

**24<sup>th</sup> May 2020**  
**Sunday after Ascension**

**The Collect**

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before.

**Shorter Collect**

Risen, ascended Lord,  
as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

**The Readings**

**New Testament: Acts 1.6-14**

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of

James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**New Testament: 1 Peter 4.12-14; 5. 6-11**

My dear friends, do not be taken aback at the testing by fire which is taking place among you, as though something strange were happening to you; but in so far as you share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, so that you may enjoy a much greater gladness when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for bearing Christ's name, blessed are you, for on you rests the Spirit of God, the Spirit of glory."

"Bow down, then, before the power of God now, so that he may raise you up in due time; unload all your burden on to him, since he is concerned about you. Keep sober and alert, because your enemy the devil is on the prowl like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand up to him, strong in faith and in the knowledge that it is the same kind of suffering that the community of your brothers throughout the world is undergoing. You will have to suffer only for a little while: the God of all grace who called you to eternal glory in Christ will restore you, he will confirm, strengthen and support you. His power lasts for ever and ever. Amen."

**Gospel: John 17. 1-11**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I

came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Next Week's Readings**

Acts 2.1-21, Numbers 11.24-30 or  
1 Corinthians 12.3b-13  
John 20.19-23 or John 7.37-39

### **For your prayers**

*O Lord of hosts, purify our hearts that the King of glory may come in, your Son, Jesus our redeemer.*

those joining worship via Zoom on a Sunday morning, and the growing commitment to worship as members of the Team.

ourselves, that we may be filled with hope, love, and faith and be renewed as Christ's disciples, as this Easter season culminates with Ascension and Pentecost.

the health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry.

the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them in their vulnerability:

our homes and families,  
our schools and young people,  
and all in any kind of need or distress:

a blessing on our local communities,  
that our neighbourhoods may be places of

trust and friendship,  
where all are known and cared for:

We continue to pray for our Team, this week for those who live in The Laurels, Stadhampton and The Limes, Dorchester on Thames.

The schools in our parishes, as they support children from a distance and now work out how to re-open safely, giving thanks for the care and dedication of all staff and governors. We pray for all children, remembering especially those facing times of transition. This month we remember pupils, staff and parents at Stadhampton School.

Those who have died, including Gwen Lewis of Dorchester and Peter Day of Toot Baldon.

*Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from  
your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.*

### **Ways to worship**

Check the **Dorchester Abbey** website for live streams. The Rector is offering short, reflective, morning prayers daily at 8.30am on Facebook.

<https://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk/coronavirus-2/>

**Check the A Church Near You website for your parish where we will also upload news and documents.**

### **From the Bishop of Oxford:**

We will provide [a single diocesan live-streamed Eucharist each Sunday and on principal Holy Days](#). This will be offered by a range of different people who will be offering prayers and reflections.

Check the website for details

The Bishops are asking everyone across the whole diocese, every disciple of Christ, to **pause at 11 am each day** if your work permits and say Psalm 23 and the Lord's Prayer. These can be found on your Church Near You page and the Dorchester Abbey website.

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