



What does the city of God look like?

Today's reading from Revelation provides a glimpse of how God will live with His people in the city of the new Jerusalem. This is a holy city of supreme beauty, true joy, and everlasting life.

We are invited to move into this city. To make that move, we must undergo some serious preparation, for no one moves without at least contemplating

how they are going to arrive to their new home and what they will need to settle into their new home. Moving house (especially to another country) is not the type of thing one leaves to chance without any forward planning, if at all possible. What then if that other country is not even of this world? Certainly we should not leave the move to the city of God without solid preparation. What should we take with us to the city of God, and what do we need to leave behind as hindrances to the city of God? John writes in Revelation that the city of God is perfect, which means that we are called to perfection if we are to dwell with God in His city. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, we can become saints – perfected people – and move into God's city; that is how one prepares for this move, the most important move of our lives.

Services This Week

Sun 19th May (*5th Sunday of Easter*)
MP 9.15am,
Parish Mass 10.00am

Thu 23rd May
MP 9.00am, Mass 9.30am,
EP 4.30pm

Mon 20th May
MP 9.00am, EP 6.30pm,
Mass 7.00pm

Sat 25th May (*St Bede*)
MP & Rosary 9.00am

Tue 21st May
MP 9.00am, EP 6.30pm,
Mass 7.00pm (*Intention: Edward Levy RIP*)

Sun 26th May (*6th Sunday of Easter*)
MP 9.15am,
Parish Mass 10.00am

Wed 22nd May
MP 9.00am, Mass 9.30am,
EP 4.30pm

MP = Morning Prayer; EP = Evening Prayer

Penny Buckland - Requiescat in Pace

This past week Penny Buckland, a life-long parishioner of St Mary's, died from heart complications. Her sister Nina, several parishioners, and Fr Eric were with her as she slipped from this world to the next. Funeral details will be announced as soon as they are confirmed. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Penny, and keep Nina in your prayers during this time of loss and mourning.

Upcoming Events

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord – The Ascension, which marks 40 days after Easter, is a Holy Day of Obligation – that is, it's a very important day that marks out our salvation history. The Ascension will be celebrated at St Mary's with *Sung Mass on Thursday 30th May, 7.30 p.m.*

Novena of Pentecost – Through an initiative called *Thy Kingdom Come*, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York are encouraging all CoE parishes to participate in the Novena (nine days of prayer) of Pentecost with the Church worldwide. This novena is the most ancient of novenas in the Church, as it commemorates when God gave the Church divine sanction through the Holy Spirit. St Mary's will be marking the Novena from the Ascension to Pentecost with Adoration and prayers. *Thy Kingdom Come* prayer booklets are available in the baptistery.

Healing Service with Adoration and Benediction – St Mary's will be offering a healing service of Adoration and Benediction on *Sat 1st June, 6.00pm*. All are welcome!

Parish Outing to Oxford – Join a day out to Oxford, which will include Mass and lunch at Pusey House, time to explore Oxford, a tour of Merton College, Oxford, ending with a pub supper. The outing will be on *Sat 15th June, departing St Mary's at 10.00am and returning by 8.00pm*. Sign-up sheet is in the baptistery. £10.00 per person (free for under 11's). Bursaries available.

Ordination of St Mary's Curate – You are invited to be at the ordination of the soon-to-be Fr Angus Beattie, who will be ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Jonathan on *Sat 29th June, 11.00am, at St Andrew's, Holborn*. A group will leave from St Mary's that morning to be at the ordination. Come out to support our new Curate as begins his life in Holy Orders.

PCC Meeting – The next meeting of the PCC will be on *Tue 4th June*, after the 7.00pm Mass.

Please remember in your prayers:

Franc, Hubert, Joanne, Peter, Dave, Wendy, Angie, Stewart, Ibilola. **For those with longer term needs:** Peter, Bernie, David, Ken, Emil, Stella, Hannah, Henry, Denise, Maura, Malcolm, John, David, David, Elsie, Doris, Cecilia, Audrey, George, Janet, Penny, Pearl, Julia, Alwyn, Harry, Sheila, Daniel, Malcolm, Laura, Maria

For the recently departed: Penny Buckland, Josie McFadden, Dorothy Ayers, John Fitzgerald, Jean Herbage. **For those whose anniversary of death is this week:** Eira Buckland (2000), Shirley Harding (1997), Edward Levy, Robert Fullbrook (1967), Gladys Simmonds (1974), Jown Howes (2013)

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