**The Parish of Christ Church**

**with St Mary Magdalen and St Peter and St Paul**

**St Leonards on Sea**



**The Sixth Sunday of Easter Liturgy for those at home 22nd May 2022**

*We are open daily from 8.30am for prayer, to light a candle or simply to visit this*

*beautiful House of God. The Daily Offices of Morning & Evening Prayer are usually said at 8.30am & 5.30pm Monday – Friday in the Sanctuary: open to all.*

**This Week at Christ Church: Monday to Wednesday**

**Monday 23rd May – Easter Weekday**

Mass Readings: Acts 16:11-15; Psalm 149; John 15.26 – 16.4 Mass Intention: Children in care

9.30am – 11.30am - Parish Book Room Open 10.30am - Said Mass *in the Lady Chapel*

6.00pm - Said Mass *in the Lady Chapel*

**Tuesday 24th May – Easter Weekday**

Mass Readings: Acts 16:22-34; Psalm 137(138); John 16:5-11 Mass Intention: Journalists and broadcasters

10.30am - Said Mass *in the Lady Chapel*

12noon - Funeral of Lesley Manser RIP

6.00pm - Said Mass *in the Lady Chapel*

**Wednesday 25th May – St Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor**

Mass Readings: Acts 17:15,22-18:1; Psalm 148; John 16:12-15 Mass Intention: Vocations to the ordained and religious life

9.30am – 11.30am - Parish Book Room Open 10.00am - Holy Rosary *in Lady Chapel*

10.30am - Said Mass *in the Lady Chapel*

6.00pm - Said Mass *in the Lady Chapel*

**This Week at Christ Church: Thursday to Sunday**

**Thursday 26th May – THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

Mass Readings: Acts 1.1-11; Psalm 46 (47); Hebrews 9:24-28,10:19-23; Luke 24.46-53 Mass Intention: Human rights organisations

10.30am - Said Mass *in the Lady Chapel*

7.00pm - Sung Mass

**Friday 27th May – St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop** Mass Readings: 1 Thessalonians 2:2-8; Psalm 116 (117); Luke 10.1-9 Mass Intention: The Archbishop of Canterbury

10.30am - Said Mass *in the Lady Chapel*

6.00pm - Said Mass *in the Lady Chapel*

**Saturday 28th May – Easter Weekday**

Mass Readings: Acts 18:23-28; Psalm 46 (47); John 16.23-28 Mass Intention: Forward in Faith

10.30am - Said Mass *in the Lady Chapel*

**Sunday 29th May – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Mass Readings: Acts 7.55-60; Psalm 96 (97); Revelation 22. 12 - 17,20, John 14.23-29 Mass Intention: The Parish

8.00am - Said Mass *in the Lady Chapel*

9.30am - Informal Mass

10.30am - Solemn Mass *followed by refreshments*

**Antiphon**

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth; The Lord has freed His people, alleluia.

**Hymn**

1. **I danced in the morning when the world was begun,**

**And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,**

**I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;**

**At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

***Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance said he, And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,***

***And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.***

1. **I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,**

**But they would not dance and they would not follow me.**

**I danced for the fishermen, for James and John -**

**They came with me and the dance went on.**

**The Greeting**

1. **I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;**

**The holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;**

**They left me there on a cross to die.**

1. **I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black -**

**It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.**

**They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;**

**But I'm the dance and I still go on.**

1. **They cut me down and I leapt up high;**

**I am the life that will never, never die;**

**I'll live in you if you'll live in me - I am the Lord of the Dance said he.**

Words Sydney Carter b 1915 Tune ‘Lord of the Dance’ American Shaker tune adapted by Sydney Carter

+ In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Alleluia! Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**The Penitential Rite**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have shown up the way to the Father Lord, have mercy **Lord, have mercy**

You reveal the consolation of the truth Christ, have mercy, **Christ, have mercy**

You are the Good Shepherd, leading us into everlasting life Lord, have mercy **Lord, have mercy**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

**The Gloria**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth,**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father; we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer*.***

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

**Collect**

Grant, almighty God,

that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,

and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Acts 15.1-2,22-29; Psalm 66 (67); Revelation 21.10-14,22-23; John 14.23-29*

*Please sit*

**First Reading** A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, ‘Unless you

have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be

saved.’ This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the brotherhood, and gave them this letter to take with them:

‘The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us; and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols; from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.’

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm from Psalm 66 (67)**

**/R: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you**

O God, be gracious and bless us

and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **/R**

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **/R**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing

till the ends of the earth revere him. **/R**

**Second Reading** A reading from the Book of Revelation

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Jesus said: ‘If anyone loves me they will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we shall come to them.’ **Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

A reading (**+)** from the Holy Gospel (**+)** according to John (**+) Glory to you, O Lord.**

**The Gospel**

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word,

and my Father will love him,

and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you;

but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you,

a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now before it happens,

so that when it does happen you may believe.’

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Homily –** *Father Rushforth*

You may have noticed that when a priest greets the assembled Church at the beginning of mass he says ‘The Lord be with you’. When a bishop greets the assembled Church at the beginning of mass he says ‘Peace be with you’. He does so, I presume, because that reflects what we used to call the Apostolic Succession, the relationship of catholic and apostolic bishops to their spiritual fathers and predecessors, the Twelve Apostles. And it was, of course, the Twelve that our Lord himself after his resurrection habitually greeted, in the Upper Room, by the sea of Galilee, on the Mount of Ascension, with the words ‘Peace be with you’ or

sometimes ‘I give you my peace’ or similar words.

Peace is a theme of Easter, a theme often returned to during the Easter season. The gospel reading for this Sunday brings it back to our minds – ‘Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, that is my gift to you.’

This peace does not refer to the opposite of the awful things going on in Ukraine (and many other parts of the world), because Christ’s peace was found (and given) in a country occupied by a foreign power, a power brutally enforced as our Lord’s own crucifixion testifies. His peace was forged in personal persecution, betrayal and physical suffering – not experiences that we would normally associate with peace.

But our Lord was aware of two important things, one was that he was being obedient to the Father’s will, and the other was that his motive throughout was love. He showed his love for the Father by obedience. He showed his love for his disciples (and for the generations of disciples who came after them) by living, teaching and dying for them. His loving obedience to the Father enabled the resurrection and in his love his resurrection enables our own hope of resurrection and eternal life. When everything is built on love, love which disregards the cost, then there flows from that a great peace of mind and soul, a peace so deep that

nothing can overcome it. We can see that in Christ’s own Passion

(especially in that account of it in the Fourth Gospel). To a lesser degree we see it in the lives of the saints. We have probably also experienced it in the lives and deaths of people known to us. A peace the world cannot give, because so much of the world and its activity is not based on love, and that love, of God for us and us for God, that is what gives that special peace.

When we see young lovers they sometimes seem so wrapped up in each other that they seem unaware of or uncaring about other people or events around them. When we love God so much that we are wrapped up in him we will, despite being aware of and caring about the people and events around us, be able to draw on and know that peace which the world cannot give and which comes from love. Then we will never in our hearts be troubled or afraid.

If we are to share in this peace, we need to remember that there are two responses from us which are needed. The first as already mentioned is love; but be sure that the little four letter word, used in so many ways is not undefined by our Lord. The love he speaks of is not sensual or sentimental, it is not airy-fairy or romantic, it is not self-gratifying. ‘If anyone loves me he will keep my words’; ‘those who do not love me do not keep my words’. For our Lord, love is shown in obedience, his for the Father, and ours for him.

The response our Lord looks for is accepting his words of teaching as being the truth, and obeying his words of command. We cannot expect wilful doubts or deliberate disobedience to foster that true love which brings with it the peace that passes all understanding that the world cannot give.

The other response which the Lord expects of us comes in the last line of today’s Gospel reading – belief. How can we expect to share in Christ’s peace if we do not believe in him, and who he is, and what he has done

and still does. Not that believing is always easy which is why the Lord

promises help, forewarning of what was to happen for the disciples, the work of the Holy Spirit for us. For our Lord not only wants us to believe ‘that’ but also to believe ‘in’. The questions at Christian Baptism are

sometimes framed in ‘Do you believe and trust in God’ Believing that deals with the intellectual exercising of the mind, believing that it is true that God created, that Christ was incarnate, that the Holy Spirit works powerfully in the world, that Christ is present in his Church, that Christ gives himself to us in his sacramental Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

Believing in goes to the next stage, beyond just accepting propositions with our minds and instead entering into a relationship of love and trust with the God whose reality we accept. You see, even the devil believes that God exists, but he does not love, trust or obey him. When our Lord expects our belief, it is not just belief that, it is also belief in, because if we believe in him, we will be trying to love and obey him. Lord we believe, help thou our unbelief. Teach us to love you, as you love us, so that we may here and hereafter enjoy your peace.

**The Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*all bow)* was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is**

**worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We**

**believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**Intercessions**

God loves to hear our prayers, so Heavenly Father guide us in what we ask for and help us to recognise your answers.

Father always give your Church leaders who preach the Good News of Jesus Christ, who lead your people with wisdom, and demonstrate your love by their way of living. We pray especially for all bishops. Grant you Church the gift of unity, Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Look on the nations of the world. Help them to promote policies of peace and of justice for all. We pray for Ukraine; for Russia and for all those countries that are involved in war or oppression of others. Help those who are rich in resources to share with those who are not. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Queen as she prepares for her Jubilee, for her Ministers, the Government and Houses of Parliament. Give them the wisdom and good will to manage our present difficulties to the greatest advantage of all; we pray especially for those who cannot afford food, housing or other necessities of life. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Father, be with those who are troubled or overburdened by life. We pray for all refugees especially those whose lives are endangered; for families that are split and divided for whatever reason; for those suffering poor mental health, bereavement or addiction to noxious substances or health- destroying habits. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Lord God, teach us to love you and our fellow people; to serve you

faithfully and to minister to their needs. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our**

**prayer.**

Heavenly Father we pray for all those commended to our prayers and we remember the sick and those who care for them especially those for whom our prayers have been requested, and those known to us. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We entrust those who have departed this life into your hands, those who have died recently, those whose anniversary falls during this week and our own departed relatives, friends and benefactors. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Let us ask Mary the Mother of the Lord, our Lady of Walsingham, to pray for us and for those for whom we pray. **Hail Mary...**

In a while of silence let us bring our personal prayers to God.

Almighty and glorious God, hear our prayers for a troubled world. May our faith in Christ’s resurrection lead others to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven Give us this day our daily bread**

**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil. Graciously grant us peace in our days, that by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will; who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Act of Spiritual Communion**

In union, dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

**Anima Christi** (translation by St John Henry Newman) Soul of Christ, be my sanctification

Body of Christ, be my salvation Blood of Christ, fill all my veins

Water from Christ’s side, wash out my stains

Passion of Christ, my comfort be O good Jesu, hear thou me

In thy wounds I fain would hide Ne’er to be parted from thy side Guard me when my foes assail me Call ne when my life shall fail me Bid me come to thee above

With thy saints to sing thy love World without end. Amen

**Prayer of St Richard of Chichester**

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have won for us, for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.

O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly,

day by day. Amen

**Hymn**

1. **Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?**

**The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.**

1. **Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?**

**To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.**

1. **Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?**

**Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.**

1. **Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?**

**Jesus we know, and he is on the throne.**

1. **It is enough: earth's struggles soon shall cease, and Jesus call to heaven's perfect peace**

**Prayer** (after St Augustine of Hippo)

Eternal God, the light of the minds that know you, the joy of the hearts that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you; grant us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

May almighty God bless us, keep us free from evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord, alleluia., **Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia**

**Hymn**

**Make me a channel of your peace**

**Where there is hatred let me bring your love Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord And where there's doubt, true faith in you**

***Oh, Master grant that I may never seek So much to be consoled as to console To be understood as to understand***

***To be loved as to love with all my soul***

**Make me a channel of your peace**

**Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope Where there is darkness, only light**

**And where there's sadness, ever joy**

***Oh, Master grant that I may never seek So much to be consoled as to console To be understood as to understand***

***To be loved as to love with all my soul***

**Make me a channel of your peace**

**It is in pardoning that we are pardoned In giving to all men that we receive**

**And in dying that we're born to eternal life**

**Regina Caeli:**

**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!**

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!

**For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!**

**News & Notices**

*Please submit all notices to* *christchurchstleonards@hotmail.co.uk* *or the parish office by Wednesday PM.*

**Lesley Manser RIP** Funeral Service Tuesday 24th May 12 noon in Church followed by 1.15pm at the Crematorium

**The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

On **Sunday 5th June** we are having a **Tea Party** to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. This will be held in the courtyard at **3.30 – 5.00 pm**. Tickets will be on sale at £6; a raffle will be held in aid of the organ restoration. We hope you will join in this celebration. Please see Fiona Evans or Celia Manning.

**‘Proms for All’ Jubilee Concert**

HPO are playing a Jubilee Concert next **Sunday 29th May at 6.00pm, at the White Rock Theatre.** The programme is displayed on the porch noticeboards, and includes a number of very popular tunes. Free community tickets are available – please complete a form in church, or speak to John Read on 01424 433048.

**Stewardship Campaign: Mind the Gap Part 2**

By now, everyone should have received their invitation to the **stewardship supper on Sunday 19th June 6 pm.** Our campaign will run from then until Sunday 24th July. At the supper the challenge about our finances will be presented. Our annual deficit is £27,000 but we believe that if everyone is able to respond we shall be able to close the gap. If

you’ve not received your invite, there are further copies at the back of church today.

**Parish Newsletter**

Please email christchurchmailing@gmail.com to join our mailing list and keep up to date with our upcoming services and events.

**For Your Prayers**

**From the congregation**

Kathleen Hughes, Wil Jewitt, David Dawkins, Mary Ralph, Christopher Goodman, Mick Hart, Una Wade, Jane Read

**For those in urgent need**

Pippa Parker, Sonia Russell, Keith Morrison, Zahraan Nazir, Avan Nazir, Anastasia Nazir, Andy Piper, Margot, Liz

**For those for whom our prayers are asked in the longer term**

Alex Farrant, Maureen Pocock, Monica Ellis, Howard Hill, Marley Nassey, Katie Robinson, Christine Lee, Colin Rushforth, Hugo Rudolf, James Bradley, Tim Chappel, Jeffrey Dawson, Cameron Matheson, Bruce McGillvray, Sharon Foster, Mark Lamprell, Ian Grafton, Roy Allingham, Ray Hart, Dave Darby, Beverly Chard, Barbara Childs, Brian Marlow, Arnold Kruger

**THE DEPARTED**

**Recently departed** Lesley Manser, Martin Stringer

**Anniversaries**

25th David Leeke *sometime director of music*

27th Stanley Milbank

28th Joan Clare, David Archer

# Parish Directory

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