

Cathedral Life Weekly | 6th Sunday of Easter, 17th May 2020

A Message from Canon Alison Kennedy: Ascension and Thy Kingdom Come

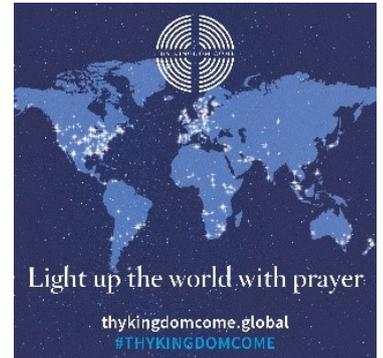
Ascension Day is celebrated on Thursday. Forty days after Easter Day, it marks the moment when Jesus “ascended” into heaven. In addition to our daily Morning and Evening Prayers, on Ascension Day there will be a Eucharist at 12 noon, celebrated by The Dean.

The season inspires us to focus our prayers in particular areas. The three days before Ascension Day are designated “Rogation Days”; when prayer is offered for God’s blessing on the fruits of the earth and on human labour. The nine days between Ascension Day and Pentecost are designated as days of prayer and preparation for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (in preparation for Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles).

“Thy Kingdom Come” is a global ecumenical prayer movement, which encourages us all to pray for that outpouring and to pray for others to come to know Jesus. There are many resources on their website thykingdomcome.global including a personal prayer journal and a free app for families.

Chelmsford Cathedral is joining with Churches Together in Essex and East London to broadcast daily reflections and prayers at midday from Ascension Day (May 21st) until Pentecost (May 31st) which will be available on our Facebook page and then on YouTube. There will be a very special video for Ascension Day available from 7.30am on Ascension morning. Look out for it on FaceBook!

Come, Holy Spirit, come.



'Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all'.

This week is **Christian Aid week**. Christian Aid works with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to. They aim to end poverty and injustice worldwide by focusing on key areas, involving working in partnership with local organisations, as well as with governments and the private sector.

This year we are unable to hold fundraising breakfasts, coffee mornings or give out envelopes to support their work. But they need us more than ever. If you would like to donate, please go to

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>



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News

Ascension Day: this coming Thursday (21 May) is Ascension Day. In addition to our normal times of prayer which are streamed daily at 7.54 am and 5.15 pm, there will be a celebration of the Eucharist at 12 noon. This will be live streamed on Facebook and available afterwards on both Facebook and YouTube. The order of service will be available on the Cathedral website for you to follow at home. From Ascension Day to Pentecost (21st – 31st May) there will be a short meditation led by a wide range of people at 12 noon each day.

Public Worship: there have been many questions about when churches and cathedrals will be open again for public worship, and the only response is to say that we do not know, but that it is unlikely to be in the near future. That is challenging for all of us, but also an essential part of our care for one another and for the wider community. It is the case now that a single designated priest or designated lay minister is permitted to go into a church to lead a service which can be live streamed. However, the work that has to be done to make this safe and secure – especially in a building like the Cathedral – means that we will only be approaching this step by step and very much guided by the information that is being regularly updated by the Church and the Government.

The **Greening the Church Conference** will now take place online. This will be initially hosted on Facebook- join the Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/727013254703425/> to take part live on Saturday 13th June, starting with live worship at 9.30am. However - resources and information will then be shared on our Website, YouTube Channel and on the Diocesan Website - we will be letting you know more details nearer the time.

Giving Generously: Although the Cathedral building is closed, our mission and ministry continues as we seek to care for and support each other and our community. We lost our income from the Chapter House and events in the Cathedral, but our expenditure has not substantially changed. Therefore, we are enormously grateful to everyone who is continuing to donate regularly through the bank. Now the **Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)** has made it easy for those who were accustomed to give through the collection plate or donation box to give by phone. Many in the congregation already use this helpful scheme which looks after all the administration and claims Gift Aid for us monthly at no cost to the Cathedral. To arrange a 'paperless' regular donation, ring PGS on 0333 0022 1271 (you will need your personal bank details and the Cathedral's PGS parish code which is **080608001**). The call will last about 15 minutes or you can register your interest in the PGS by completing a simple secure online form at <http://register.parishgiving.org.uk/> and they will ring you back. If you need any more information, please do get in touch with Caroline, treasurer@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk. We really need your continuing help and support to sustain the ministry of the Cathedral, thank you.

Being Resourced:

If you would like to receive the Dean's letter emailed to you once a week and you do not already receive it, please email clare.broome@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Growing in Faith resources in a weekly email. If you would like to receive it, please sign up via the 'Church at Home' page of the website or email imogen.nay@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Stations of the Resurrection: How do we encounter the Risen Lord in this time of darkness? Join with the Rev'd Canon Imogen and others as they lead us through personal encounters with the Risen Jesus, look at the website, or sign up to the Growing in Faith mailing, details above.

Social Time:

Book Group

This month we are reading **"Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens**. We will be meeting via Zoom to discuss the book on Monday June 1st at 7.30. All are welcome to join us – email sallydilley@tiscali.co.uk for more information.



Study with Us:

Study Notes on the Sunday Gospel: the Sixth Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 3.13-22
Ps 66.7-18
John 14.15-21

Speak out with a voice of joy ... the Lord has set his people free!

Today's Psalm is one of the most joyful expressions of hope and rescue in the Bible, an effervescent song of praise; a hymn rejoicing in the great things the Lord has done for his people. Even though we remain conscious of the real trauma that many continue to struggle with today, there is a sense of joy throughout this week's readings.

Even the sufferings meted out to the followers of Christ (*First Reading*) could not diminish their gratitude for the Lord. This was bound up in the hope of the Resurrection which gave them, as it today gives us, the reason to respect one another and to reverence the Lord.

We have a taste of this joy in the *Gospel* promise: the Spirit will be given to us, and the Lord will be in us and we in the Lord.

Even the sufferings meted out to the followers of Christ (*Second Reading*) could not diminish their gratitude for the Lord. This was bound up in the hope of the Resurrection which gave them, as it today gives us, the reason to respect one another and to reverence the Lord.

This week, let's pray that the trials we have faced over the past months, and the sufferings we continue to endure, will not hold back the life of the Spirit in us. In all things, may we speak with joy of the good things the Lord has done and continues to work in our lives.

Daily Gospel Readings for this week, to use in your daily prayer:

Monday: John 15.26 - 16.4

Tuesday: John 16. 5 - 11

Wednesday: John 16.12 - 15

Thursday: Luke 24.44 - 53

Friday: John 16. 20 - 23

Saturday: John 16.23 - 28

A Family challenge:

On the Junior Church page of the website, there are lots of new ideas to try each week. This week in praying the Lord's Prayer, make a praise sandwich – I'm sure you can come up with something even better than this one I made last week! And the best bit is you can eat it afterwards!



Pray with Us:

Please pray for the House of Retreat at Pleshey, for all those who work and minister there, for the Friends of Pleshey, and for those who visit or stay

Workplace Chaplaincy throughout the whole city

Pray for the Anglican Church of Korea, The Most Revd Moses Nagjun Yoo, Primate

For those who are unwell: Pray for those who are unwell: Jim, Brenda and Chris Cole, Jean Cooper, Teresa Hipgrave, Rita James, Winnie Towers, Jill Withams and all those in need of our prayers.

Pray for the family and friends of Norman Sharpe and Ernie Andrews who died last week.

Help Identify the next Bishop of Chelmsford

An invitation to everyone!

The appointment of a new Diocesan Bishop is a big moment and it is important that everyone can have their say. The consultation started on Monday (11 May) and finishes on 4 July. Inevitably because of the current situation, everybody is strongly encouraged to make their contribution to the consultation online.

So far a group called the "Vacancy in See" committee has been meeting to map out the process. This is now working particularly through two smaller groups, one of which is handling the consultation process and the other is responsible for writing the "Statement of Needs", which is produced in response to what people have said in the consultation.

The Statement of Needs contains a whole range of information about the diocese and the region as a whole. There are facts and figures; key areas of ministry for the new Bishop; and a real profile of the gifts and skills we are looking for in the next Bishop of Chelmsford.

A wide range of people and organisations are invited to contribute to the consultation and the Cathedral Chapter will be submitting a corporate response on behalf of the Cathedral. But everyone who wants to and feels they have something to say is warmly encouraged to have their say.

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You do this by visiting <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/> (the Diocesan Website). You will see that it says on the front page "Help identify the next Bishop of Chelmsford". Click on the button "Find out more" and that will take you to the whole range of information and resources.

From 11 May, that is where you will find the consultation and information about how to respond. A series of questions are there to help you think this through and respond – and what you say will have an important role in what finally gets included in the Statement of Needs.

And what happens after that? The process moves on to the national level. 6 representatives from the Diocese are elected by the Vacancy in See committee to join a national body called the Crown Nominations Commission. This is the body that will interview and select the new Bishop. Alongside our representatives from Chelmsford Diocese, the Commission is made up of both Archbishops, and a range of clergy and lay people elected from the national church along with the Archbishop's appointments secretary and the Prime Minister's appointments secretary.

The Commission should be meeting in the late autumn this year and that should mean we know who the new Bishop is to be early in 2021.

This is an important process and do make sure that your voice is heard.

PRAYING FOR THE 11th BISHOP OF CHELMFORD

Please pray for:

- The life of our great and diverse diocese, and for all the communities we seek to serve from Clacton-on-Sea to Canning Town; from Southend to Saffron Walden
- For a deepening of our love for God and of our service in God's world - For our church communities and all the places where God's people gather
- For God's provision and care for all those responsible for calling the 11th Bishop of Chelmsford
- For those God is preparing to respond to that call.

God of provision and care,
discernment and knowledge:
lead us in your love,
empower us by your Spirit,
and equip us with your gifts;
give us hearts full of love for all people,
minds open to the signs of the times,
and wisdom to know how to respond
to the voice of your calling.
We ask this through him who's coming is certain,
whose day draws near,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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