

# St. William of York R.C. Church



Registered Charity No 233699

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 (Marcello – via text message)

7th Sunday of Easter

23/24 May 2020

Saturday 23rd May

For victims of the virus and families

Sunday 24th May  
 7th Sunday of Easter

Father David Kolo (Uganda)

Monday 25th May  
 St Bede the Venerable  
 Priest & Doctor

Keith Stephens RIP

Tuesday 26th May  
 St Philip Neri, Priest

Brigid Doherty RIP (Williams)

Wednesday 27th May  
 St Augustine of Canterbury  
 Bishop

Private Intention

Thursday 28th May

Ileana Amandini (90<sup>th</sup> birthday)

Friday 29th May

Carey intention

Saturday 30th May

People of the parish

Sunday 31st May  
 Pentecost Sunday

First Holy Communion children and families

## Our Novena journey from the Ascension Thursday to Pentecost Sunday

We began on Thursday the glorious feast of Jesus being 'lifted up' into the presence of His Father in heaven. Surrounded by His disciples Jesus is 'removed from their sight' - not to abandon His followers - but so that he can fulfill His promise - that now He is with us even to the end of time. This is the wonderful guarantee of this feast. From his place at the right hand of the Father in glory - Jesus is no longer geographically confined to one place (e.g. Nazareth, Galilee, Jerusalem). At any given moment - the power and presence of Jesus Christ can be experienced in every heart and every place from Stanmore to Alaska, from Goa to Peru. This total availability of Jesus is sealed by the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost - so from Thursday last and on each of the nine days (Novena) leading to this coming Sunday - we call out in prayer. There is a long Latin hymn to the Holy Spirit for this daily Novena. Two of the verses say – Holy Spirit, Lord of life **\*Light immortal, light divine - visit thou these hearts of thine and our inmost being fill\*\*Heal our wounds, our strength renew; on our dryness pour the dew; wash the stains of guilt away\***. As your Parish Priest I encourage you, using any familiar prayer to the Holy Spirit - to carefully observe these nine days. (Father Michael)

### \*\*\*\*\*When will places of worship be opened?\*\*\*\*\*

The guidance still seems to be that churches, synagogues, mosques etc open in early July! - perhaps initially for private prayer, individual visits. When we do open we will be subject to 'social distancing' and other regulations. We will only be allowed to use alternate benches/pews. We will need to have an 'in' door and an 'out/exit' door. The church will have to receive a professional cleansing and sanitising. A local company will provide this. In other words - there will be quite a lot to see to! Father Michael continues - "Thankfully I know there will be many willing hands to help. It is suggested that each church should have a small **TASK GROUP** to assist in this. Tony Murphy and two others have already volunteered. Please contact Tony directly about this matter or email/phone the parish house. As your Parish Priest - it is wonderful to know that parishioners will do all they can - so that we can soon return to regular Mass inside our lovely church".

## Father David Kolo - Uganda

Father Michael has been in regular contact with Father David. He was due to visit once again during August - but he had many concerns after hearing in the media about the situation in the UK in regard to the virus. Eventually

we have agreed that Father will come to be with us in 2021! Sad news because Father David is a dear friend and a very special priest. In the last few months - Father David has been transferred from his present parish (after 17 years) where he built a new church. He will now be the Principal/Head of a large Catholic Secondary school. This will be a big challenge because such church-based schools are very popular and often have a large boarding component. We keep Father David in our prayers.

### **Live-streaming update**

Thank you for all the feedback and support for live streaming. Useful to have a quick update. Some of the established services are quite expensive and would lock us in for a number of years, however with the help of our own "technology team" we hope to offer our own live-streaming service once we have WiFi installed in the church. As you maybe aware the church is a listed building and therefore before anything is installed we need the necessary permissions. With work being undertaken on the church floor and observing social distancing this is taking a little longer to install.

In the interim, we trialled a live mass service from the parish office on Sunday at 10am using Zoom. We had 40 attendees and whilst it maybe wasn't perfect, it was wonderful to participate in the mass with parishioners singing and reading. It was particularly wonderful to see some of our parishioners who have been unable to leave home for the last few months. Please do join us if you are able, the link is on the website and on our Facebook page.

### **Reminders and information**

1. This Monday 25 May is a Bank holiday - though what that means in the current climate is a little uncertain.
2. As mentioned last week - one of our long-term parishioners celebrates her 90th birthday on Thursday 28 May. Mass will be offered for her on the day! Mrs Ileana Amandini will be surrounded by the good wishes and prayers of many on such a special day.
3. Thank you to the many kind folk who have dropped off various meals for Father Michael. He opens the door and there they are! Such thoughtfulness reveals a lot about the parish of Saint William of York. Containers and dishes for collection can be collected from outside the front door. Blessings.
4. Thank you for those who continue to support the church - with donations in various ways. Thank you to Karen and others who maintain our parish website.
5. If you are aware of anyone who would appreciate a phone-call from Father Michael - please let him know!

