



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH, EWELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Bamford

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

Charity No. 252878

All Masses are now live streamed. Access via the Parish Website



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 7th May 2023 Psalter Week 1 Cycle A

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	All Parishioners
Sunday 07 May	8.30 am	Dec'd of Noone & Byrne Fmlys.
	10.30 am	John & Patricia Kennedy RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Peter Fallon RIP
Friday	10.00 am	Patrick Waters RIP

FEAST DAYS: 7TH – 13TH MAY

ANNIVERSARIES: 7TH – 13TH MAY

Maureen Pawley, Susannah White, Patrick Waters

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS:

PARISH CORONATION STREET PARTY

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday, 10.30 am – 11.00 am or by appointment

RECOVERY AND WELL-BEING: Please pray for: Steve Kamm, Chris Williamson, Mary Frost, Jocelyn Bowen, Joseph Ewing Maritina Savage, Mel Alvarez, John Stratford, Shona Dane, John O'Hare.

DEATHS: Please remember in prayer Linda D'Vaz of Stoneleigh Park Road.

Also Mrs May McDonald, First Headteacher of St Clement's School (1972 – 1997). The school begun with 12 pupils and has grown to 210. Our sympathy to her son, Alasdair, and family. Her funeral has taken place in Scotland. May they rest in peace.

ASCENSION: Thursday, 18th May, is Ascension Day. It is a **Holy Day of Obligation**, a day we should, if possible, participate at Mass. Mass on that day will celebrated at 10.00 am and 8.00 am.

THE GROWING TOWARDS JESUS PROGRAMME (in preparation for the Sacramental programmes 2024). The meetings for parents with their children, who must be 8 by 31st December 2024, will take place on Saturdays 13th May and 10th June at 11am. The programme is for families who worship regularly at St Clements, who should collect an invitation and enrolment form from Father Graham after Mass.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

25th June – Summer Fair. 8th July – Parish Quiz Night

THIS WEEKEND, 7TH MAY: CORONATION STREET PARTY AFTER 10.30AM MASS – ALL WELCOME: Come along and enjoy yourselves.

APRIL 200 CLUB WINNERS: Angela Stone No.55 £30 Anne Bromfield No.161 £20 Congratulations!

THANKYOU: A big thankyou to all who have responded to King Charles' request to volunteer to do some practical activity in our community on Monday, 8th May. Thank you for being proud of, and caring for, our common spiritual and communal home

REFLECTION:

"Always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have" *1 Peter: 3:15*

As Christians, we have received the Holy Spirit in Baptism.- a power that is not of our own making. This power is the very same that sustains martyrs in their gruelling punishments and executions, the same that encourages missionaries to endure hardships for the love of other people. It is the spirit that enables us to find the words to use to describe why we are followers of Christ.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 14th May 2023 Psalter Week 2 Cycle A

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Wellbeing Ruth, John, & Claurd Farrell
Sunday 14 May	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Carl Anderson RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Bridie Whelan RIP
Thursday Ascension of the Lord	10.00 am	Wellbeing – Ruth Farrell
	08.00 pm	All Parishioners
Friday	10.00 am	Rose Lynch RIP
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Bro Donati Brazil RIP
Sunday 21 May	8.30 am	Mary Schneider RIP
	10.30 am	Emily Tay RIP

FEAST DAYS: 14TH MAY – 20TH MAY

Thursday: Ascension of the Lord

ANNIVERSARIES: 14TH MAY – 20TH MAY

Stephen Chalupka, Marjorie Turnball, Catherine McVeigh, Fr Richard Miller, Agnes Myers, Margaret Wells, Annie Steel.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS:

African Vision Malawi Ahu Guray

Once these men are chosen, the apostles "will appoint them for this necessity" (so they are still exercising authority in the Church, even if by remote control). As a result, the Twelve appoint seven men of impeccably Greek names, over whom the apostles pray and lay their hands.

STEPHEN AND PHILIP

Problem solved, you may think; and indeed that is partly true, for the tension seems to have disappeared. But notice this: the only two in this list whom we ever hear of again are Stephen and Philip. And what are they doing when we meet them? They are not waiting at table, but preaching the Gospel; Stephen preaches so well that they have to kill him in order to silence him; and soon we shall encounter Philip taking the Gospel to Africa and to Samaria. He will appear later on in Acts as the father of four prophetess daughters (it could have been rather a noisy household). Notice what this means: it means (and this is as true today in the Church as it was in that lively first century) that the Spirit can take us by surprise; what we thought was the problem was in fact nothing of the kind. That may be helpful to remember as the Church pursues its synodal pathway. We need always to be looking out for what the Spirit is doing, and where it is leading us. It may not be what you think.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.**

FIRST READING Acts 6:1-7

PSALM Psalm 32

**RESPONSE May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.**

Or **Alleluia!**

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **R.**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 2:4-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Jesus said: "I am the Way, the Truth and
the Life.**

**No one can come to the Father except
through me."**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 14:1-12

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**I am the true vine and you are the
branches, says the Lord.**

**Whoever remains in me, and I in him,
bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21



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RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS TENSIONS IN THE EARLY CHURCH

You may have been feeling, as we have made our way through the Acts of the Apostles during this Easter season, that it is almost impossibly idealistic; today, however, we see a slightly different picture. Luke is well aware that it was not always peace and harmony in the early Church. You might like to look, for example, at the story of Ananias and Sapphira, which you will find at Acts 5:1-11; and ask yourself why that story is never read in church.

Here today is another such episode. It starts off sounding like a success story: "in these days, as the number of disciples increased..." but then the tone soon changes, and we are in racial and religious tension and a problem for the apostles to deal with. There was a "muttering" (a word often used in the Gospel to describe the reactions of Jesus' opponents). Here, the "muttering" turns out to be a row between the Christians from a Greek background ("Hellenists") and those from a Jewish or Aramaic-speaking setting ("Hebrews"); and the trouble concerns the daily distribution of food to the Greek-speaking widows. Just to put this in context: Jews have always been very good at looking after those such as widows and orphans, who in a pre-welfare society might otherwise fall through the gaps. So the question must have arisen: are Greek-speaking widows really our concern? Or should they look elsewhere for support? You might argue that the tension between these two groups, Christian Jews and Gentiles, is the dominating issue for the whole of the Acts of the Apostles.

There is the problem: what is the solution? They refer themselves to the Twelve, who in the end carry all authority in the Church. The Twelve then gather all the disciples, not just the Greek-speaking ones, and guide them towards a solution. They are not going to descend to the nitty-gritty of this religious and racial prejudice: "It is not fitting for us to abandon the word of God in order to serve at table." In another age, Christians might have argued that precisely that kind of service is appropriate, of course; but perhaps that would not have solved the problem. So the suggestion made is that they should appoint seven males who can be vouched for; these men must be "full of the Spirit and wisdom." We remember, of course, that Luke is the Gospel of the Spirit; and this is particularly true of the Acts of the Apostles.

The Acts of the Apostles



Fr Nicholas King SJ
considers what Acts has
to say about problems
in the early Church.



7 MAY 2023

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK 1

presumably it was not all that important to him. What we are supposed to realise is that there are different stages of incorporation into the body of Christ, and that the apostles are able to give the "real deal", and so these Samaritans did indeed "receive the Holy Spirit"

THE SPIRIT'S BREATH

Not only is the Church now expanding; it is expanding into surprisingly foreign (Samaritan) territory. This is a pattern that is going to grow in Acts, of the Gospel being heard in unexpected places by unpredictable people. It is the Spirit who is driving the narrative, not the church officials; we might need to remember this in our day, when there is this dominant mood of "synodality". The Acts of the Apostles is the story of what the Spirit does in the Church; and we must learn to recognise the breath of that Spirit wherever it blows. It is a powerful story; we watch the Gospel spreading, but it does not do this by violence or force. It achieves God's aims by the gentle power of love. The Acts of the Apostles has a great deal to teach us today, and we do well to read it carefully.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.**

FIRST READING Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

PSALM Psalm 65

RESPONSE Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

Or **Alleluia!**

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: "How tremendous your deeds!"
R.
2. "Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!"
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. **R.**
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. **R.**

4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:15-18

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
**Jesus said: "If anyone loves me he will
keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall
come to him."**
Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 14:15-21

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**If you love me, keep my commandments,
says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send
you another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Acts 1:12-14
1 Peter 4:13-16
John 17:1-11



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SUNDAY BULLETIN

THINKING FAITH

THE CHURCH EXPANDS IN UNEXPECTED WAYS

Last week, we were reading about the appointment of seven males to look after the Greek-speaking widows; since then, one of them, Stephen, has been stoned to death for his gifted preaching. Now we are reintroduced to Philip, the only other one of the "table-waiters" whom we ever hear of again. You will not be surprised to learn that he is, likewise, not waiting at table; instead, as a direct result of the persecution that followed the death of Stephen, "he went through, proclaiming the word"

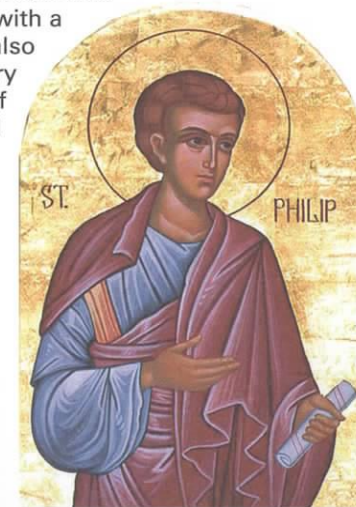
And where does Philip go? Why, he goes to Samaria – now Samaria was for orthodox Jews completely off-limits; the people up there were religiously suspect, and they did not recognise the Temple of David, which for Jews in Jerusalem was absolutely central. (Indeed, down to this day, no Samaritan child is ever given the name of David!) But Jesus had no problem with them; you may remember his long conversation with a Samaritan woman by a well in the desert. Luke also approves of Samaritans; it is he who tells the story of the "Good Samaritan", for example, and that of the healed leper who returned to give thanks, and who also turned out to be a Samaritan.

Philip has gifts for preaching, evidently; and "the crowds paid unanimous attention to what was said by him, when they heard and saw the signs he was performing", and his gifts for healing the "possessed", the "paralysed and the lame". Luke tells us that there was "much joy in that city"; for this evangelist "joy" is always a sign of the presence of the Spirit. But it is a bit more complicated than that, for the apostles in Jerusalem hear this rather surprising news, "that Samaria had welcomed the word of God". So they send two very senior apostles, namely Peter and John (and you can't get much more senior than that!), to Samaria to investigate this extraordinary report. Any problem is speedily resolved, however, for this Commission of Inquiry comes to pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. This had not happened yet – as yet, "The Spirit had not yet fallen upon any of them" – but they had only been "baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus". Don't worry if you can't tell the difference between being "baptised in the name of the Lord" and "receiving the Holy Spirit". Luke doesn't trouble to explain the difference to us, and

The Acts of the Apostles



Fr Nicholas King SJ looks at how the Church first began to spread throughout the world.



14 MAY 2023

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II