



CATHOLIC CHURCHES
of
OUR LADY & ST. KENELM, HALESOWEN
OUR LADY OF LOURDES, OLD HILL

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Stefan Laszczyk
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LITURGY FOR THE WEEKEND 2nd/ 3rd MAY 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Sat 2nd	Vigil of Fifth Sunday of Easter	6.30 pm H	Kathleen Kehoe (R.I.P)
Sun 3rd	Fifth Sunday of Easter	10.00am H 11.30am OH	For the Homeless (Int) Rose and Dennis Hawthorne
Mon 4th	Easter Feria	No Mass	_____
Tues 5th	Easter Feria	No Mass	_____
Wed 6th	Easter Feria	No Mass	_____
Thurs 7th	Easter Feria	No Mass	_____
Fri 8th	Easter Feria	No Mass	_____
Sat 9th	Saint Athanasius Vigil of Sixth Sunday of Easter	No morning Mass 6.30 pm H	Mary Chadalla
Sun 10th	Sixth Sunday of Easter	10.00am H 11.30am OH	For the clergy (Int) Margaret Hyland (R.I.P)

MASS INTENTIONS to Father Stefan please

Masses marked H will be at Halesowen, OH will be at Old Hill

Confessions

There will be no Saturday morning confessions while Fr Stefan is on sick leave.

Second collection

This weekend, there will be a second collection for the Poor Parishes of the archdiocese.

Emergency Calls

As Father Stefan is on sick leave, if you need a priest, in case of emergency, please call Fr Philip on 01384 395308.

Pope's Prayer Intention for May

That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Ascension of the Lord

Thursday 14th May is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord and is a **Holyday of**

Obligation. Masses will be at 12 noon at Old Hill and 7.30pm at Halesowen.

Fr Stefan

I hope that everyone has a great bank holiday on Monday.

MAY Anniversaries

Remember in your prayers these deceased members :

Hugh Kenneth Williams, Margaret Clarke, Edward Gill, James Ryan, Ivy Williams, Kenneth Short, Yvonne Lindsey, Jim Dempster, Jim Price, Bridie McAndrew, Lyn Welch, Michael Hubbard, George Clifford Barr, Peggy Harris, Leslie James, Winifred Price, Nicole Jeanne Odile Hazlewood and John Sheils, Pope Francis and Catherine Wood. *May they rest in peace.*

Lately dead

Please keep in your prayers those who have died recently especially Mick Kenna, Karen Barnett and Maria Emilia Iacono. *May they rest in peace.*

Mick Kenna will be received into church on Thursday 21st May at 6pm. His requiem will be on Friday 22nd May at 11am at our Lady and St Kenelm.

Gift Aid (GA)

New Envelopes for the tax year 2026/27 are now available for collection from this weekend (28th/29th March). Make sure you look for your name rather than box number as you may have been allocated a new number!

As a reminder, it is vital you let us know if you are no longer a tax payer and/or you move address so we can update our records for processing to HMRC. Please get in touch for any gift aid queries / updates / questions to:

Emma for Halesowen parish via email: ga.olstkenelm.halesowen@rcaob.org.uk
or Helena for Old Hill parish via email: ga.olol.cradleyheath@rcaob.org.uk

Digital Collections (Our Lady and St Kenelm)

This QR Code will give access to the online giving portal which can easily be accessed on a phone.



OLSK Online Giving

Diocesan Day Pilgrimage to Walsingham - Saturday 9th May 2026

Pilgrims are invited to travel to 'England's Nazareth' on Saturday 9 May, with Mass celebrated by Canon Jonathan Veasey, Vicar General of the Archdiocese.

"Pilgrimage is an important aspect of Catholic life, and I'm sure the day pilgrimage will be a joyful and spiritually rewarding experience for everyone."

Stourbridge Parish are running a coach for the Diocesan Pilgrimage. Please contact Fr Philip on 01384 395308 or email olas.stourbridge@rcaob.org.uk to book a seat on the coach.

Week 3 Census Forms

Many thanks for those who have returned the forms, please make sure if you haven't that you return them as soon as possible.

Request for donations (OLSK)

Our upcoming fundraising event at Our Lady and St Kenelm's is just round the corner, and we need your support! We are looking for donations of items that we can sell or raffle to help raise funds for our church. Whether it's crafts, gifts, bottles or new/unused items, every contribution makes a difference.

If you have something to donate, please bring it to church and leave it for Rebecca.

Our Lady and St Kenelm Catholic School Lunchtime Supervisor (Sept 26)

The school has a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor from September 2026.

More information can be found at <https://www.our-lady.dudley.sch.uk/lunchtime-supervisor-sept-26/>

SVP Appeals Update

If you have a good quality **double buggy** that is no longer needed then we have several families in need. Please bring to church and we pick up from the Narthex. Thank you for the **suitcases**. We have enough now to help refugees who are being resettled.

Reflection for Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: *Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33; 1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12*

There is a distinct shift of emphasis in today's Readings from Jesus' resurrection to the activity and organization of the first Christians. In St. John's Gospel Jesus forewarns his disciples of his departure and reminds them of how they are to reach their Heavenly Father's house. Jesus is to be their way of life, the light on the way and the sustaining spirit within them. His followers will do even greater works. There is a clear sense of preparation for the times ahead.

Psalm 33 emphasizes a trust in the Lord that sustains the just. Jesus repeats the appeal to trusting belief and, in a phrase that was very significant for Jews, asks his disciples to trust in God and in him. He and the God of revelation are the same.

The First Letter of St. Peter, intertwining phrases from the prophet Isaiah, encourages Christians to be aware of their job as "living stones," with Christ as cornerstone, to form a "spiritual building" (v.6), something to be formed in unity that depends on the free and active cooperation of all those who come to believe.

The Acts of the Apostles depicts a moment of practical organization in the life of the first Christians and responds to a practical need. There is a division of functions to allow the apostles to dedicate themselves to their priestly task, while consecrating others to attend to the necessary material works and charitable needs. We see here a necessary practical shaping of the spiritual edifice.

The Church: The readings recall the essential characteristics of the Church. Above all else, the Church is where God abides. It is experienced as the spiritual presence of God in the human heart. It is this life that moves each Christian to establish a relation of brotherhood with all others and, moved by love, to offer the same "way, truth and life" to others. A simple structure and order exists to achieve communion with God, with the saints in Heaven, and with others in this temporal life. The Church on earth is to show the saving and effective love of God for all people; it is to love all men and women as God loves them.

Christian life: At the heart of the Christian faith is an inner experience of the presence of God. It is this experience that is to transform the life of the Christian and move him to live as Jesus did. Christian life certainly obliges one to believe the Christian faith and to live the Christian life, but it is a commitment that is made consciously and willingly. A true Christian experience moves us to be receptive to a greater truth, and to want to express in our actions what we experience in our hearts. This is what distinguishes Christianity from a mere code of conduct or a morality of obligations.

"A stone that will make people stumble..." This is a strange phrase and needs to be understood. God's intervention in human lives is not a casual invitation, although it always, in this life, has the air of an invitation rather than an obligation. We are always free; the decision must always be ours.

(continued overleaf)

This phrase refers to the decisive option that we are offered in our freedom. Life and events are presented to us in such a way that we have to stumble over God's invitations and to decide freely what we want to do. Our decisions, even the small ones, or those made alone in the sanctuary of conscience, always make a difference to our destiny. -----

Catholics are seen by opinion pollsters as an identifiable group, along with hundreds of other identifiable groups, with their particular interests and values. We, as Catholics, can be drawn into considering the Church in a similar way, merely one of the many ways of living, and we can accommodate ourselves to this relative position in society and culture.

While the Church may well express part of its activity through different agencies, we are not to think that the reality of the Church is reduced to them. The Church offers each person the fullness of meaning and life and the way to eternal salvation. Fundamentally, the experience of God is within everyone's reach (by God's grace). All realities of life can be enlightened by the Gospel, and the Church offers to each person's life the opportunity to respond to the call of God.

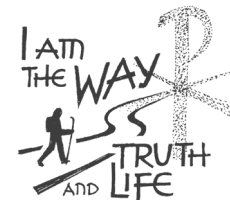
When we go beyond the labelling people's lives (such as working class or middle class ...) we can discover within each person's existence a series of fundamental questions. These questions may not be explicit, but they are present in difficult decisions, anxieties, successes, failures, and the inexorable march of time and life itself. God is also present to each person at this level of existence. The decisions taken are also decisions for or against God, as the stumbling block that obliges us to freely choose.

As Christians, we seek to help all people in this inner process of discernment and decision. To all people, in all circumstances, we offer to explain the true meaning of what happens to them and the authentic way forward. Respectfully, we take each person as he or she is, and offer to shed light on their lives and decisions; above all, we help each one by preparing the ground for an inner Christian experience of God.

In this light, the Church's mission is universal. It is not a closed precinct; it is more like a current that seeks to enhance reality with its true, Christian meaning and purpose.

Shelagh,

Fr. Stephen



Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: May your merciful love be
upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the
life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except
through me. Alleluia.

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.

The Parishes operate in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady and St Kenelm is Shelagh Ash. Shelagh can be contacted at: sg.olistkenelm.halesowen@rcaob.org.uk. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady of Lourdes is Nadine Hancox. Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](https://www.rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.