

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE
holyspiritmarple.com
Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427:4922
8th May 2022
4th SUNDAY OF EASTER
VOCATIONS/ GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

First Reading: (Acts 13:14, 43-52)

We must turn to the pagans.

Second Reading : Apocalypse 7:9, 14-17)

The Lamb will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

Gospel: (John 10:27-30)

I give eternal life to the sheep that belong to me.

Pope Francis's prayer intention for May: For all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.

Sunday 6pm 9am	8th May Ian Fraser Maria Tognarelli/ Parishioners	Thursday 10am	12th May Frank & Mary McGill Special Int., (Harrison)
Monday	9th May NO MASS	Friday 10.30am	13th May Our Lady of Fatima REQUIEM - Peter Elliott
Tuesday	10th May NO MASS	Saturday 11am First Communions 2pm First Communions	14th May First Communicants and their families.
Wednesday	11th May NO MASS	Sunday 6pm Vigil 9am	15th May Bernard Sellars Mollie Bentley Parishioners

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	Last Saturday of the month – 10.30am-11.30am or by arrangement
Baptism/Marriage	By appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation	As above
Collection	£414.40p

THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Please pray for Bill Davies, Christopher Brown, Stuart Madden, Christopher Clifford, James Tanner, Annie Shufflebotham, Marie Sidebottom,, Libby Webb, Nina Noworyta, Kathleen Williams, Ruth Grace Crosby, Jarek Tomaszewski, Emily Small, Ann Crossley, Kathryn Smith, Steven Platts, Fr.Kevin Gradwell, Pauline Magrath, Kathleen Jones, Father Pat Munroe, Renata Broda, Cyril Nield, Neil Timperley, Isaac Iqba, Grace Birch, David Froggatt.

A warm welcome to everyone. If you are new to the parish, please fill in a card and give it to Fr Bill. We shall be glad to visit you and make you as welcome as possible.

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A/C details:Account Name: "Holy Spirit Development Account" Account No.58710368 Sort Code 30 15 52

SOCIAL

Our "First Communion Candidates" have now had their final Session on Thursday last with the Shrewsbury Youth Mission. Rehearsals for both Communion Masses will take place on "Thursday next May 12th" those who are celebrating their First Communion at the 11:00am Mass, are invited for Rehearsal at 6:15pm on Thursday, with the 2:00pm Candidates invited for Rehearsal at 7:00pm on Thursday, we would kindly ask all of the Candidates to ensure you are on time. The Rehearsal will involve (A) Arrangements for the Candidates & Family Seating, and (B) also a short practice for the Candidates on how to receive the "Sacred Host." We also invite Families to park their vehicles, in the front & back Church Parks which will be available, once these are full you will need to park carefully on the side streets, we do not want any complaints from residents about blocked drives. Do not park on the kerb immediately outside of the Church, park on the opposite side of the road in front of Birch Court, in this way not narrowing the road. We do not want to have to call anybody out of Church during the Holy Communion Masses to remove their car. A lot of hard work has been put into preparing the Candidates, by Fr. Bill and his team, by the team of stewards, parent representatives, and the members of Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team, May 14th will be the culmination of all this hard work. Parishes generally tend to take up a Collection at their "First Holy Communion Masses" to cover expenses, Fr. Bill however is not going to do this, there will be baskets on the tables in the Church Foyer, Fr. Bill invites families to make a voluntary donation in appreciation of all the hard work put in by the Parish and its representatives on behalf of the Families & Candidates. The Parish will not be preparing Candidates during this "Academic Year" for the celebration of Confirmation. Next Autumn we will be offering any potential candidates from Years 8/9 at any local Secondary Schools an opportunity to prepare for Confirmation in 2023.

Confessions are available before and after weekday or weekend Masses and on the last Saturday of each month from 10:30am to 11:30am as part of the monthly Holy Hour. The celebration of Marriage and Baptisms are by "Appointment Only" with Fr. Bill, Families or Couples need to give sufficient notice for Baptism or if intending to get Married.

Fr. Bill is also thankful to all those who have renewed their support for the "Development Fund" by taking a "New Series of Dev. Fund Envelopes" / setting up a "Standing Order in favour of the A/C, there are still some "Sets of Dev Fund Envelopes" available from the table in the "Church Foyer" for anyone interested in supporting the Development Fund. Once the "Sacramental Programme" concludes in Mid-May, Fr Bill will meet with the Parish Management & Finance Team to prepare a letter which will then be sent to the Shrewsbury Diocesan Board of Finance & Planning, with regard to future maintenance. One of the most important items on this maintenance agenda, will be Church Heating. The Church Boiler is now of an age, do we remain with Gas ?? consider a Heating Pump ?? switch to Electric Heating of a kind ?? Before we start "Phase 2 Maintenance" A New Entrance to the Church and "Interior Church Decoration" we need to tackle the issue of the Church Heating, there is no point in decorating the inside of Holy Spirit and then having to rip it out again to install a "New Heating System."

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES: We now invite anyone who had a Children's Society Box to bring it for emptying. You can leave it on the table in the Church Foyer and Bernadette will send the monies to "Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury" which is the new name for what was originally the Children's Society. Thanks to all for your continued support.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER VOCATIONS/ GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

The Acts of the Apostles, from which today's first reading is sourced, gives us a clear understanding of the successes and disappointments that the Apostles of the early Church experienced. The background to their preaching is the reluctance of the Jews to fully come on board, once the Apostles seem to have made solid progress, as is the case in the incident recounted for us today, suddenly the opposition emerges once more, and it's back to scratch for the Apostles, they are chased out of town, something they have experienced before, when things looked promising for them.

John, once more in today's second reading describes his vision of the "Praises" that the Holy One's sing to the Lamb of God, continually giving him praise. These are those who have gone before us marked with the "Signs Of Faith." These are the Redeemed who are judged worthy, because they have overcome their earthly trials, to be in the presence of Jesus in heaven, continually giving him praise and honour.

On this "Good Shepherd Sunday" across all three cycles, the Gospel is taken from the Tenth Chapter of St. John's Gospel. Today's passage from St. John's Gospel follows the account of Jesus' healing of the "Man Born Blind" and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish Leaders, who question "His Authority" to heal. Jesus, responds immediately to this challenge by calling himself the "Good Shepherd" and outlining what sheep are worthy to be part of his flock. This assertion will cause further conflict for Jesus with the Jewish Authorities, he goes even further and speaks about his unity with the Father.