



Parish Newsletter

St Fillan's, King St, Newport-on-Tay

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Queen St,

Tayport



Parish Priest: Very Rev. Monsignor Patrick McInally

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6th Sunday of Easter 5th May 2024

Year: B (11) Psalm Week: 2 Liturgical colour: white

The Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

First reading: *Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-8.* **The pagans have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have.**

Responsorial Psalm: *97 (98).* **The Lord has shown His salvation to the nations.**

Second reading: *1 John 4: 7-10.* **Let us love one another, since love comes from God.**

Gospel: *John 15: 9-17.* **What I command you is to love one another.**

HOLY MASS TIMES

Our Lady Star of the Sea: Saturday Vigil 5pm
Eucharistic Service: Monday and Friday 10am

St Fillan's: Sunday Mass 10.15am
Eucharistic Service Wednesday and Thursday 10am

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord: Thursday 9th May
Vigil Mass - Our Lady's on Wednesday 7pm
Mass- St. Columba's at 10am and 7pm

Mgr Pat's Corner

All you need is Love

In the Gospel today Jesus calls on us to love one another as he has loved us. That is a tall order but, because Christ gave this to us as his only commandment, there are two things that we know for certain: 1. that it is possible to attain, even if very difficult, and 2. that it should be at the forefront of our life, all of the time.

We expend a great deal of energy on disliking people. We will use excuses to dislike people in the same way that Jesus used excuses to forgive and love people. Yet, just as Christ forgave us, the people who persecuted him, calling us friends, so we are asked by Jesus to call friends those whom we don't always like and may have different ideas from ours.

Much of the media - which is nowadays the shop frontage of life - tells us to seek blame. Most news stories, first and foremost, are an exercise in blame. Yet, this is not the Christian way. Christ tells us today: *"I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you, and your joy be complete"*.

This is our vocation, then, our joy may be complete by loving him, and by allowing him to love us through everyone around us.

Let us, with our whole hearts, enter into Christ's single commandment to love one another, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us along the true Christian path to fullness of life.

Mgr Pat

Monsignor Pat McInally.
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Special Prayers Please pray for all those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries are around this time. Pray for Easter peace and joy to touch the hearts of those who are troubled or coerced by circumstances, those facing loss or difficult decisions; as well as those setting out with new hopes.

Editor's question: Who is the 'Undoer of Knots' who links flowers and the north star?

Taize Service: May 5th 6.30pm Leuchars St Athernase

May 12th- 18th Christian Aid Week: Donations (Envelopes at the back of the church) passed to Sheila McRobbie will be sent as a Group donation with the Churches of Tayport.

Sponsored walk: 4-legged friends and human companions welcome to join the walk starting from the former Scott Fyfe factory car park at 11am.

A Month's Memorial Mass for Fr Martin Chambers, Bishop-Elect, will take place in the Cathedral on **Friday 10th May at 7.30pm.** Principal Celebrants will be the Metropolitan Archbishop of St Andrew's and Edinburgh, Leo Cushley and the preacher will be Bishop Frank Dougan, Bishop of Galloway and a great friend of Fr Martin. The diocesan choir will be singing and people are invited to join in marking the memorial.

*I will make of my life a Yes to the Lord.
I will follow wherever he calls.*

(Antiphon composed by Fr Martin Chambers)

Fr Martin (RIP) would have been sixty in June. He spent five years as a missionary in Ecuador, returning to Scotland to work in Ayrshire and Galloway, before his appointment as Bishop – Elect for Dundee. He had been to Lourdes before coming to Dundee to prepare for his ordination on 27th April. Sadly he died in his sleep three weeks before. 'To know Martin was to know a man of love, enthusiasm, humour and a deep faith which enlivened all he did' – Bishop Frank Dougan.

But Why is May Mary's month?

The Greeks dedicated the month of May to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity. The Romans dedicated May to Flora, goddess of blossoms, with floral games at the end of May to request a fruitful year. 1st of May was held to be the start of new growth in medieval times, with many traditions to help banish wintry weather. The symbolism of new life, as God became babe through Mary, made May the perfect month to forge traditions to honour Mary. Different ways evolved in different places in different times. Processions, altars festooned with flowers set up in churches and homes. Statues were crowned with coronets of blossoms, highlighting beauty and virtue, and celebrating Mary's 'Yes' to God and status as Queen of Heaven.

The Jesuits spread May devotions to Mary as their order travelled across the globe. It was St Irenaeus of Lyons who called Mary the 'Undoer of Knots': 'the knot of Eve's disobedience ... loosened by the obedience of Mary.'

In Art, following the image in Revelations, Mary is depicted crowned with stars and she has long been called the Star of the Sea, Stella Maris. An early 8th century plainsong hymn 'Ave Maria Stella' – *Hail, Star of the Sea* - sets out the allegory of Mary as guide to finding Christ through storm-tossed waves. Polaris, the northern lodestar with which Mary was equated, was visible as a reliable guide, unmoving, right through the night. Anthony of Padua wrote of Mary as Star of the Sea as did the 12th century saint, Bernard of Clairvaux:

'If the winds of temptation arise; if you are driven upon rocks of tribulation look to the star, call on Mary. If you are tossed upon the waves of pride, of ambition, of envy, of rivalry, look to the star, call on Mary.'

Pope Paul VI's encyclical urged people to invoke the intercession and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mother, Queen of Peace, in May, in the face of persecution and violence in the world.

From the Vatican: 'Rise to stand in front of Life, not sit on the couch!' Speaking to young people in Venice last Sunday, the Pope urged people to fight the 'oppressive inertia' that turns our life into shades of grey. Mary, when she learned that she was to become the Mother of God 'arose and went.' Pope Francis urged listeners to 'get up from the ground because we are made for Heaven. Rise from sadness to lift your gaze upwards'. God, as Father, sees us when we fail or make mistakes as 'children to lift up, not as evil doers to punish.'

'Get off your cell phone and encounter people! Look for those who are alone, colour the world with your creativity, and paint the streets of life with the Gospel. Arise and go!'

Thank you for continuing to **support:** appeals for Wool and the Food bank (Taybridgehead 07840 957039).

Parish WhatsApp group: 07484 170812 <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Catholic-Church/Newport-on-Tay-and-Tayport-Catholic-Parish-114980280046954/> **Duty Chaplain for Nine Wells, Victoria and Roxburgh House: 07821 624124**

Answer: Mary