



St James – A shining light in Petts Wood



ST JAMES THE GREAT

Briefly

Weekly Newsletter

12th May 2024

Seventh Sunday Of Easter



Fr David Says....

For many Catholics, synodality remains something of an abstract concept. It is often explained as meaning something like "Journeying together", after the two Greek words (syn meaning with, and hodos meaning journey) that the word Synod derives from. There is a definite paradigm shift in the model of the Church which Pope Francis is encouraging us to follow. He is seeing that synodality is the way we as church can express and manifest what the Vatican II had dreamt of in the 1960s. A Church which listens and discerns. A Church which is not hierarchical but includes all the people of God. A Church which does not dictate from top to bottom but a Church which listens to all the aspects of the people of God and discerns with them where the Holy Spirit is leading the Church. The word discernment and listening to the Signs of the Times were two of the buzz words which we discussed and heard about during the Synod for Parish Priests last week. It was a joy for me to be with 300 priests from all over the world and together sharing our diverse stories of parish priests. The ups and downs which we all experience. The diversity of pastoral situations in different parts of the world and yet as parish priests – the human element connected us together.

What exactly does discernment mean? The official definition of Christian discernment is a "decision making process in which an individual or a community makes a discovery that can lead to future action" For a Christian community, discernment is a process by which God helps us to reach the best decision.

We come to the last week of the Easter season, the holiest season of the year for us Christians. The focus of Easter has been the growth of the early Church and the need to be united with the Risen Lord Jesus and with each other so that the Good News can be proclaimed to the whole world. The first reading today takes place after the Ascension and before Pentecost. As the apostles seek to replace Judas. So after Jesus's Ascension as they await the coming of the Holy Spirit, the apostles decide to fill Judas's place in the Twelve. Twelve is a biblical number that implies fullness. For example the twelve sons of Jacob, Israel the twelve tribes. They want this position to come from those who have been part of the disciples since the beginning of Jesus's ministry - starting from the baptism by John the Baptist. They select two individuals – Barsabbas and Matthias and they pray that they would be led by the Holy Spirit in the spirit of discernment in their Choice. From the beginning of the Church, the process of discernment had been used to see as a community where God was leading them as church.

They cast lots so that from the Lord comes every decision. Ultimately they decided on Matthias to take the place of Judas.

The Gospel today is Jesus's prayer for his disciples. He prays for all His followers including us that we might be one, just as He and his Father are one. He is confident that his disciples will face trying times like we would, be rejected by people of the world who seek only earthly values. Jesus lifts up His followers and us so that they may be in the world but not of the world. Just as He came into the world but was not of this world. Pope Francis when he met us, the parish priests on Thursday Morning insisted that we as priests would not be taken over by spiritual worldliness. He was referring to those priests who find their identity in clericalism. Where their clerical dress distinguish them as being superior to the rest of the People of God.

Jesus seems to hammer on one point as he prepares his followers for the world they must live in and witness to after his departure. And that point is that he must go away in order for the disciples to do the work they are being sent to do. He is quite adamant about this – these things cannot be accomplished unless he goes away.

We hear Jesus making an urgent, passionate kind of invitation. Telling the world, and showing it in action, that God's love and care extend to every human being in every place not only builds up the body of Christ so that Jesus's embrace becomes all encompassing, at the same time it accomplishes the reign of God bringing everyone into that embrace.

Everyone of us is needed to make this happen. And truly I do not think its particularly important for us to go out and tell the world that God loves them, that God intends for them to be free and whole and held in the arms of Love. What matters is that we, the body of Christ we, who together incarnate the spirit of God, love and free and heal and embrace the world.

This is the essence of our faith in action. How all humankind know that God is generous if we are not generous?, how will humankind know that God is within them if we are not with them? How will humankind know that God love them if we do not love them? And if we are the generous, present and loving people who do bear witness to God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit by our actions, then we won't have to stare at the sky to try to see Jesus. All we will have to do is look around us.

Thank you for reading once again my reflection for this week. Have a great week! God bless you all.



All the Masses being said at St James' will be live streamed
<https://www.churchservices.tv/pettswood>
For the protection of all attend St James we request that you do not video live Masses using your phone during services.
 You can also take part in Adoration and Benediction by live stream.
 All events for live streaming are listed on the streaming site.

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Confessions will be heard in the church on Saturdays, 5.00-5.45pm,
 or by appointment.

Seventh Sunday of Easter Saturday 11th May Sunday 12th May	6:00pm Rose & Martin Norris (D Marshall) 09:15am Dominic Braganza RIP - 1st Anniversary (Rebello) Lauren Antao (Antao Family) 11:00am Anita Rowland RIP (P Rowland) Geraldine Mulroy RIP (S McAleer) Sharon Fernandes RIP (Fernandes Family)
Feria Monday 13th May	10:00am Ken & Angela Evans (H Marvell) 12:00pm Requiem Mass for Fr Barry Hughes held at St Michaels, Locksbottom
Saint Matthias Tuesday 14th May	10:00am Francesca margaux Sio RIP (J Sio) Canon John McNamara RIP (H Marvell)
Saint John Stone Wednesday 15th May	10:00am Frank St Clair RIP (P Rowland) Italo Ferretti RIP (Ferretti Family)
Saint Simon Thursday 16th May	10:00am Cyril Webster RIP - 2nd Anniversary (H Wood)
Feria Friday 17th May	No Mass from St James' <u>Please note that St Edmund of Canterbury, Beckenham will be live streaming their Mass at 10:00am.</u> <u>Click here for direct link to St Edmund's:</u> <u>https://www.churchservices.tv/beckenham</u>
Pentecost Sunday Saturday 18th May Sunday 19th May	06:00pm Achamma Devassy RIP - Anniversary (S Moonjely) 09:15am Mary Scott RIP (M Scott) 11:00am Gay Baker RIP (J Baker)

The next second collection will be on 26th May for the Building Fund.



The current needs for this week are for:

- Tinned cold meats
- Tinned hot meats
- UHT Milk
- Tinned Fruit
- Cooking Sauces
- Jam
- Tea
- Tinned potatoes

For more information go to: <https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>