

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 12th May 2019

THE COLLECT

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING - ACTS 9: 36-END

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

SECOND READING - REVELATION 7: 9-END

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

GOSPEL READING - ST JOHN 10: 22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

'THY KINGDOM COME'

An invitation to pray...

In recent years between Ascension Day and Pentecost the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have invited the whole Church and Christians of all denominations to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'. It has been traditional in these days to pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as we remember the disciples who were told by Jesus after his Ascension to wait and to pray for the gift of the promised Spirit. It is a great opportunity then for us all to unite in prayer.

As such, we have acquired copies of a *Novena* prayer booklet containing a pattern of prayer for the nine days of Ascensiontide. These are intended for us all to use each day, pledging to pray and to spending time using the booklet and praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' wherever we are.

We hope you will be able to join in with this. The booklets will be available on the Sunday before Ascension Day (26 May) with the prayers beginning the day after Ascension Day (31 May). Alongside the *Novena* booklets various people have been making fabric crosses for us to use as we pray – to act as an aid and reminder to pray during these days. Thank you so much for these. They also will be available on Sunday 26 May.

For more information please see the article in the May parish magazine or visit <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>



TEA TOWEL LAUNDERING - If anyone feels they could join the rota for this valuable job please have a word with Margaret. All it entails is for 2 separate months you keep the kitchen and toilets supplied with clean tea towels and towels. Recently two people have had to step down from this role for various reasons, so we do need to replace them.