



**CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH BOSCOMBE : OUTREACH 9**

**MAY 17<sup>th</sup> 2020**



**This week we are celebrating two important events: The Ascension of Our Lord and the Feast of St Raphaela Mary.**

**BUT FIRST A MESSAGE FROM FR HUGH:**

One person who has a special place in Catholic life and culture is Mary, the mother of Jesus. There are many feasts in her honour: in March, the Annunciation, in August, the Assumption, in September, her Birthday, in December, her Immaculate Conception, to name only the major ones. In addition, there is a whole month of special devotion to her and we are in the middle of that now.

Maybe at home in this month you could think a little about Mary and ask yourself what her place in your life is. This tends to vary from person to person. I remember somebody once complaining to me that some Catholics seemed to forget that Mary actually had a Son, so, no, there is no need to take things to extremes. But a proper, balanced approach to Mary is one that can be very fruitful for our growth in being followers of Christ.

It might strike us as odd that, compared to the whole expanse of human history, Jesus came into the world only fairly recently. Two thousand years is not very long ago. "Behold in time how late he comes", says one of the Christmas carols. There could be several reasons for this, but could one reason not be that God was waiting for exactly the right woman to bring Jesus into our world? In other words individual human beings, with all their talents and characteristics, are important, and each has a unique role to play in God's plan. In this lovely month of May why not ask Mary to help you understand more deeply what your role is, and, in imitation of Mary's "yes" at the Annunciation, to respond to it generously. Hugh Duffy SJ.



**LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK IN THE PARISH:** Sally Lees, Carmel Rippington, Joyce Smith, Angela Hagley, Mary Atfield, and Josephine Bua.

**THOSE RECENTLY DEAD:** Jim Wilson.

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Regina Brady and Maureen Scudamore

**ALSO FOR ALL OUR LOCAL GPs, HEALTH VISITORS AND HEALTH STAFF** 📞



**MONDAY: St Raphaela Mary**

May 18<sup>th</sup> is the Feast day of St Raphaela Mary, the Foundress of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus- the Sisters in our Parish. Born in Spain in 1850, Raphaela died in

Rome in 1925, where she was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1977. On that occasion, the Pope summed up beautifully who St Raphaela was: “Because she contemplated the world, with the gaze of her pure heart, and always found God; because she faithfully adored his Presence in the Eucharist and in all things, and especially in persons, seeing the divine image, now, the world sees in her the precious image of the Heart of God.”.

Because she was held in low esteem in spite of her good judgement, and was able to forgive from her heart, loving everyone unconditionally – including those who misunderstood her – today Raphaela Mary is honoured in the Kingdom of Heaven and loved by people on earth.

Because of the radiance of her smile and the constancy of her self-surrender, she was able to open paths and expand horizons... , because she always trusted, because she believed blindly in love – a love which is stronger than death – Raphaela is today raised up as a sign of hope”.



**Viva Santa Rafaela. VIVA!!!**

#### **THURSDAY: THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

Of all the episodes in the life of Christ, the Ascension is among the most difficult to make sense of today. All four Gospels recount that at a certain point after the resurrection, the risen Christ ceased to appear to his followers in the flesh. Only Luke recounts how this final departure happened. “Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into Heaven. They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem full of joy”.

The feast of the Ascension commemorates the risen Jesus’ departure from earth and his exaltation in heaven. But according to St. John, the departing Jesus reassured them and us that “it is better for you that I go.” Why would Jesus say that?

- The Ascension was not the end of Jesus’ mission but the beginning of the church’s mission. Jesus’ Ascension takes place only “after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles.” In his farewell, Jesus leaves them his truth and his power to continue his mission. So now, they have all they need.
- In Christ, we believe that God has entered human history in his Incarnation. Then, in his Ascension, Christ has carried our humanity into God, he has taken the “human” into heaven, lifted the mortal into immortality. So the good news, the wonderful news, is that, for the first time, something truly human, something forged in our history, was taken up into God. So the great joy of this day is that all that is human is destined for life in God. **This means that we matter: we all matter.**
- Christ did not leave us in his Ascension; he became present to us in a new way. Pope Francis tells us: “*The Ascension does not point to Jesus’ absence but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is no longer in a specific place in the world, as he was before the Ascension. He is now at the right hand of the Father, present in every space and time, close to each one of us*”. The Ascension was not a departure but a way to intensify his presence everywhere in the universe; a promise and the certainty of a continuous presence to the limits of time and space: “*I will be with you always until the end of the age*”. **AMEN. ALLELUIA**



**COUNTDOWN TO PENTECOST: 14 DAYS TO GO.**

### **PENTECOST PREPARATION 3: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE EUCHARIST**

When Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven he left two gifts for his church to continue his mission: the Holy Spirit and the Eucharist. Pope John Paul II wrote: “At the centre of the Church is the Eucharist, where Christ is present and active in humanity and in the whole world by means of the Holy Spirit”. Indeed the **Eucharistic** liturgy is saturated with the presence of **the Holy Spirit**, whose power and action in the Eucharist are indispensable.

The Holy Spirit is present in the Mass in many ways. We begin Mass “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”, asking that the “communion of the Holy Spirit” be with us. In the Gloria and the Creed we acknowledge and confess our belief in the Spirit, “the Lord and giver of life” and the Spirit’s action in the Incarnation of Christ.

After the Offertory, we call on the Spirit to effect the consecration of the bread and the wine: “Make holy therefore these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dew fall so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ”. The Bible tells us that it was with the sparkling, life giving dewfall that God gave the people of Israel manna in the desert. Now God with this new dewfall, will give us the Bread of Life. Just as the Spirit “overshadowed” Mary and “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”, the same Spirit, through the words and gestures of the priest, transforms the bread and wine into the real presence of Jesus Christ, who comes to meet us; to dwell among us. It is the action of the Holy Spirit that makes possible the miracle of Christ’s real and dynamic presence in the Eucharist. It is the Spirit makes Christ present as only the Eucharist can.

After the consecration we invoke the action of the Holy Spirit again, this time to overshadow and transform us, the assembled parishioners, into the body of Christ: “Grant that we who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ”. We pray to be united, gathered together to be the body of Christ in the world. The Spirit transforms everything into Christ, be it bread and wine, or us. And so, with this mission, we go forth from the Mass, blessed by the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

**DON'T USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT UNLESS YOU HAVE TO!!**



