

Easter Vigil service. The candle may also be used at funeral services and placed next to the casket during a funeral Mass. At funeral services it is a reminder that the sacrament of Baptism is itself a death and resurrection in Christ and testifies to Christian certainty in the resurrection of the dead and life with Christ in the world to come. *(Continued next week)*

**-Bernard Kellett**

**Entrance Antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.**

**First Reading: Acts 9: 26-31**

**Responsorial Psalm: 21 Response: You Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.**

**Second Reading: 1 John 3: 18-24**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: John 15: 1-8**



**Memorial Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

**Communion Antiphon: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.**



## **Fifth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B, 2024 Weekly Reflection: Paschal Candle (i)**

The Paschal candle is one of the most sacred and enduring elements in Christianity. Made of beeswax to represent the purity of Christ, the

candle's wick signifies Christ's humanity and the flame His Divine Nature. It is adorned with one or more Christian symbols, often the cross to represent His redemptive sacrifice; the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet - Alpha and Omega – to signify that He is the beginning and the end; symbols of wheat and grapes, or a chalice and host, for the Eucharist - the true presence of Christ and our spiritual strength; the 12 Apostles – witnesses and scribes to the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ; and other symbols such as the Good Shepherd, the Lamb, the Sacred Heart and the Risen Christ.

The Paschal candle is a rich symbol of our faith. It reaches its pinnacle at Easter. Each year during the Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday night, a fire is kindled in a metal brazier. From the brazier comes a “new” and blessed fire that lights the Paschal candle which is carried in procession into the dark church. The “new” fire serves as an image of the Resurrection. The candle, which represents Christ himself, is placed on a special Paschal candle stand near the altar. Five grains of incense are inserted into the candle to recall the aromatic spices that were used to prepare Christ's body for the tomb, and the wounds in His hands, feet and side, which remained after His resurrection.

The Paschal candle remains in the Sanctuary on its special candle stand during the full 50 days of the Easter season and is lit for liturgical services during that time. After Pentecost the candle will be placed next to the baptismal font. The candle is lit during all baptisms throughout the year, passing the light of Christ to each person baptized, starting with the Catechumens at the



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**28-April-2024**

**Eucharistic Prayer – II or III**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*R.C DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY REG. CHARITY No.234025*

<b>Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm</b>	Michael Scaife
<b>Sunday 8.30am</b>	<b>Parishioners</b>
<b>10:00am</b>	William & Isobel (Intentions)
Monday 10.00am	St Catherine of Siena (Day of Special Prayer for Europe)
Tuesday 9.30am	Day of Special Prayer for the Survivors of Sexual abuse
Wednesday 9.30am	St Joseph the Worker Day of Special Prayer for Human Work
Thursday 9.30am	
Friday 9.30am	Ss Philip & James
Saturday 11.30am	The English Martyrs Jack & Carmel Byrne
Saturday (Vigil) <b>6.00pm</b>	Austin Queenan
Sunday <b>8.30am</b>	<b>Parishioners</b>
<b>10.00am</b>	Sixth Sunday of Easter First Communicants and their Families

**Sacrament of reconciliation (Confessions) and the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Saturday at 11.00am**

**Introduction Mass for the Confirmation candidates:** Sunday 28th April during the 10.00am Mass. Please keep our young candidates and their families in your prayers.

**First Holy Communion 2024:** Five of our young people will receive First Holy Communion next Sunday (05th May) during 10.00am Mass. Please keep our young candidates and their families in your prayers.

**Peter Wignall RIP:** Peter Wignall, beloved husband of Sheila Wignall sadly passed away a few days ago. Please remember Peter and his grieving family

in your prayers and thoughts.

**Church Offertory and Gift Aid Explained:** If you pay tax and are not in the Gift Aid Scheme you could help the parish by enrolling. For every £1.00 you donate HMRC gives the parish 25p. If you would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme, please contact Father Mathew or Louise Jones.

**Diocesan Mass for the celebration of Marriage 2024:** ‘This year’s Diocesan Mass for Marriage will take place on Saturday June 8th, 12 noon at Saint Columba’s Church Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. If any of our parishioners are celebrating a special anniversary in 2024 and wish to receive an invitation please provide the following details: -Names, Address, which anniversary they are celebrating - (this would usually be – 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 or a 1st wedding anniversary) to Fr Mathew. Please submit any requests for an invitation through the parish office to avoid private emails ending up in the SPAM folder!’

**Alderley Edge Musical Festival:** As some of the events are taking place in our church, the church will not be available from Thursday 01st May to Saturday 04<sup>th</sup> May until 3.00pm. **Would anyone be able to help to clean the church just after 3.00pm.** We need help to get ready the church for the weekend Masses! During these days the Masses will be celebrated in the meeting room as usual. Confessions and the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will not be available on that Saturday. But the Mass will be celebrated in the meeting room. There will be car park disruptions on above dates.

**Day of prayer for victims and survivors of abuse:** The Bishops of England and Wales have chosen Tuesday of the 5th Week of Easter as the Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse — 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 — it is a day of prayer for those who have been abused in a season of hope and new life.

**Year of Prayer 2024 Come and join our online webinar with Sycamore.** Pope Francis has asked that 2024 be a ‘Year of Prayer’, as a preparatory year for the Jubilee Year of 2025. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn how to get the most out of the prayer pathway on Sycamore! On Wednesday 15th May 7pm-8pm. Email Natalie Orefice for the link to join: [Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:Natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org).