

# Coloma Catholic Life.

## Liturgical Year

6th 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.

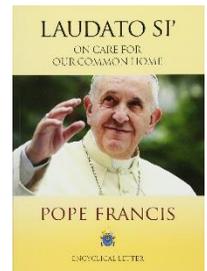
Video link: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-05/pope-francis-prayer-intention-may-2020-permanent-deacons.html>

## Pope Francis Tweet

"Our society has a sense of being orphaned that touches our sense of belonging and fraternity, because the Father is missing. Let us ask the Holy Spirit for the grace to rediscover the Father, who gives us a sense of meaning in life. May He make us one family."

## Laudato Si'

Published on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015 Laudato Si' (Praise be to you, my Lord!) is the second encyclical of Pope Francis. Subtitled "On care for our common home", the encyclical highlights the problems created by consumerism, global warming and damage to the environment. It calls upon all people of the world to take swift and unified global action to change the way we live, work and regard the environment, to enter into discussion and dialogue.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3Lz7dmn1eM>



## Everything is connected

We're living through history-shaping events. Laudato Si' teaches us how to build a better world—together.

People everywhere are crying out for hope, and our faith is urgently needed to light the way.

For Laudato Si' Week, 16-24 May, Catholics are uniting in solidarity for a more just and sustainable future. Stand united with our brothers and sisters in faith as we grow through the crisis of this moment to build a better tomorrow.

- Reflect and prepare through online trainings, 16-23 May
- Join the worldwide day of prayer, 24 May
- Put preparation into action during the Season of Creation, this September

<https://laudatosiweek.org/>

## Sunday 17th May International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians: One Faith – One Family – One Hope



The International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians – organised by Oeuvre d'Orient in Paris takes place on Sunday 17th May 2020, with the participation of Christians from all over Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, the Horn of Africa and India. FACE (Fellowship and Aid to Christians of the East – as the British sister branch of Oeuvre d'Orient – devotes itself exclusively to supporting Eastern Christians, in particular, those who are persecuted in the Middle East, by giving grant aid to projects which enable them: to maintain their homes, schools, churches, hospitals; to create employment opportunities; to promote evangelisation and interreligious dialogue; and to be peacemakers in their multi-faith communities.

Western Christians are invited to embrace the following prayer intention for Eastern Christians: *“Heavenly Father, we pray today for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East. By your heavenly grace, strengthen the faith and hope of Eastern Christians. May they be blessed with peace and prosperity in their lands. And may we be inspired by their devotion and witness to the Gospel, by their love and compassion for all in their communities, and by their courage, their endurance and self-sacrifice against oppression. Through their charity, tolerance and friendship, bring peace and reconciliation to those troubled lands, where Christianity was born and first spread. Through Christ our Lord. Amen”*

### Christian Art



What is Christian Art?

Christian Art is an apostolate within the Roman Catholic Church, based in London, bringing Art and Christianity together. On their website they state “ most Christians no longer see Art as being important on even as a relevant way of promoting the faith; and non-believers don't value Christianity as having been at the forefront of the arts throughout the centuries, responsible for creating some of the most magnificent artworks out there.”

They send one newsletter each day, with the Gospel reading for the day, alongside a piece of art that they believe is poignant, reflective and appropriate to that reading. There is also a short reflection on the artwork and reading. It is free to subscribe.

<https://www.christianart.today/index.php>

## Art that Comforts



This is a partnership between the Vatican Museum and Vatican News of masterpieces from the Vatican Collection accompanied by comments from the words of the Popes.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/taglist.cultura-e-societa.Cultura.l-arte-che-consola.html>

## Interview with Cardinal Vincent Nichols on reopening Catholic Churches

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-on-safely-re-opening-churches-for-private-prayer/>

## A People who Hope in Christ - A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The radiance of the risen Lord shines upon us. At a time when so many shadows are cast into our lives, and upon our world, the light of the resurrection shines forever to renew and restore our hope. In the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis: 'In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side.' (27 March 2020) The impact of Covid-19, both nationally and internationally, has been immense. So much of what we take for granted has changed. Our health and physical interaction, our capacity to travel and gather, have all been affected. There is uncertainty in our future, especially with work and the country's economy. As we know, very sadly, large numbers of people have died because of the coronavirus, and others have been or remain seriously ill. Keyworkers, not least in the National Health Service and care sectors, are serving selflessly to sustain the life of our nation. Our hearts and prayers go out to everyone who is suffering because of Covid-19, and to all those battling to overcome its effects. May those who have died rest in peace and those who are bereaved find comfort. When the Prime Minister announced the lockdown, this included places of worship and therefore Catholic churches. These measures were put in place to stem the general transmission of the virus. It is right that the Catholic community fulfils its role in contributing to the preservation of life and the common good of society. This must continue until the restrictions applied by the Government are lifted. None of us would want to be in the situation in which we find ourselves. While the live-streaming of the Mass and other devotions is playing an important part in maintaining the life of faith, there is no substitute for Catholics being able to physically attend and participate in the celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments. Our faith is expressed powerfully and beautifully though 'seeing,

touching, and tasting.' We know that every bishop and every priest recognises the pain of Catholics who, at present, cannot pray in church or receive the sacraments. This weighs heavily on our hearts. We are deeply moved by the Eucharistic yearning expressed by so many members of the faithful. We thank you sincerely for your love for the Lord Jesus, present in the sacraments and supremely so in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The bishops and priests of every diocese are remembering you and your loved ones at Mass each day in our churches as we pray 'in hope of health and wellbeing.' We thank our priests for this faithfulness to their calling. As the Government's restrictions are relaxed step by step, we look forward to opening our churches and resuming our liturgical, spiritual, catechetical and pastoral life step by step. This will also be of service to those beyond the Catholic Church who depend on our charitable activity and outreach through which much goodness is shared by so many volunteers from our communities. None of us knows, as yet, how or when the lockdown will end. There is likely to be a phased return to travelling and gathering. As a church, we are now planning for this time and our discussions with the statutory public health agencies and Government representatives are ongoing. Together with Catholics across England and Wales we desire the opening of our churches and access to the sacraments. Until then, we are continuing to pray and prepare. We want to acknowledge with gratitude the service of our fellow bishops and priests, our deacons and religious, our families and lay faithful, together with all our parish and school communities, for the wonderful ways the life of the faith is being nourished at this time, especially in the home. We also pay tribute to the Catholic organisations and networks that are working to support the vulnerable and needy. On that first Easter day, the disciples were in lockdown and the doors were closed. In their isolation the Lord Jesus came among them and said 'Peace be with you.' May the peace of the risen Lord reign in our hearts and homes as we look forward to the day we can enter church again and gather around the altar to offer together the Sacrifice of Praise. We unite in asking the intercession of Our Blessed Lady and assure you of our prayers and blessing

Yours devotedly in Christ,

- ✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster
- ✠ Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool
- ✠ Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham
- ✠ George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff
- ✠ John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark

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

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. 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.

## 21 May

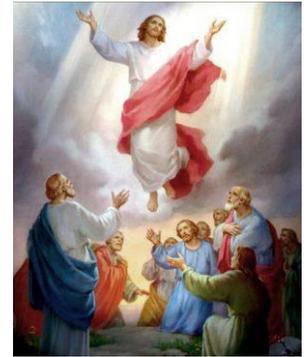
Bishop Mark Davies

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

### Religious Festivals This Week

#### Ascension Day May 21<sup>st</sup> (transferred to Sunday)

Ascension Day commemorates the last earthly appearance of the Risen Christ, who, according to Christian belief, ascended into heaven in the presence of many witnesses. It is one of the four most important dates in the Christian calendar. Observed generally by Catholics and Anglicans, it is also known as the Feast of Ascension, and occurs on the Thursday 40 days after Easter. It marks the end of the Easter season and falls ten days before Pentecost.



According to the accounts in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus appeared to many of his disciples during the 40 days following his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. On the 40th day, he came again to the Apostles and led them out to the Mount of Olives where he instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Spirit. Then, as they were watching, he ascended into the clouds.

According to Augustine of Hippo, one of the early church fathers, the Feast of Ascension originated with the Apostles. John Chrysostom and Gregory of Nyssa, contemporaries of Augustine, refer to it as being one of the oldest feasts practised by the Church, possibly going as far back as AD 68. There is no written evidence, however, of the Church honoring Ascension Day until Augustine's time in the fourth century.

As an Ecumenical feast, Ascension Day is one of the six holy days where attendance at Mass is mandatory for Roman Catholics and Anglicans. The event is generally a one-day public commemoration, although the Church, in keeping with earlier traditions regarding festivals, offers devotions for seven days. The night before the feast, priests and deacons attend a vigil of prayers and scripture readings. On the day of the feast, Mass is celebrated and the Paschal candle, which was lit on Easter Sunday, is extinguished. Liturgies proclaiming the finished work of salvation and the ascension of the glorified Christ into Heaven are recited, followed later by evening prayers. At the end of the seven-day devotion, two additional days are kept by the priests, making a total of nine days (a novena). The novena allows for the preparation of Pentecost, which takes place the next day.

For many Christians, Ascension Day's meaning provides a sense of hope that the glorious and triumphant return of Jesus is near. It is a reminder of the ever-present Spirit of God, watching over and protecting them as they spread the light of Jesus' truth throughout the world



Ascension Day is associated across Britain with various festivals ranging from Well Dressing in Derbyshire to the Planting of the

'Penny Hedge' (or 'Horngarth') in the harbour at Whitby, Yorkshire. It is also the day for Beating the Bounds, or Boundaries, of a church's parish. The custom was once found in almost every English parish, but now is only carried out in a few places. In modern times, it involves people in the locality walking around their farm, manorial, church or civil boundaries, pausing as they pass certain trees, walls and hedges that denote the extent of the boundary to exclaim, pray and ritually 'beat' particular landmarks with sticks.

In England, eggs laid on Ascension Day are said to 'never go bad' and will guarantee good luck for a household if placed in the roof. In Devon, it was an ancient belief that the clouds always formed into the familiar Christian image of a lamb on Ascension Day. If the weather is sunny on Ascension Day, the summer will be long and hot. If it rains on the day, crops will do badly and livestock will suffer from disease. According to Welsh superstition, it is unlucky to do any work on Ascension Day.

Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:50-53, Acts of the Apostles 1:9-11

### **Eid -Ul – Fitr, Islam - 24<sup>th</sup> May**



Celebrations of this festival may extend over the first three days of the month of Shawwal, the month following Ramadan, although only the first day's celebration is religiously sanctioned. It is a time for making gifts to the poor (*Zakat-ul-Fitr*, the charity of the fast, must be paid before the *Eid* prayer). Now is a time for new clothes, good food, and presents for children. Families get together and contact friends, especially those who live far away. The community will assemble for *Eid* prayer and a sermon at the mosque or at a

large place which will accommodate the whole community of the town or village. The traditional greeting is '*Eid Mubarak*' – 'a happy and blessed *Eid*'. (There is no reference in the *Qur'an* but there is in the *Hadith*, the traditions of the Prophet).

Interesting things to know about Eid:

1. It is customary to eat breakfast before the special prayer of Eid, as Prophet Muhammad used to eat something sweet before offering his prayers.
2. In Muslim countries Eid is an official public holiday that lasts for three days
3. As the crescent moon of Eid appears on different dates in different countries, many Muslim communities celebrate Eid on the day it appears over the sky above Mecca.
4. The Eid prayer is different from the regular prayer known as Adhaan. The special prayer can be done anytime between the Ishraq (dawn) and Zawal (midday) prayers.
5. In Turkey, Eid is called Ramazan Bayram which means Ramadan Feast. The Eid delicacies are also known as Şeker Bayram, which is inspired from the popular Turkish sweet baklava.
6. Muslims usually give a special gift of money to charity also known as Zakat-ul-Fitr which is collected and given to Muslims who are poor or in need.
7. In Indonesia, Eid is also called Idul Fitri or Lebaran. On the day of celebrations many Indonesian Muslims visit the graves of their family members and clean the gravesite and offer prayers to Allah for forgiveness. This festival is known as the 'lesser Eid', though it is the more

popular of the two major Eids that Muslims observe. The contrast with the preceding fast days of Ramadan ensures that it is welcomed with great festivity and exciting foods

# The Canticle of Creation

## by St Francis of Assisi

O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord  
God, to you belong praise, glory,  
honour and all blessing.

Be praised, my Lord, for all your  
creation and especially for  
our Brother Sun,  
who brings us  
the day and  
the light; he  
is strong and shines magnificently.  
O Lord, we think of you  
when we look at him.

Be praised, my Lord,  
for Sister Moon, and for the  
stars which you have set shining  
and lovely in the heavens.

Be praised, my Lord, for  
our Brothers Wind and Air  
and every kind of weather  
by which you, Lord,  
uphold life in all your creatures.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,  
who is very useful to us,

and humble and precious and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,  
through whom you give us light in the  
darkness: he is bright  
and lively and strong.

Be praised, my Lord,  
for Sister Earth, our Mother,  
who nourishes us and sustains us,  
bringing forth fruits and vegetables  
of many kinds and  
flowers of many colours.

Be praised, my Lord,  
for those who forgive for love  
of you; and for those who  
bear sickness and weakness  
in peace and patience you will grant  
them a crown.

Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister  
Death, whom we must all face.

I praise and bless you, Lord,  
and I give thanks to you,  
and I will serve you  
in all humility.