

The Catholic Parish & Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead

Parish Priest & Custodian: Fr. David Goddard, The Priest's House, Park Lane, West Grinstead, RH13 8LT
Telephone: 01403-710273 E-mail: revdavidgoddard@btconnect.com

The Ascension of the Lord : 28th May 2017

CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY (28 th May)	The Ascension of the Lord 6.00pm Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 10.30am Parish Mass Patricia Adams R.I.P.
MONDAY (29th)	Monday of the Seventh Week of Easter 9.30am Holy Mass Dr. Ted Brooks – R.I.P.
TUESDAY (30th)	Tues. of the Seventh Week of Easter NO MASS
WED'DAY (31st)	Feast: The Visitation of the B.V. Mary 11.30am Exposition & Adoration 12 noon Holy Mass (UCM Pilgrimage)
THURSDAY (1 st June)	Mem: St. Justin, Martyr NO MASS
FRIDAY (2nd)	Friday of the Seventh Week of Easter 9.30am Holy Mass The Faithful Departed
SATURDAY (3rd)	Saturday of the Sixth Week of Easter NO MASS
NEXT SUNDAY (4 th June)	Pentecost Sunday 6.00pm Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 10.30am Parish Mass Samantha Devaney 3.00pm Missa Cantata

✦ **The Sacrament of Confession** is available before the 6.00pm Vigil Mass every Saturday; at 11.30am on Wednesdays; or by arrangement.

✦ **Wednesday of this week (31st) is the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Mass will be at 12 noon (as usual). This is also the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage for the Union of Catholic Mothers and the Knights of St. Columba.

(Please: help is still needed for Refreshments.)

✦ On Wednesday 7th June the **Diocesan Grandparents' Association will be here on Pilgrimage.** ✦Richard will celebrate Mass. All are welcome (Grandparents or not) and help with Refreshments would also be appreciated – please see the clipboard on the table in the Church Room.

✦ **Next Sunday (4th June)** there are two events of note. **Samantha Devaney** – Jon Taylor's fiancée – is to be **Baptised and Received into the Church at the 10.30am Mass.** Then at **3.00pm there is to be a sung Mass (Missa Cantata) in the Extraordinary Form.** The Celebrant and Preacher will be Fr. James Hurley. All are most welcome.

✦ **The Parish Study Group:** meets as usual on **Wednesday (31st) at 7.30pm.** Geoff Callister will be speaking about the **New Evangelisation movement,** founded by Pope Benedict XVI.

✦ It is worth remembering that this Newsheet is available each week from the front page of **The Parish and Shrine Website** Our domain address is www.consolation.org.uk

✦ **A B News for June** is awaiting your collection in the Church Room.

The Ascension of the Lord

I recall two things from my childhood about the great Solemnity of Our Lord's Ascension. Firstly, even the BBC recognised the importance of Ascension Day. It was one of the few feasts on which the day's eight a.m. News on the radio (or should I say 'wireless') was preceded by a hymn. Secondly, I remember that after early morning Mass, we were given the remainder of the day off from school – a feast-day indeed!

Now, sadly, things have changed (and not for the better, in my opinion). A few years back, our Bishops of England and Wales, in their wisdom, changed the Ascension from the 40th Day after Easter (see the beginning of chapter 1 of the Acts of the Apostles) to the seventh Sunday of the Easter season. The BBC now appears to be firmly in the hands of bigoted heathens and hymns have gone from their schedules. School children no longer have the day off from school – even if they have dutifully attended Holy Mass.

As long ago as the 5th century the Feast was summed up in a hymn that has survived to this day. One of its verses says:

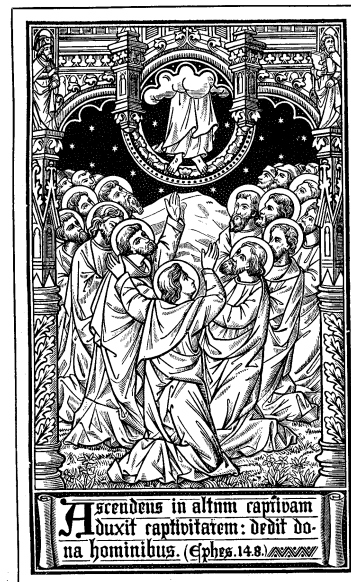
*The angels stand amazed to see
So changed is our mortality,
That human flesh, the root of sin,
Should serve their God to triumph in.*

The Ascension of the Lord is about **triumph**. It celebrates the final act of Christ on earth as he returns to the Father, in order that He can send His Holy Spirit upon the world.

Ascension is about **hope**. Jesus has not abandoned us but has gone before us. Where he has gone, we hope to follow.

Ascension is about **joy**. As Christ goes to claim a share for us in his divine life, our only response can be that of praise and thanksgiving.

*He has raised our human nature
on the clouds to God's right hand;
there we sit in heavenly places,
there with him in glory stand:
Jesus reigns adored by angels;
Man with God is on the throne;
mighty Lord, in thine Ascension
we by faith behold our own.*



Please remember the sick and housebound in your prayers at this time; and amongst them:

Fr. Ray Blake, Patrick Brennan, John Challis, Catherine Clayton, Bridget Coghlan, Tito Coletta, Moya Connolly, Jim Corcoran, Kath Davies, Philip Dean, Jo Dexter, Justine, Maggie Dougall, Suzanne Enbeigene, Norma Facer, Jeffrey Facon, Shane Fahy, Mark Forster, Vaughan Frederick, Lillian Fry, Sylvia Graham, Michael Handley, Joshua Hayter, Mike Kelly, Patricia Mallet, Paschal Radford, David Rees, Giles Rubens, Joe Ryan, Florence Thompson, Charlotte Walker and Stella Walls.