

THEME Today we look forward to the coming of God's Spirit of Truth. It is that same Holy Spirit who encourages us and keeps us faithfully 'living a good life in Christ', bringing us forgiveness and new life.

PENITENTIAL RITE

- Forgive us, Lord, when we fear to be changed if we open our hearts to you. **Lord have mercy**
- Forgive us, Lord, for being so blind to the Holy Spirit working in us. **Christ have mercy.**
- Forgive us, Lord, when we think your love asks too much of us. **Lord have mercy.**

GLORIA

OPENING PRAYER - *Let us pray that we may practise in our lives the faith we profess. Ever-living God, help us to celebrate our joy in the resurrection of the Lord and to express in our lives the love we celebrate.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading – Acts 8 v. 5-8; 14-17 *Philip proclaims the Gospel to the Samaritans and they receive the message with joy. Their faith is then confirmed as Peter and John invoke the Spirit.*

'Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.'

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 65 ® **Cry out with joy to God all the earth.**

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! ®

'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. ®

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. ®

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. ® **Cry out with joy to God all the earth.**

Second Reading 1 Peter 3 v. 15-18. *The example of Jesus' suffering is given to the early Christian community as encouragement in the midst of persecution. They should be able to answer anyone who asks about the hope that is in them.*

'Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.'

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 v. 15-21 *Jesus promises his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so they will not be left abandoned but will be able to live by the Spirit of Truth.*

'Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

Fr Philip's ADDRESS WILL BE AT THE END, on a separate recording.

CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: It is through the gift of the Holy Spirit that we gather as a community of love to celebrate this Mass. This gift brings us to share in the very life of God. Let this be a source of joy for us

Reader: On this Rogation Sunday, let us pray for all farmers, farm workers, fishermen and all who work to provide food from land and sea. May they feel joy in sharing in God's creation.

Let us pray for the work of all agencies that promote the growth of food and its distribution throughout the world. We pray for all who are researching new and better ways to harvest the earth so the hungry may be fed – especially Christian Aid.

Let us pray for all who have been Confirmed and for Graham, Paula and Shane who look forward to receiving this sacrament, that we may all be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit and that the Church may continue to be a sign of love for all people as the Holy Spirit breathes new life into us.

We pray for doctors, nurses, healthcare workers and all key workers that the Lord may protect them from harm.

Let us pray to the Lord for all who suffer from disease of body, mind or spirit; that God will sustain them in pain and bring wholeness and peace – especially all suffering in the current pandemic and for Peter Wyatt, Billy Carter, Michael Denny, Janice Ross, Jessica Mercer, Nichola Berry, Joan Hill, Elizabeth Routledge and Ken Davis.

Let us pray for all who have died, that the Lord will bring them to the peace of his kingdom, especially for Bob Sanders, Bunny Palmer, Phyllis Wenden, Charles Gray, George Huggins, Harry Hayward, Janet Knock, Edith Clements, Thomas Roberts, Arthur Euston, Jean Pipe, Gladys Prior, Kim Staff, Leslie Howlett, Bertha Kent and Norman Howard-Rees, whose anniversaries of death occur this week.

Mary welcomed God's word. We pray it may take a deeper root in the hearts of Christians and that we may put into practice the saving word that we hear, as we say - **Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

SILENCE

All: **Heavenly Father, your love for us is beyond our understanding. Help us to love everyone as you love them so that your word may be proclaimed throughout the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

ACT OF SPIRITUAL HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Lord, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from you.

EASTER ANGELUS (Regina Coeli).

Joy to thee O Queen of Heaven. Alleluia!

He whom thou wast meet to bear. Alleluia!

As he promised hath arisen. Alleluia!

Pour for us to God thy prayer. Alleluia!

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia!

R. for the Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia! ✝

Fr Philip Writes:

On Thursday we will celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord, so on that day we will video the Mass and send a link to you.

If you have not given to Christian Aid week, you may do so on the special page set up for Mendlesham by Val Arnold: www.justgiving.com/camendlesham2020

Prayer for this week

Mary, teach me, too, to say, 'Yes,'

I am the handmaid of the Lord;

Let all He wills be done in me.

May His Spirit overshadow me.

His love be fruitful in me.

His joy abound in my heart.

Let there be no 'Yes, but....'

Which is really a cover for 'No'.

Let it be all 'Yes,' plain and simple.

A 'Yes' spoken in trust to the One who is eternally faithful. Amen.

Mass Readings this week

(Divine Office – Psalter Week 2)

MONDAY: Acts 16 v 11-15; John 15 v16 –15 v 4 Intention: Queen & Government

TUESDAY: Acts 16 v 22-34. John 16 v 5-11. Int: Undertakers and morticians

WED: Acts 17 v.15, 22-18 v.1. Int: The Guild of All Souls

THUR: ASCENSION OF OUR LORD Acts 1 v 1-11; Eph.1v 17-23; Matt 28 v 16-20

Intention: the parish and congregation

FRI: Acts 18 v 9-18; John 16 v 20-23. Intention: Walsingham

SAT. Acts 18 v 23-28. Int: The Society of Mary.

Next Sunday: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 1 v 12-14; 1 Peter 4 v 13-16; John 17 v 1-11.

Although there is no Mendlesham newsletter this month, 'Fr Philip Writes' for May is available as usual on the church website at:

<https://www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk/father-philip-writesthis-month.html>

I cannot give a date when the church can be open again, as we will have to do what the Government directs, but the diocesan bishop has written to outline the separate stages of opening up churches when this is allowed: 1) for weddings and small funerals, 2) private prayer and 3) some form of worship, but all the while retaining strict social distancing and hygiene protocol and without singing or wind instruments being allowed.

In the meantime, please continue to pray for one another, as I do for you – and continue to contact me about any requests for prayer or pastoral need. Tel: 01449 766359