



Parish Newsletter **SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** Year C 2025

Mass Intentions 31st May – 8th June

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)

St Thomas More (STM)

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Ryan Gomes & Family (Thanksgiving) For God's blessing (Daria)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Mary Gibson (20th Birthday, SI) Janina Olesiak (RIP, 21 st Ann.)	8.30am	Stanisława Niezgoda (Gregorian 1)
Monday	9.00am	Stanisława Niezgoda (Gregorian 2) People of the Parish		
Tuesday	9.00am	Stanisława Niezgoda (Gregorian 3) Louis Antony (RIP)		
Wednesday	7.00- 8.00pm	Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament	10.00am	Stanisława Niezgoda (Gregorian 4) Juliet Smith (RIP)
Thursday	9.00am	Stanisława Niezgoda (Gregorian 5) Leon-Jae (Birthday & Thanksgiving)		
Friday			10.00am	Stanisława Niezgoda (Gregorian 6) Sharon Palmer (SI)
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Stanisława Niezgoda (Gregorian 7) Andrew Dodge (RIP)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Stanisława Niezgoda (Gregorian 8) Tomasz Puchala (RIP), Ann.)	8.30am	People of the Parish



'The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one.'

As the Easter season comes to an end, our readings remind us of the joy and hope that come from the love that the Father has lavished on the world.

In the First Reading we witness the suffering and death of Stephen, the first Christian Martyr. As Stephen offers up his spirit, echoing Jesus's own words, he pleads for forgiveness for his persecutors.

The Psalm proclaims the Lord as king, worshipped by all of creation. God is the source of justice and right.

John's vision from the end of the Book of Revelation (Second Reading) reminds us of the invitation that Jesus gives to us all – and the promise of salvation when he comes again.

In the Gospel we hear Jesus's own prayer to his heavenly Father. It is offered both for the disciples who are with him at the Last Supper, and for all people like us, who have heard and believe the message of love.

Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette:

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION- STM: Wednesday, Friday 9.30am-10am OLF: Saturday 5pm - 5.50pm

CHURCH CLEANING: OLF Church: 7th May – Team A International

SVP HARLOW– The next meeting is on Tuesday 10th of June 7.00pm at Assumption Hall.

PREMISES COMMITTEE – Monday 2nd June 7pm at the Presbytery

SOCIAL & FUND-RAISING: Please be advised that the Silent Disco has been cancelled. For those who have paid for a ticket please see Kay for a refund.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

You are invited to our **“Bring and Share” Food Festival** on Sunday the **8th June at 1.30pm to 3.30pm** at OLF Hall. Food drop offs to the hall can be made at 12.00 noon – please list all your ingredients, for allergy reasons. If you would like to come along and perform some music, you will be more than welcome – please advise Grace or Janice if you would like to perform. Let us make this a fun afternoon with good food, music and games. Any payments can only be made with cash, thank you. Please note that donations can only be made by cash for this event.

The Church’s 59th World Communications Day is usually celebrated on the Sunday before Pentecost. Pope Paul VI established the Day in 1967 in the wake of the Second Vatican Council as an annual celebration that encourages reflecting on the opportunities and challenges that the media offer and how the Church can better communicate the Gospel message.

Share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts (cf. 1Pt 3:15-16).

The topic aims to bring attention to the fact that in today's world, "too often communication is violent, aimed at striking and not at establishing the conditions for dialogue." This calls for efforts "to disarm communication, to cleanse it of aggression."

SECOND COLLECTION: This weekend we will hold a second collection towards **the Catholic Communication Network**.

Pray for the sick: Keith Harris, Pam Barnard, Ivan Pirnak, J.C. Nkosa, Teresa Lambe, Noreen Wright, Romualda Ratajczyk, Grace Fisher, Fr Bernard Grogan, Angela Walsh, Jeremy Collins, Peter Kelly, Pam Matthews, Władysław Borecki, Ewa Samborska, Peter, Tom Ryan, Adele Ryan, Nial Briody, Maria Lunnon, Fabian Andrade, Eileen Rowan, John Brickley, Helen Doherty, Philip Ketedzi, Caroline Berry, Anna Sweeney, Stanisław Kostecki, Carmel Delaney, Donnah Dris, Conrado Shea, Ryan Tomlin, May Quinlan, Krystyna, Josie Cronin, Mary Quinlan, Anna Borsuk, Ruby Antony, Eileen Jolly, Anna Słota, Monica, John O'Donnell and their children, Neil, Anna Gawlik, Eileen, Kathleen Kidney, Andrew Sinclair, Pauline, Alice and Rodney Bill, Valda, sick parishioners from Ashlyn, Alexandra and Abbot Care Home.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of: Halyna Wetaszczuk, Mary Bernadette Fitzgerald, Pope Francis, Patrick Joseph McCarthy, Helen Noyo Owie, Ks. Augustyn Hamielec MS, Fr Józef Załucki, Włodzimierz Cieślak, Andrew Dodge, Anna Frances Daly, Fr Antony Ciula MS, Collin White, Patrick Travers, Brian Mooney, Romualda Ratajczyk, James Keenan, Giona Nkunim Botchway-Adjei, Christopher Keenan, Denis Grogan, Kathleen Thompson, Fr Andrzej Kuder MS, Fr Z. Pałys MS, Fr Piotr Sofij MS, Hayley Wright, Mary Sage, Patricia Carter, Radosław Iwańczyk, Billy Lomasney, Kenneth Samuels, John Stenson, Terry Farrington, Kevin McGrath, Julie Bush, Janina Zdrojewska, Zbigniew Piątek, Józef Chapski, Peter Mwangi Gekonyo, Eileen Hynes, Irene Heaphy, Joby Joy, PJ Thomas, Eveline Falzon, Dolores Lawless, Zbigniew Sienkiewicz, John Cywinski, Maria Cristina Galagala, Thomas Nelson, Paul Gaize, Bridget Minihane, Barbara Vernem, Romie Quinn, and all those whose anniversaries occur this month.

Our Sincere Condolences and prayers to Mrs Sarah Noble on the death of her mum Mary Bernadette Fitzgerald.



Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

The Message of the Holy Father Francis for the 59th World Day of Social Communications

The theme: “Share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts (cf. *1 Pet* 3:15-16)”

Dear brothers and sisters!

In these our times, characterized by disinformation and polarization, as a few centres of power control an unprecedented mass of data and information, I would like to speak to you as one who is well aware of the importance – now more than ever – of your work as journalists and communicators. Your courageous efforts to put personal and collective responsibility towards others at the heart of communication are indeed necessary.

Disarming communication

Too often today, communication generates not hope, but fear and despair, prejudice and resentment, fanaticism and even hatred. All too often it simplifies reality in order to provoke instinctive reactions; it uses words like a razor; it even uses false or artfully distorted information to send messages designed to agitate, provoke or hurt. On several occasions, I have spoken of our need to “disarm” communication and to purify it of aggressiveness. It never helps to reduce reality to slogans. All of us see how – from television talk shows to verbal attacks on social media – there is a risk that the paradigm of competition, opposition, the will to dominate and possess, and the manipulation of public opinion will prevail.

There is also another troubling phenomenon: what we might call the “programmed dispersion of attention” through digital systems that, by profiling us according to the logic of the market, modify our perception of reality. As a result, we witness, often helplessly, a sort of atomization of interests that ends up undermining the foundations of our existence as community, our ability to join in the pursuit of the common good, to listen to one another and to understand each other’s point of view.

Hope, in fact, is not something easy. ... Hope is a risk that must be taken. It is the risk of risks”.^[2] Hope is a hidden virtue, tenacious and patient. For Christians, it is not an option but a necessary condition. As Pope Benedict XVI noted in the Encyclical *Spe Salvi*, hope is not passive optimism but, on the contrary, a “performative” virtue capable of changing our lives: “The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life’ (No. 2).

Accounting with gentleness for the hope that is in us

In the First Letter of Peter (3:15-16), we find an admirable synthesis in which hope is linked to Christian witness and communication: “In your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence”.

“In your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord”. The hope of Christians has a face, the face of the risen Lord. His promise to remain always with us through the gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to hope even against all hope, and to perceive the hidden goodness quietly present even when all else seems lost.

Christian communication – but I would also say communication in general – should be steeped in gentleness and closeness, like the talk of companions on the road. This was the method of the greatest communicator of all time, Jesus of Nazareth, who, as he walked alongside the two disciples of Emmaus, spoke with them and made their hearts burn within them as he interpreted events in the light of the Scriptures.

I dream of a communication capable of making us fellow travellers, walking alongside our brothers and sisters and encouraging them to hope in these troubled times. A communication capable of speaking to the heart, arousing not passionate reactions of defensiveness and anger, but attitudes of openness and friendship. A communication capable of focusing on beauty and hope even in the midst of apparently desperate situations, and generating commitment, empathy and concern for others. A communication that can help us in “recognizing the dignity of each human being, and [in] working together to care for our common home” (*Dilexit Nos*, 217).

good communicator ensures that those who listen, read or watch can be involved, can draw close, can get in touch with the best part of themselves and enter with these attitudes into the stories told.

Do not forget the heart

Dear brothers and sisters, in the face of the astonishing achievements of technology, I encourage you to care for your heart, your interior life. What does that mean? Let me offer you a few thoughts. Be meek and never forget the faces of other people; speak to the hearts of the women and men whom you serve in carrying out your work. Do not allow instinctive reactions to guide your communication. Always spread hope, even when it is difficult, even when it costs, even when it seems not to bear fruit. Try to promote a communication that can heal the wounds of our humanity.

...Be witnesses and promoters of a non-aggressive communication; help to spread a culture of care, build bridges and break down the visible and invisible barriers of the present time. Tell stories steeped in hope, be concerned about our common destiny and strive to write together the history of our future.

All this you can do, and we can do, with God’s grace, which the Jubilee helps us to receive in abundance. This is my prayer, and with it, I bless each of you and your work.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 24 January 2025, Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales

FRANCIS

