



The Parish of the Assumption, *Holy Trinity*

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The Assumption is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 17th May 2026 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Readings: Year A

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, a wise old farmer said to me: “May is the best month in England”. The flora and fauna are bursting out in all their freshness, the birds are singing with all their gusto... Spring is in the air and our Oxfordshire countryside is stunning.

For Catholics there is another beauty of this month: *Our Blessed Lady Mary*.

Through most of the year we begin or end Mass with The Angelus:

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae

At this time, during the 50 days of Eastertide we replace the *Angelus* with the *Regina Caeli*:

Regina caeli, laetare alleluia

Rejoice and be glad, alleluia

Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia

He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia

Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia

As he promised hath arisen, alleluia

Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia

Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia

Mary is the Gospel link from the Incarnation, through the public ministry of Jesus, as in the wedding at Cana, the first of the miracles, and on to the traumatic Passion and the death of her son on the Cross, and, as in today's first Reading, to the Upper room and the falling of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Only Mary continually walks alongside the Saviour, her son. Only Mary follows Him so faithfully and discretely through His life. It is entirely right and proper that we love her, pay her the highest of honours and sing her praises.

On Wednesday of this week the children of our school will be singing in Mary's honour and this will culminate in the *May Procession* to the outdoor shrine. This has been completely overhauled and refreshed thanks to the generosity of one lady. Do take a look and say a prayer to Our Blessed Mother.

P.S. We are approaching First Communion/Confirmation time and this Friday at 10.30am in Holy Trinity our area Bishop Richard will celebrate a Confirmation Mass for the children of the school. This Mass is open to everyone to join and share in this special time. The Bishop (formerly parish priest of *St John's*, Banbury) will then spend time in the school... a great honour for us!

In June we will be welcoming our First Communions, a bumper crop again.

**God bless everyone,
Fr Clive**

Parish Notices

Last week's second collection for *Poor Parishes* raised £211.18 across the Parish.
This week's second collection is for *Catholic Communication*.

Masses and Classes as usual this week, however no Friday Rosary: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Mass 9.15am. Friday School Confirmation Mass 9.15am.

On Thursday 21st May please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting contact *The Good Counsel Network* on [020 7723 1740](tel:02077231740), or via www.goodcounselnetwork.com.

"And the people of Ninevah believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least...God saw their efforts to renounce their evil ways. And God relented about the disaster which He had threatened to bring on them, and He did not bring it." (Jonah 3:5,10)

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.

Thursday 21st May 2026

National Day of Prayer & Fasting for Life

A great prayer for Life is urgently needed. Saint John Paul II



21st May
Vigil of St Rita

Join us each month in Prayer and Fasting:

Fasting

Fast from all food except bread and water for the day

Or

Fast from a particular food or luxury, e.g. chocolate, alcohol, cigarettes, TV.

Fast from whatever you can given your state of health etc, but make sure it is something that involves a sacrifice to yourself.

Prayer

We are asking people to say a Rosary (or an extra Rosary if you say it daily already).

You could also offer an extra effort such as going to Mass (or an extra Mass) on the day, or going to Adoration. You can even pray before a closed tabernacle if Adoration is not available near you.

*And He said to them; This kind (of demon) can go out by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.
(Gospel of Mark 9:29)*

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