



TIMES OF THE LITURGY

Sunday - 7.45am - Lauds | 8.15am - Low Mass | 9.15am - Dominican Rite Mass (Extraordinary Form) | 11am - Sung Conventual Mass | 6pm - Low Mass | 7pm - Vespers.

Monday - Friday - 7am - Lauds | 7.30am - Conventual Mass | 6.15pm - Devotions and Meditation | 6.30pm - Vespers. [N.B. First Fridays of the month, Vespers in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament with a period of Adoration from 6.15pm.]

Saturday - 9am - Lauds | 9.30am - Conventual Mass | 4.30-6pm - Confessions | 6.15pm - Sung Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 6.30pm - Vespers.

THIS WEEK

Sun 1 **EASTER VII**

Mon 2 *feria*

Tue 3 S. Charles Lwanga

Wed 4 *feria*

Thu 5 S. Boniface

Fri 6 S Norbert

Sat 7 *feria*

Sun 8 **PENTECOST**

CORPUS CHRISTI:

SUNDAY 22 JUNE

11am Mass followed by a Procession, and a
bring and share picnic in the garden.

FORMATION APPEAL

The English Province are launching a Formation Appeal. More information next week.

COMMUNIO

The next **Communio** meeting is on Wednesday 11 June 2025 at 7.30 pm at Blackfriars Cambridge. Br Michael introduce "Thomas Aquinas on Adam's Faith in the Incarnation" by Joshua H Lim. For more information:

<cambridge.communio@english.op.org>.

SUPPORT US

Our ministry relies on the generosity of our friends and supporters. If you would like to support us make a donation in the cloister, visit our website, or speak to or email the bursar, Fr Albert.

cambridge.bursar@english.op.org

SAFEGUARDING

Blackfriars Cambridge operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the Safeguarding Policies of the Catholic Church in England and Wales at all times. Our Lay Safeguarding Representative is Emanuela Di Pietro. She can be contacted on 07516 667752 or at <safeguardingrepresentative.cambridge@english.op.org>. The local safeguarding friar is fr Gregory Pearson, OP. He can be contacted on 07724 062971 or at <gregory.pearson@english.op.org>. Alternatively, the Religious Life Safeguarding Service can be contacted on 0151 5562311 or <safeguarding@religioussafeguarding.org> if you have any concerns.

PENTECOST VIGIL – "OUTPOURING"

Transform Ministries is hosting a special Pentecost Vigil inspired by Ephesians 5:18: "Be filled with the Holy Spirit." The Vigil will take place on Saturday, 7 June at 7:30 PM at St John the Baptist Cathedral, Unthank Road, Norwich, NR2 2PA. The event, led by Fr Gladson Dabre OSA and Fr Luke Goymour, promises a rich programme of teaching, praise and worship, and Eucharistic adoration, aimed at opening hearts to the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost. Praise and worship will be led by members of the Sibyl collective. Transform Ministries warmly invites all to come and encounter the transformative power of the Holy Spirit. More information can be found at: www.transformministries.uk/up-coming-events or email info@transformministries.uk if you have any questions.

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WE BELIEVE

A festival of Catholic Life gathering the Church to share the hope that we have in Christ. From 25-28 July, join us for four days of music, keynotes, conversation & worship at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham. Featuring Dr Gianna Emanuela Molla (daughter of St Gianna Molla), Fr Paul Murray. OP, Msgr Michael Nazir-Ali, AnMari, The Southwell Consort, Fr Toby Lees, OP & many more. Early Bird Tickets available now at <www.webelievefestival.com>.

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LISTENING AND PRAYER MINISTRY

Whatever you are going through, it can help to talk. It can ease the burden and help you see a way through. The Diocese offers a team of Helpers who will listen with compassion and love, and offer guidance and support. All Helpers have undergone training in prayer, listening, spiritual guidance, safeguarding and GDPR. For more information and to book sessions: <www.rcdea.org.uk/listening-and-prayer> email: <listeningministry@rcdea.org.uk>.

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RETREAT DAY FOR MEN - "MEN OF EVANGELISATION" - SATURDAY 12 JULY

You are invited to Walsingham to join Fr Alvan Ibeh and Catholic men from across the Diocese as we discuss and reflect on our call to holiness and mission of evangelisation. Includes confession, Mass, Holy Mile and Rosary as well as talks and discussion. Please bring your own packed lunch. Tea, coffee, refreshments included. Cost for the day is £12.50. Booking can be found on EventBrite or email Marriage and Family Coordinator on <mflcoordinator@rcdea.org.uk>.

HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN

Some other brothers and I were in an ancient church in a Northamptonshire village, squinnying at a strange old wood-carving in a dark corner. It was difficult to see what was going on. At the top you could make out what seemed like three men in a boat, held up by a water-spout. And down below a plump girl in a swoon. Then we suddenly realised why we'd read it wrong. It was actually meant to represent the Incarnation. There was Our Lady down below receiving streams of heavenly grace from the Blessed Trinity up above. The Church was always very down on attempts to represent Almighty God in such a clumsy humanoid way, here was one attempt the censors had missed.

It reminded us of something though. Everything in the economy of salvation, and of course everything in the Christian life, is the work of the Blessed and Undivided Trinity, Father Son and Holy Spirit. "I am in the Father, whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate, the Spirit of truth", there it is in the words of Christ, here in St John's gospel which we have opened almost every day at Mass in the Easter season. Again and again Jesus assuring the disciples, "to know me is to know the Father also", by the illumination of the Holy Spirit – the same Spirit that rested on Jesus and is poured out also upon us.

Just imagine if it were otherwise. Christ raised from the dead, Christ returning to the Father: just suppose that was the victory of Christ himself alone, the vindication of Christ himself alone. The Father loving the Son, over against the rest of us, left behind. It's an outlandish thought! How we know that Christ raised from the dead is Christ for us, is because Christ raised is Christ pouring out the Holy Spirit. It is him "sending down to us what the Father has promised". It is the life of believers caught up already into the life of the Blessed Trinity, by the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts. It is us standing with the risen Jesus before the Father, sons and daughters in the Son, and sharing the love between them that is the Holy Spirit.

This of course is not just one of those things the New Testament has to tell us amongst others to explain the position. It is the key to everything the New Testament writers wanted to hand on to us about who we are, about our being "in Christ". As he is the Vine so we are the branches, as he is the Shepherd, the right one, the good one, we are the flock. He the Head and we his Body the Church, he the pioneer and perfecter of our faith who has gone before to where we are called in hope. We together the one bread and one body, he the light of the world and we who receive light and life through the good news, we together a new creation, of one Spirit we have all received. In image after image, phrase following phrase, we are being told that our lives are hidden with Christ in God. The Fathers and mothers of the Church keep on saying things like that. "You are in Christ, as little fishes are in the sea."

Every word of the New Testament tells of the wonder and dignity of simply belonging to the Christian people, which is our sharing the life of God. “If anyone loves me my Father will love them and we will come to them and make our home with them”, we heard last Sunday. This is why your pastors should be on their knees before you, because of how wonderful you are, because of how graced you are. Only think of how Pope Francis, as always a faithful witness, liked to say that a lukewarm Christian is a contradiction in terms because of the stream of graces and blessings that the Spirit has given. Because we share the divine life.

This surely is just what we are to understand from the Ascension of the Lord. Whether the risen Christ ascended to the Father and breathed on the disciples the Holy Spirit on the very day he rose again, as St John’s gospel plainly teaches, or whether it was a biblical forty days between Easter and the Ascension, with Pentecost still to follow, as in the perspective of St Luke, the important thing to grasp is that Jesus who went into the darkest places of human reality, of sorrow and suffering, has now brought that reality into the very heart of God. Think of all the voices that he hears. The weeping of the bereaved wives and mothers in the refugee camps, the anguish of those held for years without trial, the despairing survivors of the factory that became a tomb. The anxieties of families that don’t make ends meet, the suffering you can guess at on the bus.

Jesus hears the human voices that nobody else hears and he says to us, You listen too. And he takes that cry to the place where, we read in Holy Scripture, he ever lives to make intercession for us. The feast of the Ascension is a celebration of God’s intention, through his Holy Spirit, to reach into those parts of humanity that are so far from glorious, that are rebellious and troubled and burdened, to breathe through them, to take them home.

We who are the body of Christ must attempt to hear with his ears and see with his eyes. In the midst of a humanity flailing and struggling, failing and suffering, we see and hear what God can do. We remember that Christ has raised our human nature to the Father’s side. Doesn’t that appeal to our compassion, doesn’t it make us even more aware of how lovely our human nature is and how grievous that it should be abused? Doesn’t it, please God, by the gift of his Spirit help us know who we are now, and imagine what we shall be when we come to the Father?

fr BoBe Eccles, OP

THE PRIORY OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Blackfriars, Buckingham Road, Cambridge. CB3 0DD.

www.blackfriarscambridge.org.uk/ | Phone: +44 (0) 1223 741251

Please send any enquiries to prior.cambridge@english.op.org | To request a Mass to be said for a specific intention visit

<<https://www.blackfriarscambridge.org.uk/mass-service-times/request-a-mass/>>