

MAY

Collects

Sunday readings for May plus a few thoughts on the gospel readings.

Sunday 3rd

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:42-end **1 Peter 2:19-end** **John 10:1-10**

John 10 contains Jesus' teaching about himself as Good Shepherd.

As you read the account consider the following:

How do you get to better know the voice of the Good Shepherd?

What are the points of tension in choosing between following the Good Shepherd and going your own way?

What are the things that represent the 'wolf' in your life—the things (events, situations, sins, fears, etc.) that steal and destroy?

What might it mean for you to have life in all its fullness?

Sunday 10th

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 7:55-end **1 Peter 2:2-10** **John 14:1-14**

In John 14 we find Jesus speaking to his disciples and beginning to prepare them for a time when he will no longer be with them in the same way. In this account there is another of the great 'I am...' statements of Jesus: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

No one comes to the Father except through me." It is an emphatic declaration about Jesus' identity and purpose. How does each element (way, truth and life) resonate for you today?

Sunday 17th

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 17:22-31 **1 Peter 3:13-end** **John 14:15-21**

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit in this reading from John's gospel. Whilst many other passages speak about the Holy Spirit, this one seems to be about the Spirit coming to help the disciples to live God's way in the world. What does the title 'Spirit of Truth' suggest about the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives? What about the title 'Advocate'?

Sunday 24th

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 1:6-14 **1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11** **John 17:1-11**

When Jesus prays for his disciples he also prays for each of us. Think about your most recent time of prayer. What did you pray for? What did you ask for yourself? As you read this passage (and do read to the end of the chapter if you have time) think about what Jesus' priorities were when he prayed for his disciples and for us.

Sunday 31st

PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-21 **1 Corinthians 12:3b-13,** **John 20:19-23**

Acts and John give us more passages about the Holy Spirit. They are both speaking of the same person. Which description of the Holy Spirit do you find easiest to relate to, and why? What can we learn of the Spirit's nature and work from these passages? Why might it be important to hold together these different understandings?

4th Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:

teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.

5th Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life:

give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

6th Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

7th Sunday of Easter

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Pentecost

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pause, ponder...

SELFISH YESTERDAYS

Dear Lord we pray when this day,
Of human feet shuffling through dead bracken
Of pandemic is over and we emerge virus free
Into fields of long grasses and clover
Celebrating our relief from fear and grief
With praise and thanks let us not forget,
Those we place in the lowest ranks
Of our human made hierarchy,
The carers, cleaners and bin men
Whose courage we praised but yesterday.
Dear Lord may we recall the pledge we made
As we stood on the edge of fear
To create a fairer society for all.
Help us we pray when anxiety is laid to rest
And the dead bracken but a memory,
We do not fall back into the old familiar ways
Of our selfish yesterdays.

PAT BIDMEAD

Pray

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from
your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Collect for Ascension Day (21st May)

God our Father,
you have raised our humanity in Christ
and have fed us with the bread of heaven:
mercifully grant that, nourished with such
spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the
heavenly places;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CHURCH BEYOND BUILDINGS



Sundays 10am - **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

Usually live streamed on Facebook at 10am but sometimes a recorded service with input from members of the congregations. You do not need to be a registered Facebook user to be able to access this - just put the following link into your browser <https://www.facebook.com/stnicolaschurchnuneaton/>

Sundays 11am-12noon - **CHURCH LOUNGE**

Post-service chat (with refreshments from your own kitchen) via Zoom. Email Mark for more details— 20s30s@stnicolaschurch.org.uk OR use this link <https://zoom.us/j/136028810>

Mondays 8am - MORNING PRAYER on Zoom.
Zoom link is always <https://zoom.us/j/136028810>

Tuesdays 10am - SWANS session with Sally-Ann live streamed on Facebook. You do need to be a Facebook user and a member of the SWANS Facebook group.

Wednesdays 7-8pm - **WORD & WORSHIP**

An online version of our Wednesday evening programme with some Bible study and chatter. The current theme is the Creeds. This will be on Zoom.

Thursdays 11.30am - **SONGS FOR LITTLE ONES**

Linked with Baby Hub Sally-Ann will be leading a short session of songs. Thursday is also pastoral care catch-up day!

Thursdays 7.30pm- **TALKING JESUS**

A course providing encouragement and advice on sharing our faith. It is suitable for those of all knowledge and experience levels. If you're interested, please email Mark on 20s30s@stnicolaschurch.org.uk and he will provide you with the Zoom details.

Fridays 11am - **SNAPS**

A new online programme for adults and young people with additional needs plus any carers who want to join! Email Sally-Ann saveasey@postmaster.co.uk

Saturdays 4-5pm - **CHURCH QUIZ**

A quiz suitable for all ages via Zoom.

Plus **NIGHT PRAYER** every evening at 8.30pm on Facebook. See back page for **Special Events in May!**

ORDER FOR NIGHT PRAYER (COMPLINE)

You may like to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background.

The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33:27

OPENING SENTENCES

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night
and a perfect end.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

A period of silence for reflection on the day may follow.

Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while
sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

The psalm for the day is used.

At the end of the psalmody, the following is said

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*One of the following or another short passage from
scripture is read*

<i>Sunday Evening</i>	<i>Jeremiah 14.9</i>
<i>Monday Evening</i>	<i>Isaiah 30.15</i>
<i>Tuesday Evening</i>	<i>Matthew 11.28-end</i>
<i>Wednesday Evening</i>	<i>1 Peter 5.6,7</i>
<i>Thursday Evening</i>	<i>John 16.33</i>
<i>Friday Evening</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians 5.9,10</i>
<i>Saturday Evening</i>	<i>John 8.12</i>

After the reading this responsory may be said

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.
I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said

**Refrain: Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation which
you have prepared in the sight of every people

3 A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Refrain: Save us, O Lord, while waking...

PRAYERS

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect and one of the following may be said.

Merciful God, we entrust to your unfailing and
tender care this night those who are ill or in pain,
knowing that whenever danger threatens your
everlasting arms are there to hold us safe. Comfort
and heal them, and restore them to health and
strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us
through the silent hours of this night, so that we
who are wearied by the changes and chances of
this fleeting world, may rest upon your eternal
changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray, and drive far from
it the snares of the enemy; may your holy angels
dwell with us in peace, and may your blessing be
always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer is said.

THE CONCLUSION

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.

The Lord bless us and watch over us; the Lord
make his face shine upon us and be gracious to
us; the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.
Amen.

NEWS IN BRIEF

We have tried to set up a network of pastoral care and support for this time when we are unable to meet. In addition we encourage church members to stay in touch with each other by telephone and alert the vicar or wardens if you are concerned about anyone or if you would value being contacted.

APCMs (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) for St James and St Nicolas have been postponed until later in the year.

In October we appointed Revd Adrian Guthrie to be the Associate Minister of St James. Adrian's licensing, due to take place in May, is not able to go ahead at and Adrian will be continuing to minister in Alcester for the time being and join us when we move beyond the Coronavirus situation.

Kelly's sabbatical (planned for mid June until early September) will be delayed until a more convenient time for the parishes and her.

The deadline for the June newsletter will be Monday 25th May. Email contributions to revkells@gmail.com.

If you know of anyone in need of help at this time please ask permission to pass on their details to one of the wardens or the vicar so that we can try to help. Please also remember that we have some basic food supplies at St Nicolas for anyone in need.

During this time when we cannot gather for worship it is still vital that we support our churches financially if they are to survive. For those who give via envelopes or by putting money in the plate please consider how you can maintain your support of church mission and ministry at this time. Can you give by bank transfer?

SPECIAL EVENTS IN MAY

Sunday 3rd May, 10am: **Sunday Morning Worship**

A service of worship with input from members of the congregations taking part. You can join in at home via Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/stnicolaschurchnuneaton/>

Friday 8th May, midday: **VE75**

We are compiling a video to release on Friday 8th May on Facebook to mark the 75th anniversary of VE day. If you would like to contribute something please contact Kelly on 07709 400213 before 1st May. At the moment we are looking for people to record themselves saying a poem, saving flags, singing a song, telling a story, showing a pictures, etc. all with a VE Day link.



Thursday 21st May, 10am: **Ascension Day Service**

A simple service of Holy Communion for Ascension Day.

Sunday 31st May, 10am: **Pentecost Service**

Another celebratory service with input from members of the congregations of both churches. This service will be pre-recorded so if you would like to contribute an element please contact Kelly.

On-going: **Knitting Angels**

For those who can knit you might like to make use of the pattern enclosed with this mailing and create some angels that we'll be using near to Christmas. Thanks to Carol Ward for devising the pattern and to Jane Clarke for trialing it!



NUNEATON FOODBANK

Nuneaton Foodbank is still operating during these challenging times and the four centres have been operational.

Due to the current restrictions, most regular donation points in churches, chapels and organisations are no longer able to operate and the Foodbank is dependent on donations at supermarkets such as ASDA, Sainsburys, Co-op and Lidl.

You can also make financial donations on the Nuneaton Foodbank website www.nuneaton.foodbank.org.uk via GIVE HELP section.

Recently the Foodbank has distributed over 0.56 of a ton more than was donated. To replace the 0.56tons of food it will cost the foodbank £980. Current items on the Foodbank shopping list are:

tinned potatoes; tinned fruit; puddings; fruit juice; cuppa soup; jars of pasta sauce; instant mashed potato; small jars of coffee; tinned sausage and beans in one can; deodorants (male & female); shower gel; hair shampoo; bars of soap; safety razors; shaving gel/foam; washing pods; washing powder; washing up liquid; tin openers; nappies size 5 and 6. *Thanks for helping*