

# Coloma Catholic Life.

## Liturgical Year

5th Sunday of Easter; Liturgical colour – White

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and to the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

Video link:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-05/pope-francis-prayer-intention-may-2020-permanent-deacons.html>

## Pope Francis Tweet

“In the Gospel of the day, Jesus indicates two remedies for being troubled in heart. First: to not depend on ourselves but to have faith in him. Second: to remember that here we are passing through and that Jesus has reserved us a place in heaven..”



## Sunday's Readings

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles tells us that all was not well in the life of the early Church in Jerusalem. A very vulnerable section of its community, poor Greek widows, was being neglected. Converts from Judaism overlooked the widows in the daily distribution of food. That showed a serious lack of care and concern and undermined the unity of the community. Not surprisingly, there were complaints. When the Church recognized its failure it immediately took steps to remedy the fault. It used great imagination in finding a solution.

Seven deacons were given the special task of caring for the widows. That released others to concentrate on preaching. By allotting different tasks to different people, the life of the Church developed. What had started as a failure became an opportunity for growth.

The second reading from the first letter of St Peter labels believers as “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people who are no longer subjects to darkness because the Cornerstone is their foundation.” The concept of the cornerstone, also known as the foundation stone, is the first stone set in building construction which determines the

position of the entire structure. Jesus is that cornerstone. Peter's message is alive and active. Our lives must be founded on Christ. He is the only sure foundation that can keep us standing without crashing amid the difficult times of this life.

The Gospel, set during the last Supper, shows the confusion and fear of the disciples. They have seen Jesus behaving like the worst slave in the house, washing their feet. Through his actions he is telling them they must learn to do the same and not be ashamed of it. This is where we too learn the great lesson, to sacrifice and pay honour, where honour is due to those around us.

Jesus goes on to talk about his imminent death and resurrection; "The path through death does not end with death but ends with resurrection." Then Jesus says to Thomas the immortal words, "Thomas, I am the way, I am the truth and I am the life". Meaning, I am the way, just follow me, be with me, come with me, walk with me, love with me, care with me, forgive with me.

This is what it means: to know Jesus is to love him, to walk with him is to share his life and, at the same time, it is for Jesus to love us and to let us not only share in his life, but allow him to share ours with him. If we know him, love him and trust him, we will also know the Father.

## Deacons

The word deacon is derived from the Greek word *diakonos*, which is often translated as servant. The diaconate is a ministry of service in the Roman Catholic Church and one of three ordain ministries in Holy Orders. The Diaconate is a ministry of service.

Deacons do not share in the priesthood, but like Priests, and Bishops, they receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders and are ordained to service.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the role of the deacon in paragraphs 1569 – 1571:

"At a lower level of the hierarchy are to be found deacons, who receive the imposition of hands 'not unto the priesthood, but unto the ministry.'" At an ordination to the diaconate only the bishop lays hands on the candidate, thus signifying the deacon's special attachment to the bishop in the tasks of his "diakonia." Deacons share in Christ's mission and grace in a special way. The sacrament of Holy Orders marks them with an *imprint* ("character") which cannot be removed and which configures them to Christ, who made himself the "deacon" or servant of all.



## **What roles does a Deacon perform?**

Among other tasks, it is the task of deacons:

- to assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries - the Eucharist,
- to lead Eucharistic services,
- to help in the distribution of Holy Communion,
- to bring communion to the sick or housebound,
- to baptise
- to officiate at a Catholic wedding,
- to proclaim the Gospel
- to preach about the Gospel,
- to preside over funerals which are not part of a Mass,
- to conduct adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction,
- to dedicate themselves to the various ministries of charity.

## **What roles can a Deacon not perform?**

Deacons cannot:

- consecrate the Eucharist,
- hear confessions,
- conduct confirmation,
- anoint the sick.

## **Two types of Deacon**

Permanent Deacons:

- ordained to a ministry of service,
- are often married,
- promise to remain celibate if their wife dies,
- remain celibate if unmarried,
- pray morning and evening prayer,
- have a job to be able to support their wife and family,
- may be considered for the priesthood after the death of their wife.

Transitional Deacons:

- are preparing for the priesthood,
- are not married,
- promise to remain celibate,
- pray the Liturgy of the Hours daily,
- after one year, usually go on to be ordained to the priesthood.

## **Vestments worn by a Deacon**

- The vestments most associated with the Roman Catholic deacon are the dalmatic and stole.
- Deacons, like priests and bishops, wear the stole; however, Deacons place the stole over their left shoulder and it hangs across to their right side, while priests and bishops wear it around the neck.
- The dalmatic worn by a Deacon is usually rectangular in shape, whereas a priest's chasuble is oval or elliptical in shape.



Deacon's stole



Deacon's dalmatic

## **Masses for the Sick and their Families, NHS Front-Line workers and those working in Social Care**

From the CBCEW website:

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love.

Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time. In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week from next Thursday, a Catholic Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join.

### **14 May**

Bishop Robert Byrne CO

[St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

### **21 May**

Bishop Mark Davies

[Our Lady Help of Christians and Saint Peter of Alcantara, Shrewsbury](#)

### **28 May**

Bishop Terence Draine

[St Mary's Cathedral, Middlesbrough](#)

[YouTube Channel](#)

## Religious Festivals This Week

### Christian Aid Week 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May

Initiated in 1945, this week is devoted to fund raising by members of various churches, mainly through house to house collections and sales of goods of various kinds. The money given is for work with the needy throughout the world. Christian Aid works in nearly 60 countries, helping people, regardless of religion or race, to improve their own lives and tackle the causes of poverty and injustice.



<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

### Lailat – Ul- Qadr, The Night of Power/Honour/Dignity, 15<sup>th</sup> May (Shi'a), 19<sup>th</sup> May (Sunni)



This commemorates the night in 610 CE when the prophet Muhammad received his first visit from the angel Jibril (Gabriel) and his revelation of the *Qur'an*. Muslims believe that the date of this night is kept secret by God, but that they 'may seek the Night of Dignity in the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan' (Bukhaari, quoting Aisha, who heard it from the

Prophet).

Many Muslims spend the last ten days and nights of Ramadan secluded in the mosque, praying and studying the *Qur'an*, to ensure they receive the special benefits promised for their prayers and devotions on Lailat-ul-Qadr. Muslims "looking for" Lailat ul Qadr tend to gather at sunset and then spend the rest of the night till dawn in the mosque or some other place of worship. For the purpose of communal activities, or for those who can only spend one night in devotions at the mosque, Sunnis favour the 27<sup>th</sup> day (beginning the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup>) whilst the Shi'a favour the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of Ramadan. Of this night, the *Qur'an* states, "Lailat-ul -Qadr is better than a thousand months." Surah 97:1-5 (see esp. 97: 3).

## Saints of the Week

### Our Lady of Fatima – 13<sup>th</sup> May



Between May 13 and October 13, 1917, three Portuguese children—Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia dos Santos—received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria near Fatima, a city 110 miles north of Lisbon. Mary asked the children to pray the rosary for world peace, for the end of World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia.

Mary gave the children three secrets. Following the deaths of Francisco and Jacinta in 1919 and 1920 respectively, Lucia revealed the first secret in 1927. It concerned devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second secret was a vision of hell. When Lucia grew up she became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97.

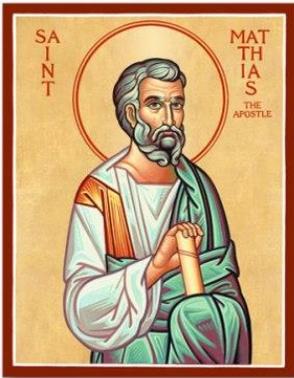
Pope John Paul II directed the Holy See's Secretary of State to reveal the third secret in 2000; it spoke of a "bishop in white" who was shot by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows into him. Many people linked this vision to the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.

The feast of Our Lady of Fatima was approved by the local bishop in 1930; it was added to the Church's worldwide calendar in 2002.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7cD8hJ1w0Q> The Day the Sun Danced – a lovely child friendly account of the apparitions at Fatima

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxZBxEJz1v8> Documentary on the apparitions at Fatima

### **St Matthias, Apostle – 14<sup>th</sup> May**



The Greek *Matthias* (or, in some manuscripts, *Maththias*), is a name derived from *Mattathias*. Matthias was one of the seventy disciples of Jesus, and had been with Him from His baptism by John to the Ascension. It is related in Acts 1:15-26 that in the days following the Ascension, Peter proposed to the assembled brethren, who numbered one hundred and twenty, that they choose one to fill the place of the traitor Judas in the Apostolate. Two disciples, Joseph, called Barsabas, and Matthias were selected, and lots were drawn, with the result in favour of Matthias, who from then on became

associated with the eleven Apostles.

All further information concerning the life and death of Matthias is vague and contradictory. According to Nicephorus (*Church History* II.40), he first preached the Gospel in Judea, then in Ethiopia and was crucified. The Synopsis of Dorotheus contains this tradition: Matthias preached the Gospel to barbarians and cannibals in the interior of Ethiopia, at the harbour of the sea of Hyssus, at the mouth of the river Phasis. He died at Sebastopolis, and was buried there, near the Temple of the Sun. Still another tradition maintains that Matthias was stoned at Jerusalem by the Jews, and then. It is said that St. Helena brought the relics of St. Matthias to Rome, and that a portion of them was at Trier

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAunZ5QS\\_Rs&autoplay=1&list=PL58g24NgWPlzvBk2IQVES\\_xC4WTm6-CDI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yAunZ5QS_Rs&autoplay=1&list=PL58g24NgWPlzvBk2IQVES_xC4WTm6-CDI)