



**18TH MAY: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**COLLECT**

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of  
everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Acts 11.1-18**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?'

When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**PSALM 148.1-6**

**Praise, O Praise the name of the Lord.**

Alleluia!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you angels of his;

praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars. **R**

Praise him, heaven of heavens,

and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord;

for he commanded and they were created.

He made them stand fast for ever and ever;

he gave them a law which shall not pass away. **R**

**SECOND READING: Revelation 21.1-6**

*A reading from the book of Revelation.*

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Jesus said: 'I give you a new commandment:  
love one another, just as I have loved you.'

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: John 13.31-35**

During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Lord God, by this holy exchange of gifts  
you share with us your divine life.

Grant that everything we do may be directed by the  
knowledge of your truth.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

**Amen**

**POST COMMUNION**

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen**

**HYMNS**

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Entrance:  | 140 |
| Offertory: | 389 |
| Communion: | 484 |
| Final:     | 199 |

**PRAYERS**

**Bishops in our diocese:** Martin, Will, Ruth.

**The Sick:** Ann Adkin, Chris Avery, Maureen Callis, Felicity Caperon, Sarah Cashmore, Jenny Chatterton, Tracey Divall, Eileen Head, Gwilym James, Paul Jones, Chong Lin Khong, Rita Miell, Tracey Norris, Edward Sibley, Claire Stogden, Catherine Wallis, Andrew, Rosemary, Shelley and family.

**Recently Departed:** Barbara Histed.

**Year's Mind:** Elizabeth Moreton, Ken Fish.

**FORTHCOMING SERVICES**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

|      |           |
|------|-----------|
| 8am  | Said Mass |
| 10am | Sung Mass |

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

|      |           |
|------|-----------|
| 10am | Said Mass |
|------|-----------|

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

|      |           |
|------|-----------|
| 8am  | Said Mass |
| 10am | Sung Mass |

**THE ROGATION WALK** takes place on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May** starting at 2.30pm at the church. We will walk around the parish and pray for God's blessing on all who live and work here, and on our own church community. If you would like to join us please sign the list at the back of the church where there is also further information together with a map of the route. Tea with cakes and biscuits will be available in the church hall afterwards. All are welcome.

**THE PYROMANIACS** meet on the first Saturday of each month from 9am to 1pm, starting **7<sup>th</sup> June**. There is plenty for everyone to do from sweeping and weeding to pruning and chopping. Please sign up at the rear of church and text me Simon Virgo 07910493099

**TIME AND TALENTS SURVEY** There are paper copies of this available at the back of the church. Please do complete and return one if you are able to help in any way.

**I LOVE  
ONE ANOTHER  
as I have  
loved YOU  
John 15:12**

**St John's Church is currently in interregnum. For all enquiries please contact one of the churchwardens.**

**Churchwardens:** Carol Brown: (01892 652310) [carol.brown@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.brown@btinternet.com)  
Philip Morris: (07967 359599) [morrip57@gmail.com](mailto:morrip57@gmail.com)

**Hall Contact:** Please go the Church Hall section of the website: <https://www.stjohnscrowborough.co.uk>

**PCC Secretary:** Rita Burton: (01892 664071) [tylersrmb@gmail.com](mailto:tylersrmb@gmail.com)

**Safeguarding:** Carol Brown: (01892 652310) [carol.brown@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.brown@btinternet.com)