

St Clement's Church, King Square
Fifth Sunday of Easter
28th April 2024

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 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip

found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalm (Psalm 22)

Response: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.

For he has never despised
nor scorned the poverty of the poor. **R**

From him he has not hidden his face,
but he heard the poor man when he cried.

You are my praise in the great assembly.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him. **R**

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever! All the
earth shall remember and return to the Lord. **R**

Second Reading (1 John 4:7-21)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel Reading (John 15:1-8)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.
"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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**

For your prayers

In our Prayers: Hugh, Josh, Diane Rankin, Lloyd Whitney, Diane, Trevor, Vera, Chris Hall, Tommy Lacken, Sue, Kathy, Maria Amparo Garcia, Maria, Lenny Shaw, Roger Shaw, Adele Skinner, Pat, Martin Fletcher, Vanessa, Gregg and Julia Hill, Eamon Irvine, HM King Charles, Major Sally Spry, Steve, Stephen James Winfield, Pat and Terry Bartrip, Stephen Holloway.

Among the departed: Rose Sabatino, Peter Miller, Xed Lehead, Philomena Ghansah, Araba Cornelius, Kofi Imbeah, Joyce Ward.

Anniversaries of Death: Olivier Messaien, Dennis Huntley, James and Katy Maxwell, Constance Elizabeth Wix, Elizabeth Bailey, Harold Adlard, Stephanie Gridley.

In the Parish: We pray for all those working on construction projects in and around the parish, especially those working on St Clement's and in The Bower and Old Street Station.

In the wider world: We pray for all the people of Gaza and Israel who are caught up in the terrible conflict there.

Notices

In Church this week...

Rose Sabatino R.I.P.

A Requiem Mass in thanksgiving for the life of Rose will be held on:

Tuesday, 30th April @ 11am at St Clement's.

Wednesday 1st May 10am-1pm Open Church

12.30pm Mass

13.00pm singing

Next Sunday

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10.30am Sung Mass

Ascension Day

Thursday 9th May

The Feast of the Ascension of Christ is one of the most important in the Church's year. There will be **Sung Mass at 7pm**. Please make every effort to come.

Organ Refurbishment Appeal

Our wonderful Father Willis pipe organ will undergo the second and final phase of restoration in the coming months. Donation to the cost of these works will be gratefully received.

Payments can be made to the church account either by transfer—ref 'Organ Fund'

St Clement's Church Bank Details

HSBC Bank plc

sort code 40-11-58

account number 30464341

or by cheque to St Clement's church, writing 'ORGAN FUND' on the back.

Thank you!

St. Clement's Church is very grateful for all donations to our work. To donate now please scan the QR code below. You can use debit or credit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay. Many thanks!



Please do take this sheet home with you!