

**St Mary the Virgin and All Saints  
Potters Bar**

**3rd May 2026**

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*A warm welcome to St Mary's,  
especially if this is your first time here.*

*Refreshments are served in the hall after the Sung Eucharist.  
We look forward to meeting you and seeing you again.*

**TODAY'S SERVICES**

8.00am **SAID EUCHARIST**

10.00am **SUNG EUCHARIST**

First Reading: Acts 7 vv 55-60 *Stephen, the first martyr, is stoned to death.*

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2 vv 2-10 *St Peter reminds us that we are called to be a holy priesthood – living stones, with Christ as the cornerstone.*

Gospel: John 14 vv 1-14 *In his farewell discourse to his disciples, Jesus expresses his one-ness with God.*

**Hymns:** 206, 107, 485, 121, 361

*Our flowers this week have been donated by Heather Hawkes  
and arranged by Stephanie Maughan*

**The Week Ahead**

<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	12.30pm	Recital by Fumi Otsuki and Eri Yamamoto (violin & piano) <i>Light lunches available from 12 noon</i>
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
	7.30pm	Churches Together meeting at the Baptist Church
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30am	Said Eucharist
	10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
<b>Thursday</b>	9.30am	Said Eucharist (BCP)
	10.30am – 12 noon	Church open for visitors
	10.30am – 12 noon	Dementia Awareness session in church hall
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer
<b>Friday</b>	<i>Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer</i>	
	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)
<b>Saturday</b>	9.00am – 1.00pm	Diocesan Reader Selection Conference in church

**Next Sunday** is the **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

8.00am Said Eucharist

10.00am **CONFIRMATION EUCHARIST**

*Celebrant & Preacher: **The Rt Revd Rob Wickham**,  
Honorary Assistant Bishop in the diocese*

12 noon Bring & Share Lunch in the church hall

**Please note:** No Evensong next Sunday

Our readings next Sunday will be: Acts 17 vv 22-31;

1 Peter 3 vv 13-22 and John 14 vv 15-21.

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**Parish Notices**

Our Confirmation service is **NEXT SUNDAY** at **10.00am**. Please keep our Confirmation candidates in your prayers this week. After the service, we shall enjoy a Bring & Share Lunch in the hall. If you want to attend this lunch, please sign the list on the noticeboard **TODAY**, indicating what you can bring in the way of food to share or whether you prefer to make a monetary donation.

**Donations of food** for the lunch should be brought to the hall between 9.15am and 9.45am on a plate or dish ready to serve from the buffet table. Please be sure to take this away with you at the end of the meal.

We will be setting up for the hall for the lunch **next Saturday** from **2.00pm** – all help gratefully received.

**Ascension Day** is on **Thursday 14th May**, when there will be a BCP said Eucharist at 9.30am. In the evening, we shall join with friends at King Charles the Martyr Church for a Sung Eucharist at **7.30pm**.

Our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will take place on **Sunday 17th May** after the Sung Eucharist. We will be electing 2 Churchwardens, 3 PCC members and 3 Deanery Synod representatives. Nomination forms are available from Richard. Papers for the meeting are available online (links to them were included in the weekly email bulletin) and there are also hard copies available at the back of church.

Some members of the congregation are running a 5K obstacle course in May to raise money for **Cancer Research UK**, representing St Mary's. If you would like to sponsor them, there is a QR code on the noticeboard or you can make a donation at the following weblink: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/st-marys-church-potters-bar>

Today, Elizabeth Liney is starting to walk the pilgrimage route of 35 miles from St Paul's Cathedral to St Albans Cathedral in five stages of about 7 miles each, to give thanks for the care, treatment and prayerful support she has received over the past 17 months. She is raising money for the **Isabel Hospice**. You can find out more details and how you can support her at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/3dev4fse>

We were sad to hear that **Sheila Wiggins**, a former member of St Mary's, has died. There will be a service of thanksgiving for her life at St Mary's Redbourn on Wednesday 13th May at 3.30pm.

**For your prayers**

**The sick** Anna Downes, Carole Waller, Elizabeth Liney, Elizabeth Wiseman, Valerie Taylor, Françoise Groves-de-Milleret, Joan Golden, Robert Peters, Lisa Collins, Maureen Alderman, Alison Stevens, Kirsty Edmunds

**We also pray for** Margaret Terry, Keith Downes, Jayne Hutton, Janet Daniels, Susan North, Julia, Tessa, Linda, Nicola Stiff, Ron Golden, Ricky Mella, Sasha Burt, David Evans, Richard Barnes, Dave Gough, Pauline Phillips, Keith Probert, Prussia Blake, Charlotte, Steven Seal

**The recently departed** Evelyn Wilkinson, Margaret Bowers, Sheila Wiggins

**Anniversaries of death this week** Donald Lester, David Banks, Barbara Robinson, Hester McMullen

**Our parish** We remember those who live in Ashwood Road, Aston Way and The Avenue

# Sunday 3 May 2026 Fifth Sunday of Easter

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son  
Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to  
us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going  
before us you put into our minds  
good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

*The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.*

### Either Acts 7:55-end

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

Standing before the high priest and the council, Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

### Or Genesis 8:1-19

## PSALM Psalm 31:1-5. 15-16

(or 31:1-5)

**R** *Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.*

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.  
Incline your ear to me;  
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my stronghold;  
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake. **R**

Take me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me, for you are my strength.  
Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth. **R**

## SECOND READING

Either 1 Peter 2:2-10

*A reading from the first letter of Peter.*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight. Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Or Acts 7:55-end

## GOSPEL John 14:1-14

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

## POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

