

Bexley Team News

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood
St James, North Cray
St John the Evangelist, Bexley
St Mary the Virgin, Bexley

Sunday 24 May 2020 Issue 10

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

PUBLIC WORSHIP HAS BEEN SUSPENDED IN ALL CHURCHES & PLACES OF WORSHIP.

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,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.



Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Ezekiel 36 v24-28 New Testament: Acts 1 v 6-14 Gospel Reading: John 17 v1-11

Reflection on today's gospel reading

If we will allow it, this reading can draw us in our minds eye into the time Jesus spent with his disciples at the Last Supper. A precious time together before his arrest later that night. The so called 'Last Supper discourse' occupies chapters 14- 17 of John's gospel. It began you will remember with Jesus washing his disciples feet. There is extended teaching. Then it ends with Jesus' 'high priestly prayer' of which we have the first part here. In it Jesus prays for himself and for his disciples. Imagine being present. Are you, like Peter, close to Jesus, in on the action? Or are you more distant, observing but also holding back? Listen as Jesus prays for himself and then for you. You matter, he cares.

The reading may seem an odd choice for the seventh Sunday after Easter as it takes us back to the day before our Lord's passion. But we recall that last Thursday was Ascension Day and in this prayer Jesus speaks of going to be with the Father (v5,11). The prayer is the longest prayer attributed to Jesus so it is good to take special note of what is said. In the first part, where Jesus prays for himself, word like 'glory' and 'glorify' appear. Jesus' glorification will be accomplished through the death and humiliation he suffered for us. In the second part we can note how the disciples are drawn into that intimate relationship of love and trust that exists between Father and Son. 'All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them' (v10).

As we struggle along through our current difficulties we can find comfort in these verses. Like those first disciples we too are invited to come close, to listen, to learn, to know that we are valued and loved. And here there is a special emphasis on prayer. Let's remind ourselves that we don't have to be in church to pray! We cannot currently be close to each other but through prayer and meditation on the scriptures we can come close to God. Rev'd Clive

Prayers

Loving Father, help us to love you with our whole heart and serve you in those we meet. Thank you that you have promised to be with us always. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to comfort us with your love and strengthen us in your service. Amen.

Keep us, good Lord under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.



We hope you are all keeping well. This week the Messy Church at home team have a wonderful messy church session about ascension. Please click on the link below to take part. <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resource/messy-church-home-ascension>
Pictures of work can be sent to Clive- please say if you are happy for your picture to possibly be included in BTN. Katrina

Do you have news, information or ideas for Bexley Team News? Please contact Rev'd Clive, contact details below.

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Since its start in May 2016 God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. In 2019 Christians from 172 countries took part in praying 'Come Holy Spirit', so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ. Find out more at www.thykingdomcome.global/about-us

If you are enjoying free time during the lockdown, here are some more ideas to help you grow your Christian faith:

Find a book of the Bible you are not familiar with, or a Gospel, and read it all the way through to get an overview. Download some study material afterwards to help understand if necessary.

The Talking Jesus course is currently free until the end of August 2020. Simply enter your email address on the website www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/324865/Talking_Jesus_the.aspx to receive a promotional code and follow the instructions to get it. Join with some friends.

If you want to do some serious study during the lockdown, the Westminster Theological Centre wtctheology.org.uk/wtctresource/ are offering all their online courses for free until at least the end of June. Why not give them a go?....and let us know how you get on.

Between ourselves

We have heard the sad news that a former member of St. Mary's, David Kelsey, died last weekend. He and his wife, Maureen, used to farm Woollett Hall Farm, North Cray until they retired and moved to Devon some years ago leaving their son, Bill in charge. Please remember Maureen and the family in your prayers.

John Harrington's funeral will be on Wednesday 27th May at 11.00 am at Eltham Crematorium. Ray Miller's funeral will be on Friday 29th May at 3.30 pm. Reg Haddaway's funeral is on Tuesday 9th June at 2.00 pm at Kemnal Park. Please remember the families of John, Reg and Ray in your prayers. In the current circumstances the funerals will be immediate family (or friends) only.

Matt Hodder - It now only a month until Matt, his wife Jen, and their children Zach and Annie move into the Clergy House in Hill Crescent, Bexley on Tuesday 23 June. We are working to have the house and garden ready for them. Please do remember Matt and his family in your prayers. They are looking forward to getting to know you all. (We have just arranged for the house to be cleaned on 16th June. Ed.)

St. Mary's

To watch a video of the interior of St. Mary's and listen to a prayer please visit YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9yvrZ1ROPc>

We are grateful for the ongoing financial support for St. Mary's even as we are unable to meet.

St. John's

Giving to St John's: You can give financially to the continuing upkeep and ministry of St John's via our Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/stjohntheevangelist-bexley

Suspended Sermons are posted each Sunday at fatheredwardbarlow.wordpress.com Social Media- engage with us via Facebook ([/stjohnsbexley](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbexley)) and Twitter ([@stjohnsbexley](https://twitter.com/stjohnsbexley)).

Help offered/needed If you or someone you know **needs help** or if you **can offer assistance** please contact-

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St. Johns, Bexley- contact Revd Edward Barlow contact details below

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