

Weekly Message from Fr William for Fifth Sunday of Easter 2022

Dear People of St Mary's

On the horizon is the national celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A programme of town community celebrations for Knaresborough is set for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June starting with parades in the morning. In the afternoon from 1200 to 1630 our area of town, centred on Knaresborough House and lawn, will be buzzing with stage shows, music, dance, and film shows in St John's Church. There was to be a Tea-Dance in our own church hall, but this has had to be withdrawn because the hall was deemed not quite big enough. If anyone or group in St Mary's would like to make use of the now vacated hall from 1200 to 1630 for something that would add to the town's celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee, please get in touch with me to discuss.

We could also offer use of our accessible toilet facilities as we have in the past for town festivals and celebrations. As in the past this would need volunteers to staff and manage the toilet between uses when necessary. Just the presence of a volunteer on hand helps to ensure that the toilet is used respectfully and with consideration for other uses. Please get in touch if you could volunteer this supervision at least for some of that time between 1200 and 1630. I'm sure it would be much appreciated and it would be great if we could offer this as a parish to the town community celebrations.

This Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm in St Mary's the parish will hold a second consultation exercise, springing from Synod 2021-2023, this time specific to the diocese. This will be an opportunity, along with the other parishes, to help identify the pastoral priorities specific to our diocese. This diocesan phase of the Synod is being called 'Parish to Mission' in our diocese. See bulletin for more information, including the questions that will be asked. We were commended for an outstanding participation in the first consultation of this Synod in December, for an outstanding turnout and engagement with the exercise. Please come for this one as well if you can, whether or not you were able to make it to the December consultation. See last week's weekly message (8<sup>th</sup> May) for more context on this.

Another great injection of Easter joy and conviction in our profession of faith when we came to the Creed last Sunday. It's uplifting! Shall we continue this? We could even inject the same joy and conviction into the 'Gloria', our song of praise to God, and the song of that great throng of angels that so thrilled the shepherds of Bethlehem at our Saviour's birth. 'Glory to God in the highest...' (Luke 2)

May you and your family continue to be filled with Easter joy.



Fifth Sunday of Easter, Sunday 15 May 2022