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## SERVICES THIS WEEK:

### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 28 May 2017

**Family Mass** at 09:00

**Sung Eucharist** at 11:00

Missa Ascendens Christus in altum -  
Victoria

Ascendit Deus - Phillips

Ascendens Christus in altum - Victoria  
Preacher: Fr Nick Mercer

**Easter Feria: 29 May**

Bank Holiday Monday

**Mass at noon**

**Josephine Butler, social reformer:**

**30 May**

Mass at 08:00

**Visitation of the BVM to**

**Elizabeth: 31 May**

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Wednesday Evening Service at  
18:45

**Justin, martyr: 1 June**

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 18:00

**Easter Feria: 2 June**

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 18:00

**Martyrs of Uganda: 3 June**

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at noon

**PENTECOST (WHIT SUNDAY)**

**4 June 2017**

**Family Mass** at 09:00

**Sung Eucharist** at 11:00

## Wait, hope, pray

*"Hope is a value independent of its realisations; it is an intrinsic value, an end in itself, allied to courage and imagination, a positive attitude full of possibility and aspiration. For that reason you discover more about a person when you learn about his hopes than when you count his achievement, for the best of what we are lies in what we hope to be..."*

Although in many things I clearly take issue with the philosopher A.C. Grayling (the well known secularist, atheist and humanist!), I find his engagement with the human struggle for meaning compelling – and his articulation of some of our ethical challenges spot-on. And just occasionally I stumble across a phrase of his which reminds me not only of the value of elegant writing but which says it 'as it is'.

So it is in his short book 'The Meaning of Things' when he engages with the notion of hope. He reminds us, for whom the language of hope is such common currency, how vital a quality hope is – and how telling of our commitments and convictions. What, I wonder, do you hope for?

These days between the Feast of the Ascension on Thursday of last week and the coming Feast of Pentecost next Sunday are traditionally days to wait, hope and pray. After the Ascension, according to St Luke's Gospel, the disciples are bidden to return to the holy city and to wait there until they are clothed with the power and Spirit of God. This has always struck me as an odd



moment of 'idling' in the story of the early Church in the wake of the Resurrection appearances and Christ's glorious Ascension into heaven. Surely the instinctive thing would be to rush out into the world and to be about the work of spreading the Good News, evangelizing and converting people? But instead, they go back into the city and wait. More than this, they wait, hope and pray...

In a world of 'doing' in which worth is so often measured in actions and achievements, it can seem unambitious simply to wait. Surely we should be 'up and at' life – not waiting, idling or merely hoping. But the nurture in us of prayerfulness and hopefulness is vital if we are to be open to the gifts of God and his call to action. This may mean – metaphorically – 'staying in the city' from time to time, that is finding some place where we curb the instinct to be all about action, or merely about resting from action... Waiting with intentionality is the necessary place in which we can shape our hopes, aspirations and dreams – and is a vital precursor to being equipped for godly action. Where is that place for you?

*Fr Alan Gyle*

## Ramadan Mubarak!

The 27<sup>th</sup> of May hastened in the start of the holy season of Ramadan for many of our neighbours in this part of London. From now until the 25<sup>th</sup> June Muslims will fast during daylight hours. Ramadan moves each year – and this year it falls when the days are especially long and the hours of darkness short. If it is a time of blessing and growth it is also a tough time when we might, as fellow people of faith (accustomed to our own season of Lent), be particularly aware of their spiritual journeys and aware too of the challenges of fasting. Be kind. Be sensitive. Be respectful. Be prayerful. *Fr Alan Gyle*



## Christian Meditation

The method involves the repetition of a single word faithfully and lovingly during the time of meditation. This is a very ancient Christian way of prayer that was recovered for modern Christians by the Benedictine monk John Main (1926 -1982).

John Main recovered this way of bringing the mind to rest in the heart through his study of the teachings of the first Christian monks, the Desert Fathers, and of John Cassian (4<sup>th</sup> century AD). It is in the same tradition as *The Cloud of Unknowing*, written in England in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. John Main's legacy inspired the formation of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM), contemplative dimension to the common life of Christians and engaging in the common ground shared with the secular world and other religions.

Please speak to Fr Louis if you would like to know more about practising this form of prayer.

## Findlay Spence

Join us on the evening of the 22nd June at 7:30pm in St Paul's for a recital by Findlay Spence our cello and composition scholar, accompanied by John Sunderland and Michael Papadopoulos. Programme to include the Beethoven piano and cello sonata no 3 in A major and works by Liszt, Elgar, Chopin, Dvorak, Saint Saens and Brahms.

This is a free concert - no tickets are required - although donations will be welcome to assist with the purchase of a new cello for Findlay.

## Looking ahead to Salisbury and Wales

Final preparations are being made for the day trip to Salisbury Cathedral in Wiltshire on 24th June 2017. There will be a tour of the cathedral focussing on its history, a Pilgrims' Eucharist, lunch and time for you to explore at leisure. We will be travelling by train from London Waterloo, meeting

at Waterloo Station at 08:30 in anticipation of the 08:50 train. We suggest you buy an open return. There is a Festal Evensong at 17:30 for those who wish to stay. Further details from Fr Louis.

Please consider also joining us for the Parish Pilgrimage

to the historic and beautiful **Llyn Peninsula in Snowdonia, North Wales** from Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th September 2017 for an experience of Welsh spirituality and to visit the shrines of the ancient saints. Register your interest through our website at [www.spkb.org](http://www.spkb.org)

## Explorations: living with difference

The next Explorations trip will be to the Jewish Museum in Camden on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June** from 10.00am to noon exploring the question of how we live with difference.

The Jewish Museum describes itself in the following way: **our mission** is to surprise, delight and engage all people, irrespective of background or faith, in the history, identity and culture of Jews in Britain:

by inspiring discovery, provoking questions and encouraging understanding. **Our vision** is of a world where cultural diversity and the contribution of minority communities are explored, valued and celebrated, for the enrichment of society as a whole.

For more information please speak to Fr Louis and check out the museum website:

[www.jewishmuseum.org.uk](http://www.jewishmuseum.org.uk)



## The Wednesday Evening Service

**Every Wednesday at 6.45pm.** A space in the middle of the week to pause, reflect and grow. Simple words, simple music, space to be. The Mass lasts about 30 mins with refreshments. This week, 31<sup>st</sup> May, the celebrant and preacher is Fr Nick Mercer.

## Bank Holiday Monday

Please remember that the Parish Office will be closed tomorrow, Monday 29th May, for the Bank Holiday. As is our custom, the mass is at noon on Bank Holidays. Please enjoy the day – and if you're free join us for prayer and fellowship in the middle of the day.

## Please pray for...

### We pray this week for:

Peter, deputy bishop and all who assist him; Archdeacon Luke and Archdeacon Rosemary; vocations to the priesthood in this diocese; the work of food banks; all affected by the bombing in Manchester and for the response of both security forces and the local community; for all who lost their lives.

### Among the sick and those in need:

Patricia Dopheide; John Watson; Dan Gadow; John Roberts; Francis Faber; Nick Walker; Elizabeth Heim; Sue Ko; Ian Powe.

We pray for Alexandra Holesh whose life is drawing to its close.

### And we pray for the recently departed:

Mary Ann Brashler, Russell Ingham, priest; Julian Black; Liam Dickerson; Martyn Hett; Lucinda Knight.

### Year's mind:

Robin Hodgson	30/5
Dyan Wade	31/5
Hugh Leggatt	1/6