



The Parish of the Assumption, *Holy Trinity*

26, London Road, Chipping Norton, OX7 5AX

Fr Clive Dytor · holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk · [07484 158642](tel:07484158642)

Website: <http://holytrinityrc-chippingnorton.com>

The Assumption is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 3rd May 2026 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Year A

Dear Friends,

The visit of King Charles and Queen Camilla to the USA, to mark 250 years since Independence, seems to have gone well, far better than many had anticipated and feared. President Trump, notoriously difficult to predict, was fulsome in his praise and admiration for our Monarch and it seemed to be genuine, and deep. The King spoke with humour and style, in his self-deprecating manner and this acted as a contrast to the more bombastic tone of much political rhetoric. Despite all the recent disagreements and unpleasant words around the Middle East conflict, all was roses in the garden.

King Charles still holds an ancient title given by Pope Leo X to Henry VIII in 1521, that of *“Defender of the Faith”*. Despite the rupture with Rome under the same king, and the radical reshaping of the Catholic Faith and Church to form the national Church of England, that title was retained by successive rulers in this country although retracted by the Roman authorities. The current Monarch expressed some time ago his desire to be a *“Defender of Faith”* rather than the old title, stressing the proliferation of religious traditions in the world rather than the particular Christian understanding of God. This has been generally well received but there is a very basic question to be asked. How can we believe in Jesus Christ who says: *“I am the way, the truth and the life”*, and also recognise Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, Islam etc., etc.? Is there not a contradiction here?

In 1965 towards the close of the Second Vatican Council, a short document was published addressing the issue of the Catholic Church and other religious traditions. This was *“Nostra Aetate”*, and its fundamental approach was: *“The Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these religions”*.

In recognising the good and also the errors of the past, the Church has attempted to build bridges with other traditions, particularly in the regular meetings held in Assisi, begun by St John Paul II. It has not abandoned the words of Jesus, however, who spoke of Himself as the Way, the Truth and the Life, and talks of *“shadows and images”* found in other ways of understanding the Divine, which become clarified and clear in Jesus Christ the Word made Flesh.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be open-hearted, but also firm in our belief that He is the Icon of the Father, and that in Him all creation is redeemed and sanctified. At the end of the ages, all will be made clear to us who presently, in the words of St Paul *“see through a glass darkly”*.

P.S. No Masses on Thursday as I will be going through heart procedure no. 7... a good biblical number and hopefully the final one! My gratitude as always to Frs. Martin and Paul for offering Holy Mass on the weekend as I have to rest up.

God bless everyone, Fr Clive

Parish Notices

Second Collection for the *Clergy Training Fund* raised £500 across the Parish! Thank you to everyone for your generosity to our seminarians.

Rosary and Classes as usual this week. Masses: Monday, Tuesday Mass 9:15am. **No Mass on Thursday.** Friday Rosary for Peace 9:15am. **Requiem for Verna Lane**, a long-term parishioner of Holy Trinity, will be at 2pm on Wednesday 6th May, at St Michael's church in Barford St Michael, followed by a private family cremation and afterwards at the Village Hall for tea.

Save The Date: Talk and Discussion: What Price Religious Freedom? Sunday 10th May 3pm-4pm, Morris Room, Charlbury Corner House.

We now take our religious freedom for granted, but throughout the world people are disadvantaged and persecuted for their faith: Christianity, Islam, Judaism. Our panel experts: Elliott Banks, Lead Researcher Aid to the Church in Need and Fr. Dominic Robinson SJ, Chair: Justice and Peace Commission, Diocese of Westminster will help us explore the impact of this persecution has not only on faith but on a wider society. This event is sponsored by the Parish of the Assumption – St. Teresa's, Charlbury and supports Aid to the Church in Need. Tickets £9 to include the talk, a glass of wine/cup of tea/cake. Please pay on the door, cash or cheques only. — Suze Mathews ACN Parish Representative

In May, let us pray together with the Holy Father that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parish. In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones. The repose of the souls of those who have died. People whose anniversaries occur at this time. The people of the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are **Tammy Lawson** and **Sharnalee Foster** (sg.stteresaoflisieux.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk). Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.