



## Sunday Readings for the 5th Sunday of Easter

### 1st Reading – Acts 8:5-8 14-17

**(Acts 8:5) Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.**



Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

### Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 65(66):1-7,16,20

**R. Cry out with joy to God, all the earth**

**or:**

**R. Alleluia.**

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,

O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

**R. Cry out with joy to God, all the earth**

**or:**

**R. Alleluia.**

'Before you all the earth shall bow;

shall sing to you, sing to your name!'

Come and see the works of God,

tremendous his deeds among men.

**R. Cry out with joy to God, all the earth**

**or:**

**R. Alleluia.**

He turned the sea into dry land,

they passed through the river dry-shod.

Let our joy then be in him;

he rules for ever by his might.

**R. Cry out with joy to God, all the earth**

**or:**

**R. Alleluia.**

Come and hear, all who fear God.

I will tell what he did for my soul:

Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer

nor withhold his love from me.

**R. Cry out with joy to God, all the earth**

**or:**

**R. Alleluia.**

**2nd Reading – Peter 3:15-18**

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

**Alleluia – John 14:23****R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,  
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.****Gospel – John 14:15-21**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time, the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.’



## Reflection on the Sunday Gospel

*By Father Stephen*

Jesus warns his disciples that a fate similar to his awaits them. The world that hated him will hate them. They will be hauled before the court of the world to be witnesses to the teaching of Jesus.

Yet Jesus will not leave his disciples orphans but will provide a defence lawyer for his followers when they are brought to trial. This Advocate is the 'Spirit of truth', the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in Jesus' name. He will teach them all things and bring to their minds all that Jesus has taught them. The Advocate is the enduring presence in the Church of the departed Jesus, who prolongs his life and teaching throughout history.

Too often in the past the Holy Spirit has been invoked as either the guarantor of fixed teaching or even a behind-the-scenes fixer who will remedy human error. Jesus promises the Advocate to those who keep his commandments and Christ's call to radical faith and radical love. The Holy Spirit is present when the kind and quality of life embodied in the Word made flesh is visible to the world. Such is the best legal advice as we prepare for our trial.

Wirral Community **NHS**

NHS Trust

**Wirral Health and Care Community NHS Trust  
Adult Social Care**

Adult Social Care is operating an extended service during the current challenging times.

The team are happy to discuss general social care needs and are also offering advice, guidance and support in relation to the current restrictions.

**We are contactable on 0151 514 2222 option 3**

This service is open from 8.50 am until 8 pm everyday. The usual duty service is operating during office hours so maybe busy, but between 5 and 8pm weekdays and all day Saturday and Sunday the line is for those needing help in particular if you are in isolation, shielding or providing care to others.

If you would like to discuss support or if you need assistance to access local support please do call the team.

## PARISHIONER OUTREACH

***Do you know of anyone that may need a bit of shopping or a phone call and you are unable to help them yourself?***

Do get in touch, as we have a group of parishioners who are willing to lend a hand. Please contact Victoria Hanlon at [contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk) or telephone Father Stephen at the presbytery and we can organise for someone to help out.

### Things we can help with:

- Phone call for a chat
- Picking up shopping
- Picking up a prescription
- Walking a dog



**STAY HOME, STAY SAFE AND PRAY  
FOR THE SAFETY OF OTHERS.**



### Mass

Did you know that you can watch Mass over the internet on your laptop, tablet or phone? Simply go to the website [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv). You can watch Mass live from parishes all over the UK and Ireland. Alternatively, you can visit our Diocesan website to view weekday and Sunday Mass live from Shrewsbury cathedral [www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/live-masses](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/live-masses)

### Free Catholic Newspapers

During this period, many of your usual Catholic newspapers are available to read online, free of charge. Visit [www.ChurchPaper.co.uk](http://www.ChurchPaper.co.uk). The website contains over 600 editions of the country-wide newspapers, including:

- Catholic Pic (Archdiocese of Liverpool)
- UCM News (Union of Catholic Mothers)
- Reach - Catholic Schools Paper

With many more being added weekly. They are free to download and view on your tablet or phone.

### Daily Prayer

Our Diocesan website has suggestions for daily Morning and Evening Prayers, as well as a Meditation for the Week and an interesting read about the Saint of the Week. Visit [www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/](http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/)

Also the Cafod website has lovely suggestions for prayers. Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources>

### Daily Mass Readings

You can read the Mass readings for the day on the website <https://catholicreadings.org/>



### A Message from Richard Roberts, the General Manager at the Wirral Foodbank.

Wirral Council and community food providers have come together to make sure vulnerable residents don't go hungry during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.

Feeding Birkenhead, Supporting Wirral, Wirral Foodbank and other third sector food providers, are coordinating efforts and centralising their bulk food collection and distribution operations at a new Emergency Food Hub, managed by Wirral Council.

Residents experiencing difficulties in accessing food can visit [www.wirral.gov.uk/foodhelp](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/foodhelp) to submit their details online using a simple form or call the **Wirral Coronavirus Helpline (0151 666 5050, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)**. Residents should be encouraged or supported to use the online referral form wherever possible.

Residents are also encouraged to visit [www.wirralinfobank.co.uk](http://www.wirralinfobank.co.uk) for details of shopping and delivery services provided by community groups in their local area. The Infobank has an easy-to-use search facility which shows what help is available, simply by inserting a postcode. The Infobank also has a list of social supermarkets in Wirral.

Residents requiring financial assistance can continue to apply online for [www.wirral.gov.uk/benefits-and-money/local-welfare-assistance](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/benefits-and-money/local-welfare-assistance)

Wirral children who normally get free school meals will receive vouchers to cover the cost of food as part of a partnership between the Council and local schools. For more information on this scheme, go to <https://wirralview.com/news/meal-vouchers-wirral-schoolchildren>



### Do you have an item for the newsletter?

If you do please send it to Victoria Hanlon at [contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk) by 4pm on a Thursday afternoon.



### Mass Readers

### Help Required

Would you be willing to record yourself reading one of the weekday or Sunday Mass readings for Father Stephen? You can do the readings individually or as a couple/family, giving all parishioners the opportunity to hear familiar voices and help Father during celebration of Mass.

If you could, please contact Father at the presbytery 342 6581 or email him [father.stephen@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk](mailto:father.stephen@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk) and let him know. He will run through what needs to be done and how. Thank you.

### A Daily Offering Prayer

Eternal Father,  
I offer you everything that I do this day:  
my prayers, my apostolic efforts;  
my time with family and friends;  
my hours of relaxation;  
my difficulties, problems, distress  
which I shall try to bear with patience.  
Join these, my gifts, to the unique offering  
which Jesus Christ, your Son,  
renews today in the Eucharist.  
Grant, I pray, that vivified by the Holy Spirit  
and united to the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
my life this day may be of service  
to you and to your children  
and to help consecrate the world to you.

Amen

### Good News Stories

At this time, when the world is full of bad news, it is nice to hear something good that is going on, especially from our own Parish. **Over to you!** Do you have any good news stories that you would like to share, here in the Parish Newsletter? Are you celebrating a special birthday, anniversary? Birth of a child/grandchild? Do let us know and spread the happiness! Send your good news story and a photo (only if you want) to [contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstjohn.org.uk)



Let's celebrate the good things  
in life together.



### Our first Good News item is from parishioner Samantha Giblin.

Her son, Jonathan, is a music student from London. He is at home at present, but his department recorded their version of a track from Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah, from their own homes, as a tribute to the NHS. Click on the link below to listen to the wonderful music! Well done to **Trinity Laban Trombones!**

[https://www.facebook.com/TLtrombones/  
videos/291571425183640/](https://www.facebook.com/TLtrombones/videos/291571425183640/)





### Children's Sunday Liturgy Page

Parents, please feel free to print off this page for your children to colour and complete!

And don't forget that you can follow our own Children's Liturgy programme on our YouTube channel. A new Children's Liturgy video is posted each week, ready to accompany each Sunday Mass said by Father Stephen. Follow the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyzzNjNscAoxuWubVYv04Lw>



# Speak, Lord

Acts 2:14-18:17  
Psalm 51  
1 Peter 2:19-12  
John 14:18-21

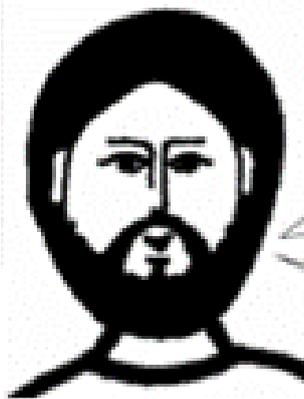
SUNDAY LITURGY FOR CHILDREN  
Year A — 6th Sunday of Easter



# JESUS speaks to the DISCIPLES

Use this code to find out what Jesus said:

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# FATHER ... SEND US YOUR SPIRIT

