

Chaplaincy Newsletter

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Saintly Inspirations

St Bede the Venerable - Feast Day May 25th

Nothing is known of St Bede's parentage, we know he was born near the monastery of St Peter and St Paul in Wearmouth in Jarrow and at the age of three he was sent to live in the monastery to be educated by the Abbots. He became a monk and was ordained at the age of 30. Apart from a few brief visits elsewhere St Bede spent his entire life in the monastery. He devoted his life to the study of scripture and to reading and writing. He was, and still is considered one of the most academic men of his time and a major influence on English literature. In 1899 St Bede was declared the only English Doctor of the Church. Saint Bede is patron saint of English writers and Historians.



St Rita of Cascia - Feast Day May 22nd



St Rita was born in Roccaporena, near Spoleto, Italy, in 1381. From an early age she desired to become a nun, but her parents insisted that she marry. Out of obedience to her parents' wishes, St. Rita entered an arranged marriage at the age of twelve with Paolo Mancini and they had two sons. After 18 years, of what is described as an unhappy marriage, Rita's husband died following an ambush. Her two sons died of natural causes within a year of each other. Following the death of her family and finding herself alone her thoughts once more turned to the desired vocation of her youth, that of joining the Augustinian Nuns of Saint Mary Magdalene Monastery. At the age of thirty-six Rita entered into the convent and for the next forty years she gave herself wholeheartedly to prayer and works of charity, striving especially to preserve peace and harmony among the citizens of Cascia. Through her trials God used her in remarkable ways. Having faithfully and lovingly responded to God's many invitations to her in the course of her seventy-six years, Rita died on May 22, 1457. Her body, which has remained incorrupt over the centuries, is venerated today in the shrine of Cascia, which bears her name. Now she assists from heaven those who plea for her intercession for their own seemingly impossible and hopeless circumstances. St Rita is the patron saint of numerous causes but best known as the patron saint of hopeless causes.

Chaplaincy News.....

Postponed events; We have had confirmation that the following events will go ahead once restrictions are lifted and it is safe to attend.

- Emmaus Choir-performing in Ealing Abbey
- Year 8 Liturgy Leaders-Visit to the Holy House of Nazareth at Westminster Cathedral for the Rededication of the Dowry of Mary.
- Year 7 Liturgy Leaders - Good Samaritan Mass at Westminster Cathedral
- Year 10 Justice and Peace members—Visit to Vaughn House to meet J & P Co-Ordinator for Westminster, Colette Joyce.

All Things for Christ

The WORD Explained

Sunday's Gospel 6th Sunday of Easter

John 14:15-21 Jesus said to his disciples; 'If you love me you will keep my commandments, I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time, the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live, and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The promise from Jesus was not a conditional one, God has already sent His Spirit who lives in us all. However we still need the reassurance that God is with us. "I will not leave you orphans." At some point we all want or even need to hear these words. They speak directly to some of our greatest fears and challenges, abandonment and isolation, loneliness and vulnerability. They remind us that we are not destined to walk this earth without an identity or direction. We do not stand alone. We fear being on our own but we were never intended to stand alone as individuals. We were created to love and be loved, to live in relationships as persons giving themselves to each other, to dwell, abide, and remain within each other even as the Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father.

Mary's Month of May



Because Catholics believe Mary worthy of honour, she has been bestowed many titles throughout history which reflect aspects of her life and nature. It is these titles that make up the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Also known as the Litany of Loreto because of its first known place of origin, the shrine of Loreto in Italy, where its usage has been recorded as early as the mid 16th century.

A litany is a prayer that consists of a long series of invocations (calls) to Our Lady, which follow in a uniform rhythm. The first invocation is said by the prayer leader followed by the response "Pray for us." Of the 48 invocations, twelve refer to Mary as Mother; six as a Virgin. Thirteen titles are derived from the Old Testament, followed by four calling on her as helper and advocate. The last thirteen name Mary as Queen.

Holy Mother of God,	Mystical rose,
Holy Virgin of virgins,	Tower of David,
Mother of Christ,	Tower of ivory,
Mother of the Church,	House of gold,
Mother of divine grace,	Ark of the covenant,
Mother most pure,	Gate of heaven,
Mother most chaste,	Morning star,
Mother inviolate,	Health of the sick,
Mother undefiled,	Refuge of sinners,
Mother immaculate,	Comforter of the afflicted,
Mother most amiable,	Help of Christians,
Mother most admirable,	Queen of angels,
Mother of good counsel,	Queen of patriarchs,
Mother of our Creator,	Queen of prophets,
Mother of our Savior,	Queen of apostles,
Virgin most prudent,	Queen of martyrs,
Virgin most venerable,	Queen of confessors,
Virgin most renowned,	Queen of virgins,
Virgin most powerful,	Queen of all saints,
Virgin most merciful,	Queen conceived without original sin,
Virgin most faithful,	Queen assumed into heaven,
Mirror of justice,	Queen of the most holy rosary,
Seat of wisdom,	Queen of families,
Cause of our joy,	Queen of peace
Spiritual vessel,	
Vessel of honor,	
Singular vessel of devotion,	