

Reflection *The Life we have now is hidden in Christ*

This is the seventh Sunday of Easter: the final “of.” It is time to turn back to the one who is “chosen and precious,” except, as you’ll see, he turns it back to us. Even when talking about himself, his own glory, he turns back to us. It’s amazing, really. In this moment, you’d think he would be focused on himself. But even in the final moments on this earth, we’re the objects of his attention and his prayer. He had recognised that this departure would leave his disciples in need of comfort and strength. Having “protected” them while on earth, he commended them to the Father: “I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.”

Christians are called to hold action and contemplation in a creative tension: neither turning our backs on the world, nor reducing the mission of the Church to a programme of social improvement. In the light of the ascension, our action in the world is not simply inspired by anger at its injustices, or a sense of obligation to our neighbour. Authentically Christian action is infused with what Pope Francis has called, in his most recent Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate* a “luminous mysticism”. Such action is inspired by the knowledge that our life is hidden with the ascended Christ in God. Our concrete acts of love both bear witness to that truth and anticipate the day when Christ shall be all in all.

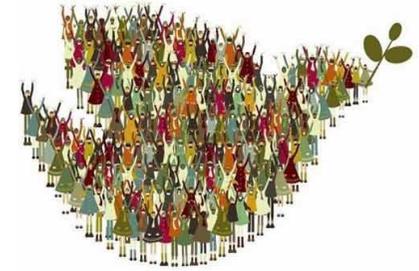
The example of Mary and the disciples points us to the true source of comfort and strength: the Spirit of our risen and ascended Lord. Their prayer echoes another of Jesus’s petitions in this Sunday’s Gospel: “Sanctify them in the truth.”

In these days between the Ascension and Pentecost, our prayer is united with that of Jesus, Mary, and the disciples as we ask for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit. We give thanks that the Father has exalted his Son “with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven”, and then ask “leave us not comfortless” but “send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us” — as we wait in prayer, and in expectation of God’s action in the world.

**MASS LIVE ON
FACEBOOK
(PAUL ROY LOMAS)**

**IF ANYONE IS STRUGGLING TO FIND THE LIVE
FACEBOOK PAGE. THEN LET ME KNOW BY A
PHONE CALL AND I’LL PASS YOU ON TO JO, A
PARISHIONER, WHO CAN HELP YOU GET IT.**

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER SATURDAY 23rd MAY Vigil Mass 4.00 pm SUNDAY 24th May Mass 9.30 am



Saturday 23rd	Vigil Mass 4 pm	<i>Parishioners</i>
6th SUNDAY of EASTER 24th	Mass 9.30 am	<i>Joanna Brazon RIP</i>
Monday 25th S Bede the Venerable	NO MASS	
Tuesday 26th S Philip Neri	Mass 10 am	St. Benedict’s school, staff & pupils
Wednesday 27th S Augustine of Canterbury	Mass 10 am	St. Thomas More Academy staff & pupils
Thursday 28th <i>Easter Feria</i>	<i>Mass 10 am</i>	<i>Sean Loma</i>
Friday 29th <i>Easter Feria</i>	<i>Mass 10 am</i>	<i>An end to the Pandemic</i>
Saturday 30th PENTECOST	Vigil Mass 4 pm	<i>for the children of the parish</i>



**Next Week : Saturday 30th
May 2020 Vigil CHILDREN’S
MASS 4 pm
PENTECOST 31st May 2020
Mass at 9.30am**

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Saint Bede, Venerable Bede, and Bede the Venerable

Latin: Bēda Venerābilis), was an English Benedictine monk at the monastery of St. Peter and its companion monastery of St. Paul in the Kingdom of Northumbria of the Angles (contemporarily Monkwearmouth–

Jarrow Abbey in Tyne and Wear, England). Born on lands belonging to the twin monastery of Monkwearmouth-Jarrow in present-day Tyne and Wear, Bede was sent to Monkwearmouth at the age of seven and later joined Abbot Ceolfrith at Jarrow, both of whom survived a plague that struck in 686, an outbreak that killed a majority of the population there. While he spent most of his life in the monastery, Bede travelled to several abbeys and monasteries across the British Isles, even visiting the archbishop of York and King Ceolwulf of Northumbria. His most famous work, Ecclesiastical History of the English People, gained him the title "The Father of English History". His ecumenical writings were extensive. Another important area of study for Bede was the academic discipline of computus, otherwise known to his contemporaries as the science of calculating calendar dates. One of the more important dates Bede tried to compute was Easter, an effort that was mired in controversy. He also helped establish the practice of dating forward from the birth of Christ (Anno Domini – in the year of our Lord), a practice which eventually became commonplace in medieval Europe. Bede was one of the greatest teachers and writers of the Early Middle Ages and is considered by many historians to be the most important scholar of antiquity for the period between the death of Pope Gregory I in 604 and the coronation of Charlemagne in 800.

Augustine of Canterbury beginning of 6th century – died probably 26 May 604 .He was a Benedictine monk who became the first Archbishop of Canterbury in the year 597. He is considered the "Apostle to the English" and a founder of the English Church . Augustine was the prior of a monastery in Rome when Pope Gregory the Great chose him in 595 to lead a mission, usually known as the Gregorian mission, to Britain to Christianize King Æthelberht and his Kingdom of Kent from Anglo-Saxon paganism. Before reaching Kent, the missionaries had considered turning back, but Gregory urged them on, and in 597, Augustine landed on the Isle of Thanet and proceeded to main town of Canterbury. The King converted to Christianity and allowed the missionaries to preach freely, giving them land to found a monastery outside the city walls. Augustine was consecrated as a bishop and converted many of the king's subjects, including thousands during a mass baptism on Christmas Day in 597. Roman bishops were established at London, and Rochester in 604, and a school was founded to train Anglo-Saxon priests and missionaries. The archbishop probably died in 604 and was soon revered as a saint.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family

We now have in the porch printed Mass request Envelopes on which you can write the details of your mass request and place your mass offering insider.

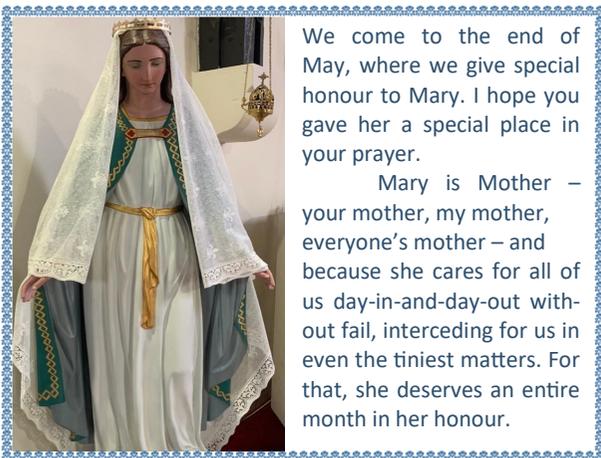
Your weekly offering for the Upkeep of St. Benedict's.

Those of you who make a weekly cash offering are not able to do so now. Can I suggest you either download a Standing Order form from the Diocesan Website. If not, then put your money in the weekly envelopes and bring them to Mass when we can all meet again. Can I suggest that you hold on to the Easter Offering for Fr. Paul until we are back together again. Thank you.

The Saturday Vigil Mass next week at 4 pm is going to be a Children's Mass for PENTECOST. A Mass for the children to enjoy knowing that Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to each one of us: in our Baptism, when we are confirmed, when we receive Holy Communion, and the other Sacraments. Why not encourage your children to watch and take part next Saturday night?



Augustine
Of
Canterbury.



We come to the end of May, where we give special honour to Mary. I hope you gave her a special place in your prayer.

Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone's mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. For that, she deserves an entire month in her honour.

VIRTUAL LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

You are invited to an online Lourdes pilgrimage, starting Sunday 24 May with Archbishop Bernard's Mass at 3 pm live streamed from St. Chad's Cathedral. The week features daily Mass, liturgy & Rosary 'processions'. See full programme on

www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Lourdes-pilgrimage