

# St. Mary's, Waterloo Park

[www.stmaryswaterloopark.co.uk](http://www.stmaryswaterloopark.co.uk)

**10<sup>th</sup> May**  
**The Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Sunday and Weekday Service**

*Welcome!*

## **The Collect**

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.

## **Hymns**

70 Before the throne

328 I come with joy

4 A new commandment

322 I am a new creation

## **First Reading, Acts 17.22-31**

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit

the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring." Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

**Second Reading, 1 Peter 3.13-end**

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you - not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## **Gospel, John 14.15-21**

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

## **Post Communion**

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

## **Intercessions**

**The World:** For peace in all areas of conflict in the world. For those affected by fires, floods and earthquakes. For emergency workers working in disaster areas. For refugees, asylum seekers and agencies that help them. For good stewardship of the earth and its resources.

**The Church:** The unity of all Christians everywhere. Archbishops Stephen and Sarah, Bishop Ruth, Archdeacon Pete. Churches in the South Sefton Deanery, and local ecumenical partners.

**The Diocese:** Prisons: Risley, Langley House, Adelaide House, Universities: Liverpool & LJMU, Hope, Edge Hill, Universities: St Helen's, Chester (Warrington Campus), Wigan and Leigh, Schools: Archbishop Blanch, Byrchall High, Deanery High, Hope Academy, Schools: Hindley High, St Francis of Assisi, St Hilda's, St Nicholas Academy, Schools: St Thomas Botelier, Liverpool College.

**For those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit:** Hewie, Graham Forrest, Olga Gregor, Jess Farrell, Edith Keeton, Joy Billington, Revd. Gregor Cuff.

**For the departed remembered at this time:** Vi Large, Margaret Edwards, Victor Cooper, Norman Cockbain, Harry Creak, Thomas White, Isabel Allen, Victor Winsor, Elizabeth Jones, Owen Parry, Albert Wright, Joan Withey, T.A.H. Williams, Ivy Williams, Sue Miller.

### Notices:

- We are currently looking to rent somewhere for our incoming curate, Iona Morphet, to live whilst she undertakes her curacy with us in the benefice, ideally a two-bedroom flat, or house, or something equivalent. If you know of anywhere suitable, own property yourself that you can rent out, or have any thoughts or ideas about this, please do email, text, or speak to Louis.

### Events in our Deanery:

- **Table Sale:** There will be a table sale at St Mary's on **16<sup>th</sup> May** with all profits going to church funds. St. Mary's will have a table if you have any surplus items to sell and a spare half hour to man the table.
- **Saturday 30th May at 1:00pm:** Back by popular demand! Beetle Drive at St Faith's Church Hall. Tickets £5 from Corinne Hedgecock to include cream scone and coffee/tea. New revised rules! Please give this your support, as it's in aid of church funds. Please contact 07510 219 705 or email [hall@stfaithsgc.org](mailto:hall@stfaithsgc.org) for further info or to purchase tickets.

<b>Services at St Mary's</b>	
This Sunday 10:00am, Eucharist	Peter Walker

<b>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	
Monday, 4:00pm <b>Evening Prayer</b>	Louis Johnson
Wednesday, 10:30am <b>Eucharist</b>	Peter Walker
Next Sunday 10:00am, Eucharist <b>The Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	Louis Johnson
Next Sunday, 11:15am <b>Interment of Ashes (Joyce Doyle)</b>	Louis Johnson

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## **To all the churches Acting-as-if we're a Larger Single Parish in Sefton:**

### **Dear Church Members,**

Last Sunday evening, 26th April, we had a combined service for all those in the LSP-to be. This saw 71 people gathered from 8 churches joining in Evening Prayer, using liturgy taken from the Northumbria Community (and not used in any of our 9 churches).

As part of this Amanda Bruce (vicar at St Luke's), our change lead, spoke about the context, scriptures and vision we have gathered through prayer and reflection over the last 3 months. We then spent some time talking over a cuppa and were invited to share our ideas and thoughts, scriptures and prayers with the Navigation team that evening via our postbox. But we are more than just that 71 people and so we want to invite all in our 8 churches to share their thoughts and ideas about our context, culture, churches, scriptures, prayers and vision.

Attached is a summary of what Amanda shared and if you would like to consider the questions she asked and respond, by 31st May, then please email [laura.pilgrim@liverpool.anglican.org](mailto:laura.pilgrim@liverpool.anglican.org). In June the CLT and Nav Team will shortlist ideas for a name and then send the shortlist out to all the churches for discussion and feedback. We will hope to announce our name by mid/end-July.

We would love to know your thoughts, vision and suggestions of a name for our new parish to be.

If you wish to see our current webpage, a holding page prior to us agreeing our new Parish name, then please visit: <https://liverpoolcofe.org/sefton-north-south/>

### **The Nav Team**

- Laura Heywood – St Oswald's Netherton
- Jim Stewart – St Luke's Great Crosby
- Sue Green – St John & St James Orrell Hay
- Karen Stark - St Mary's Waterloo
- Paul Beardwood – St Luke's Great Crosby
- Helen Hunter – St Michael's Blundellsands

- Louis Johnson – St Faith’s Great Crosby (Vicar)
- Amanda Bruce – Change Lead/St Luke’s Great Crosby (Vicar)
- Laura Pilgrim – Change Facilitator, Diocese of Liverpool

## **Reflection from Evening Prayer on 26th April 2026**

### **Where are we?**

Timeline of what’s happened –

- Pre-Jan clergy chapter meetings, leading to the formation of the Clergy Leadership Team from Jan 2026.
- People across the 9 parishes were invited to apply for the NavTm which formed from early February. Meeting to discuss buildings and the new Buildings Team.
- Church Officers have started to meet in their specific groups.
- Meeting on 9th May to discuss comms and start the process of forming a Communications team.

Our context geographically has led to a water theme, and the following Scriptural passages: “For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light” Psalm 36.9.

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.’ Revelation 7.17.

On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.’ Ezekiel 47.12.

Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’ John 4.13-15.

“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples” John 15.8.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43.19.

### **What are we?**

We are all God's church, no one role or position or training is more important than another, we are all appointed by God to be his people and to live for him. Clergy are appointed and trained for a specific role, but they are no more important than Lay people – together we are all God's church and we all have a part to play.

As we remember this we also need to know what we are not: we are not spectators who get to sit back and watch others be the church, we are not simply consumers of a certain kind of religious experience, we are not passive members of an institution who have to be cared for. Jesus calls us all to be involved and active members of his church.

### **Who are we?**

We are ourselves, we are not all the same and we don't need to be.

We all bring our unique gifts, individually and as churches, our ways of worship and the needs of our local communities.

We are the Children of God, called to glorify God and enjoy him forever,

We are the Royal Priesthood, or Bridge Builders into our community – maybe our patron saint should be St Benezet of Avignon.

We are those sent by Jesus to make him known and to make disciples.

### **Who will we become?**

Well, that's a big question, and none of us have an answer for that, only God knows what we will become. But we can prayerfully hope and look forward. My hopes for this gathering and coming together of us as a larger single parish of 9 churches is that...

1. We will learn to be better together than we are apart, that we will grow in grace as we encounter our differences and that we will learn to value each other and our differences even when we don't understand or approve of each other.

2. I hope we can support each other in the greatest and most important job in the world, that of making Jesus known as we give away his love to those who don't yet know him.
3. Admin and bureaucracy, legalities and governance, buildings and finances take up a lot of time and energy from the leadership of every church. If we can only do that once for us all, then it releases that energy so we can care more and witness more in our own local communities.

I wonder what you know of our context, what scripture God has shared with you, what or who you think we are, what you hope we will become together and I wonder most of all, what name God might give us. We want your thoughts, we want you to name this new parish and so we need you to talk to us, in writing or in person through your vicar or via email: [laura.pilgrim@liverpool.anglican.org](mailto:laura.pilgrim@liverpool.anglican.org).

Please pray, talk and reflect together, then be in touch via your vicar or email Laura.