A close up of a logo

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**Newsletter for the week commencing9th/10th May 2020**

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)**

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7**

**Psalm 32 Response:**  May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 2: 4-9**

**Gospel: John 14: 1-12**

**Father John writes:**

The media have turned their attention to those who are most at risk of death because of the Coronavirus. Research indicates that this risk causes anxiety to start seriously among the over 55s and increases rapidly with age. Many of those saying goodbye to middle age would put on a brave face and not admit even to themselves that they are in the least worried. But if we are honest, not many of us older citizens (now known as the ‘vulnerable’) are completely free of anxiety.

In our Sunday Gospel today (John 14:1-12) Jesus addresses his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me.” Easier said than done? Most of us would have perfectly good reasons for wanting to live longer – mainly to do with those we love intimately and feel we belong to.

As Christians in our prayers we trust God deeply. But it is only natural that as we age and our faculties are dimmed or lost, our trust in God can get temporarily swamped by our feelings of resentment and loss. That is why it is so important that we return again and again to those words that Jesus speaks to us, his followers, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me.” Our feelings are beyond our control. But we can shut the door to instinctive fears which are troubling us by replacing them by our deep trust in the Lord.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled” …

VOCATIONS SUNDAY

God our Father, you made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.

We ask that you inspire your people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow your will.

Send workers into your great harvest, so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and your people are strengthened by your gifts.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:**

**Those ill or infirm:** Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Joe Venables and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time**: Alfred Kettle, Richard Brennan, Jim Newman, John Smith, Sarah Norris, Eleanore Lynes, Jane Goodman, Sophie Larson, Adrian Wyles and Doris Woodman.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** Art and Christianity no longer resonate as an inherent, magnificent pairing. Actually it is a feeling that goes both ways: most Christians no longer see art as being important or even as a relevant way of promoting the faith; and non-believers don’t value Christianity as having been at the forefront of the arts throughout the centuries, responsible for creating some of the most magnificent artworks out there. The ‘Christian Art’ website is the brainchild of a former director of Sotheby’s, London, Patrick van der Vorst.  His offering is simple: ‘one newsletter a day where we simply send you the Gospel reading of the day, alongside a work of art that we believe is poignant, reflective and appropriate to that reading. We offer a short reflection on the artwork and the reading. We simply give you the tools for you to meditate on the daily Gospel alongside a work of art.’ Visit this  inspiring website at: [www.newpilgrimpath.ie](about:blank)

As we are unable to physically attend Mass there are plenty of opportunities to attend virtually. If you have the technology go to Mass-online.org, ‘visit’ other churches and join in Holy Mass. You can even travel the world!

As time goes by and we remain in lockdown it is easy to forget things that were routine before! So, here is a reminder about the weekly collections and planned giving, details of which we put in the newsletter and on the website a few weeks ago. Here they are again as suggested by Fr John:

“I would recommend that every Sunday you put your donation in an envelope and keep it in a safe place until our Church is open for Sunday Mass again, using your Gift Aid envelope as usual. However, unfortunately it is exactly at this time that the new Gift Aid envelopes are distributed. So, I suggest that Gift Aiders put their name and their Gift Aid number on the envelope that you use for your donation each week. Then you can bring them all to Church with you the first time it is open again.”

The Easter Sunday contribution to the parish priest is your personal gift to Fr John.

There are also some second collections which were/are:

Holy Places (Good Friday) – 10th April

St George’s Cathedral – 26th April

Ecclesiastical Education – 3rd May

Communications – 24th May

We’ll let you know about others nearer the time. Go to our website for more information about this and lots more.