23). In Ezekiel 34 God promises to free Israel from the self-centred shepherds who keep the sheep for their own advantage, and to send them a true shepherd after his own heart, a second David, who will tend them as God himself would care for them. Thus, in putting before us each year in Eastertide, this proclamation that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the Church is affirming the Risen Christ as the divine Shepherd who tends his flocks. Particularly in these verses we see the unity of the Risen Christ and the Father in shepherding the sheep, just as in the Book of Revelation we saw the unity of the LORD God and the Lamb, both revered on the one throne. *HW*

The Pope’s Universal Intention for May For faith-filled young people We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary’s life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

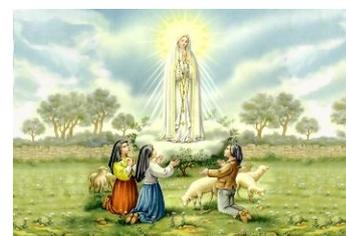


Feast of the Week Our Lady of Fátima The feast commemorates the visions of Our Lady seen near Fátima in



Portugal in 1917 by three shepherd children, Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto. The visions occurred on 13th day of each month from May to October, and by October huge crowds were gathering at the site of the visions and reporting visions and miraculous occurrences themselves. Pope John Paul II was devoted to Our Lady of Fátima and attributed his survival of an assassin’s bullet to her intervention. Jacinta and Francisco died in the great Spanish Flu epidemic of 1919-020, and were beatified on 13 May 2000. The “secret of Fátima,” said to have been revealed in three messages from the Virgin Mary to Lucia and her cousins, remained private until the 1940s, when church officials disclosed two

of the messages. The first was a vision of hell, and the second was commonly interpreted as prophesying the end of World War I and the start of World War II and the rise and fall of communism. The third remained secret until the day of the beatification ceremonies for Francisco and Jacinta in 2000, when the Vatican interpreted the message as a prediction of the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II in 1981. Lúcia became a Carmelite nun, died in 2005, and on 13 February 2017, Sister Lúcia was accorded the title Servant of God, as the first major step toward her canonization.



From Christians Against Poverty (CAP) – could you help?

The Market Drayton Debt Centre and courses are a vital part of the ministry of the churches in the area as we seek to show the love of Jesus to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. We need some help with the running of our courses and there are lots of ways you could get involved....

Job Club Each job club course runs for 8 consecutive weeks and is held on a Monday (starting from Mon 23rd May) at The Zone, off Linden Way. It runs from 12.30pm - 2.45pm but volunteers are needed from 12 noon until 3pm. If you can help in any way, contact Ali Doulton, alidoulton@capjobclubs.org, Tel: 07554 738425.

Life Skills Course Would you like to join the CAP Life Skills Team helping to transform lives? Help is needed with providing refreshments to course participants, also with befriending and encouraging members who may struggle with literacy and numeracy skills. The next course begins on Thursday 19th May from 12.15 – 2.30pm at the Parish Rooms. For further details and info, please contact Julia Farrant, juliafarrant@caplifefskills.org, Tel: 07899 094609.