

Hello All

The first reading at this weekend's masses tells us of how St Paul was first received by the Christians in Jerusalem, and it wasn't with open arms.

We all know the story of St Paul: He was originally called Saul and he was a great persecutor of the early Christians. He took part in the killing of the first Christian to die a martyr, St Stephen, and he made it his mission to find and arrest Christians and hand them over to the authorities to be dealt with.

But as we know in the course of his work the risen Jesus appeared to him and he was converted to following the Way he had tried to eliminate from the face of the earth: He became a Christian, and as a sign of his conversion his name was changed to Paul. He had started a new life.

He began to tell everyone that Christianity was true. This was a hugely brave thing to do as he was then liable to arrest and torture and death.

When he came to Jerusalem, the place where there was the biggest group of Christians, he might have expected a hero's welcome. Instead he was greeted with suspicion, and the reading this weekend tells us that some Christians there even tried to kill him.

Many of us will be able to identify with his experience. There will have been times when we have tried really hard at something, even made sacrifices for others, and the very people whom we would have expected to appreciate our efforts have misunderstood us and rejected us.

In the gospel for this weekend's masses Jesus uses the image of pruning. Just as a plant is pruned so that it eventually grows stronger, we see from Jesus words that the setbacks we experience in life whether they are unfair or deserved, can be a source of growth for us. So much so that Jesus says that if God sees we are bearing fruit in our lives, he himself will see that we face challenges, that we are pruned, so that we bear even more fruit.

Petroc.



Catholic Parish of the Holy Trinity Plymouth



2 May 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

(Year B: year of Mark)

Saturday Mass (of Easter)

5.30pm at St Paul's

Int: Fr Danny Longland

Sunday Mass (of Easter)

9am at Holy Family

Int: Victor Freeman RIP

Mass (of Easter)

10.30am at Holy Redeemer

Int: Roy Jerrett RIP FDN

Monday Mass (of Easter)

Int: Elvira Cassini RIP

Tuesday Mass (of Easter)

10am at St Paul's

Int: John O'Driscoll RIP FDN

Wednesday Mass (of Easter)

10am at Holy Redeemer

Int: Richard Cox RIP

Friday Mass (of Easter)

10am at Holy Family

Int: Eileen Pearson

This month is Mary's Month of May

In the history of the church, different months came to be thought of as being times to focus on different aspects of the faith. Probably the first about 1000 years ago was the month of November which has the celebrations of All Saints and All Souls in it, which became though of as dedicated to remembering and praying for those who had died, following their good examples, and asking for the prayers of the Saints in heaven. Other months came to have their own dedications.

May became seen as the month in which to especially honour Our Lady. The reason why May was chosen is lost in time, but it is a reasonable guess that it was to do with the beauty of the May flowers. They are the first sure signs that we are moving from the cold and dark of winter to the glories of Summer, just as Mary was the dawn which heralded the coming of God into the world. These are used to make a crown for the images of Mary we have in our churches and homes, by which we honour her as our queen.

May 17th

The changes that came about of April 12th didn't make a great deal of difference to what we were able to do as parishes or how we could do it.

The changes which are due to come in on May 17th will make a difference. They will allow groups of up to six people to meet indoors again.

This means it would be an appropriate time for eucharistic ministers to resume taking communion to the housebound. As the Sunday after May 17th is Pentecost Sunday, it seems a good time to recommission eucharistic ministers.

It would also seem a good time to have special blessings for those who read at mass and those who organise them.

It would be appropriate too to give our altar servers a blessing, and medals to those who are due them.

It also means we can start meeting for RCIA to prepare for confirmation or reception into full communion.

We can also start to prepare children for their first Holy Communion.

There is a lot to put our minds to and organise as we come out of the Covid restrictions.

Sign up from this week for

- Blessing and renewal of Eucharistic ministries taking the Blessed Sacrament to the housebound. The blessing is planned, all being well of Pentecost Sunday in two weeks time
- Presentation of servers medals and blessing of servers also on Pentecost Sunday
- Relaunching the readers rotas and those who organise them
- Signing up for first Holy Communion, preparation will start in June and first Holy Communion will be in July
- Sign up for children's' confirmation, times to be arranged depending on who is taking part, but the confirmations will take place before the end of the school year.
- Sign up for adults confirmation or for reception into full communion with the Catholic church. Again the timing will depend on who is preparing, but receptions and confirmations will probably be in July.