

Today is Ascension Day... not a Thursday, but still the feast of the Ascension. It is World Communications Day – a reminder that like the Apostles we are called to offer the 'good news' (the Gospel) to the whole world: "Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation". Jesus asks us to do what the Apostles did. "Preaching".... puts us off... yes? I found the article over interesting... it "humanises" preaching.

The Church's Media Office attempts to do this work of proclaiming the Gospel... their work is not only about defending bad news, it is also about telling the good news – and with Pope Francis there is plenty of that! The collection after Mass is to support the work done by the Church's Media Office.

Sunday 8th May

9.30am Joe Robinson (A)
11.00am Jim Dunne (A)
6.30pm Katie Walsh

Weekday Masses

Mon. 8.30am Special Intention
Tues. 8.30am Valerie Bretherton
Wed. 8.30am Jim Dunne
Thurs. 8.30am A Birthday
Fri. 8.30am David Lynch (LD)
Sat. 8.30am Tom and Mildred Wilcock

Sunday 15th May

9.30am Mary Fish
11.00am Gerald Thompson (Birthday)
6.30pm Dr. Graham (LD)

Please pray for our sick brothers and sisters

Jayne Hodge · Kathleen Reynolds · Bridget Cain · Hazel Lee · Mary Patten · Agnes Martindale · Robert Stretton · Hilda Haworth · Mildred Bridge · Margaret Wood · Harold Sutton · Josie Down · Mary Campbell · Margaret Bower · Thomas Moss · Winifred Marshall · Gerard Baker · Hugh Daly · Margaret Dearden · Maureen Jackson · Dorothy McDonald (Howarth) · Howard Line · Maureen McIver · Bill Burns · Tony Hardiman

Offertory

Thank you for last week's collection of £1093.

First Holy Communion

On Saturday the children will receive their first Communion together here with Mass at 11.00am. We welcome them and their families to the Table of the Lord.

Our thanks to those who have prepared the children for this Sacrament – the Parents, the School, and our Parish Team – in particular many thanks to Lydia who has organised the whole celebration.

The children will join us at the Parish Mass (11.00am) the next day so that we can celebrate the occasion with them. There will be a party in the garden after Mass to which we have also invited the families of all the children who have been baptised in the last twelve months. All are invited – if it's too hot (sic!) there will be coffee in the house for the older parishioners.

Some children will be making their first Communion elsewhere, but can I invite you too to join us for this Mass and the party next Sunday – all dressed up in your communion outfits. If you can let me have a name and the number of you coming after Mass today please it will help. Will children please assemble in the house and we will come into church together.

Quiz Night

The Lourdes team are having a Quiz Night at St. Mary's Parish Centre on 12th May – 7.00pm for 7.30 start – to raise funds for the Lourdes pilgrimage. Teams of up to six people – tickets £3 (available after Mass)

Drains

Repairs to the drains – church and house – are in hand. The toilet in the church will be unavailable for the next two Sundays. If necessary, please come through to the house where there is a bathroom on the ground floor.

Examinations

Many of our young parishioners are faced with examinations at this time – including our primary children who have to complete the SATS (Standardised Assessment Tests). I could not do all the questions I've seen on some of the papers! It can be a difficult time for them all so perhaps we might keep them in our prayers.

Elections

So, it's all over... where will they take us in the next five years... the Lord alone knows. We pray that all elected will work for the 'common good' – and that means simply: *Everyone* .

Pentecost

Next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. The end of the Easter Season... fifty days since the Resurrection. It used to be called "Whit Sunday" when the newly baptised at Easter assembled together at Mass, wearing their white baptismal garments.

200 Club

The winners from the April draw are: 3rd prize (£20 No. 189 S. Donnelly 2nd (£30 No. 111 R. Wroblewski) 1st (£50 No. 19 J. Carvell)

Ministering to the Assembly

Counters (9th May) Marie Dewland and Mary Hargreaves

Rotas (15th May The Feast of Pentecost))

S.A.S. Margaret Scard

Dial a Ride Phil Southworth and Bernard Hargreaves

Readers Margaret Scard Linda Walmsley Alex Duxbury

Ministers Richard Jackson Nick Mather Terry Turner

Christine Crossen Linda Walmsley