

THE PARISH OF THE ASCENSION, LAVENDER HILL

Sunday 18 May 2025
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
11.00am Solemn Mass

*A very warm welcome to everyone especially if this is your first visit.
Please join us for refreshments following the service.*

Please take this order of service away with you

THIS WEEK

Observances	Monday:	<i>St Dunstan of Canterbury</i>
	Tuesday:	<i>St Bernardine of Siena</i> Low Mass: 10.00am
	Wednesday:	<i>Easter Weekday</i> Low Mass: 7.30pm
	Thursday:	<i>St Rita of Cascia</i> Low Mass: 10.00am
	Friday:	<i>Easter Weekday</i> Low Mass: 10.00am
	Saturday:	<i>Of Our Lady</i> Holy Rosary: 9.30am Low Mass: 10.00a
	Sunday 25 th :	EASTER VI Solemn Mass: 11.00am <i>followed by APCM</i>

Website:
ascensionlavenderhill.org.uk
Email:
ascensionsw11@gmail.com
Phone:
020 7228 5340

A warm welcome to the Ascension, Lavender Hill. We are a Parish of the Diocese of Southwark and under the Episcopal care of the Bishop of Fulham. If you would like to know more about the Ascension, have queries about baptisms, weddings and funerals, or any questions about the Christian Faith, please speak to the Parish Priest, Fr Philip, who will be pleased to assist you:

Fr Philip Kennedy

tel: 020 7228 5340

email: ascensionsw11@gmail.com

We are a registered charity, and rely principally on donations to sustain our work. Please give as generously as you are able, either at the Offertory or by scanning the QR code below.

If you are a taxpayer and are able to gift-aid your donation please do so by either placing your cash donation into a blue envelope and filling in your details on the front, or ask one of the Churchwardens for a Gift Aid form.

Thank you for your support.



*Our **Churchwardens** are the Bishop's representatives in the Parish (elected by the parishioners) and work together with Fr Philip to ensure the smooth running of the Parish. They can be contacted as follows:*

MRS ANN WARWICK
annwarwick1@aol.com

MS CHERYL HARPER
cherylharper1964@hotmail.com

*We take the **safeguarding** of children and vulnerable adults very seriously. Here are the details of our **Parish Safeguarding Officers**, who should be the first point of contact for any concerns:*

MS RUTH CANSDALE
07737 116364

MR ALEX BANSON
020 7738 1916

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Please stand when the bell rings.

ENTRANCE HYMN

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.

How Judah's Lion burst his chains,
And crushed the serpent's head;
And brought with him, from death's domains,
The long-imprisoned dead.

From hell's devouring jaws the prey
Alone our Leader bore;
His ransomed hosts pursue their way
Where he hath gone before.

Triumphant in his glory now
His sceptre ruleth all,
Earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,
And at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,
His mercy we implore,
Into his palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
While endless ages run. Alleluya! Amen.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

The priest introduces the confession. Silence is kept for recollection of our sins.

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

ABSOLUTION

**May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

COLLECT

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit for the readings.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: ACTS 14: 21-27

In those days: Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 145

Verses sung by the cantor. We sing the Response together.

Response: I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.

SECOND READING: REVELATION 21: 1-5

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.'

And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All stand to welcome the Gospel.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,
that you love one another, just as I have loved you.*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 13: 31-35

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Judas had gone out from the upper room, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once.

Little children, yet a little while I am with you.

'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

All sit.

HOMILY: Fr Philip Kennedy, *Vicar*

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow at the memorial of the Incarnation:

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became
man. *All rise***

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds
from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is
adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one
Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

The reader leads the people in intercession.

The response to each prayer:

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

At the end of the intercessions we pray together:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

All stand to sing the offertory hymn as the altar is prepared. A collection is taken to help with the ministry and mission of the Church.

**Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
First-begotten from the dead,
Thou alone, our strong defender,
Liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluya,
Jesu, true and living Bread!**

**Here our humblest homage pay we;
Here in loving reverence bow;
Here for Faith's discernment pray we,
Lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluya,
Thou art here, we ask not how.**

**Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
As of old in Bethlehem,
Here as there thine angels hail thee,
Branch and Flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluya,
We in worship join with them.**

**Paschal Lamb, thine Offering, finished
Once for all when thou wast slain,
In its fullness undiminished
Shall for evermore remain,
Alleluya,
Cleansing souls from every stain.**

**Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
Stricken Rock with streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluya,
Risen, ascended, glorified!**

When the altar is prepared the Priest says:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PREFACE



The Lord be with you.
And with your spi - rit.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

The priest sings the Preface, after which we sing:

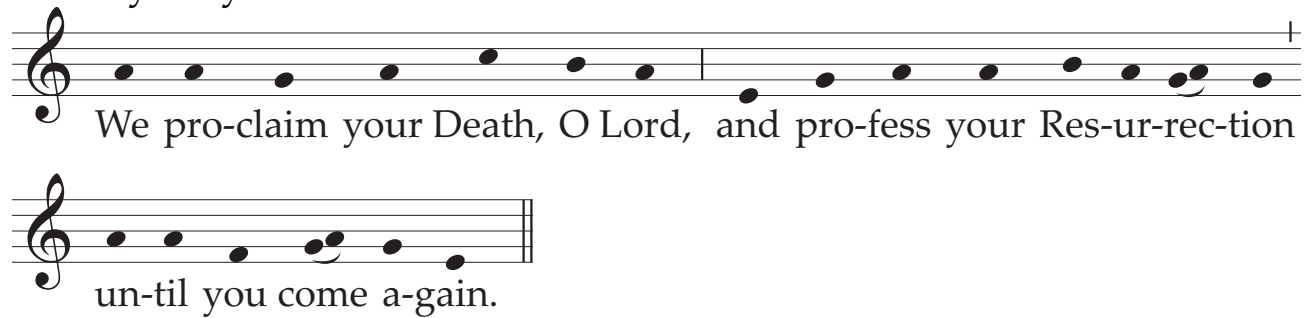
SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth, are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

All kneel or sit as the Eucharistic Prayer continues.

The mystery of faith:



The prayer concludes "...for ever and ever" to which all reply:
Amen.

COMMUNION RITE

All stand as the priest invites the people to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may always be free from sin and safe from all distress as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

THE PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace, I give you: look not on our sins but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

If you are baptised in the name of the Trinity and normally receive Holy Communion in your own Church, you are welcome to receive the Sacrament here today. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come to the altar rail and cross your arms or bring this order of service with you as a sign to the priest.

COMMUNION HYMN

**Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am (thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down),
Now to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
Here for a season then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand.

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

NOTICES

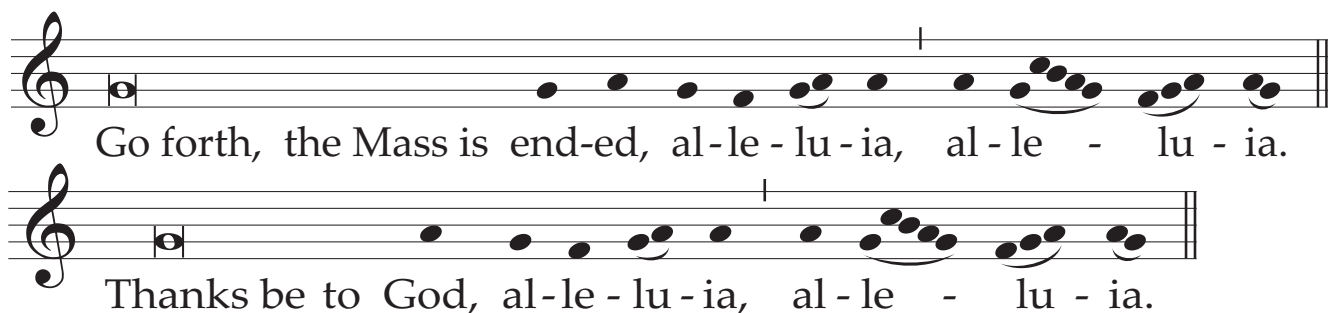
All sit.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

All stand.

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and +the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



REGINA CAELI

Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, alleluia.
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia.
As he promised, hath arisen, alleluia.
Pour for us to him thy prayer, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, by the Resurrection of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
thou has brought joy to the whole world;
grant that aided by the prayers of His Mother Mary,
we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

O praise ye the Lord! praise Him in the height;
Rejoice in His Word, ye angels of light;
Ye heavens, adore Him by whom ye were made,
And worship before Him in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise Him upon earth,
In tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;
Praise Him who hath brought you His grace from above,
Praise Him who hath taught you to sing of His love.

O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;
Each jubilant chord re-echo around;
Loud organs, His glory forth tell in deep tone,
And sweet harp, the story of what He hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
To Him be outpoured all ages along!
For love in creation, for Heaven restored,
For grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord! **Amen. Amen.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: Ceremonial March
Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

Please remain standing until the procession has left the church.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Those in need

Elly Kostur, Jean Tester, Cath Papangelou, Maureen Papangelou, Shabnam Mehdi-Poor, Alvin Rhodon, Andrew Woods, Carol Farley, Luke Guthrie, Alan, Roy Norton, Robin Farquhar-Thomson, Victoria, Tina Guthrie, Vicki Guthrie, Becky Saint, Joanne Donaghy, Joan Aubee, Peggy Ossawy, Neal.

Recently departed

Frank Carruth, Ronald Corp (pr), Martin Poole (pr)

Anniversaries of death

18: Francis Whitehead, Catherine Beard, Lya Gavison

19: William Thomas, Frank Biggart (pr), Frederick Mudford, Frank Somerville, John Betjeman

21: May Bailey, Elizabeth Austin, Selina Gunner

22: Mary Louisa Peach, Doris Paxford, Michael Whitehead (pr)

24: Lionel Nolan, Margaret Price, Peter Hitchins

NOTICES

AMP & APCM

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place after the Parish Mass on Sunday 25 May. Accounts and accompanying reports available today.

Please sign up to the various important tasks listed on the sheets at the back of church – your help is needed! Many thanks.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Monday 26 May – departure from here at 7.15am sharp. Please remember to make arrangements for lunch.

ASCENSION CELEBRATIONS 2025

Saturday 31 May at 5.00pm: Solemn First Vespers & Benediction, followed by drinks in the Clergy House;

Sunday 1 June at 5.00pm: Parish Mass, followed by a party in church
Visiting preacher: Fr Martin Hislop, Vicar of St Luke's, Kingston
While the 5.00pm Mass is the principal celebration, there will be also said celebration at 9.30am on the morning of Sunday 1st.

SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 14 June between 10.00am and 2.00pm

Ascension Day: Solemn First Vespers on 31 May at 5.00pm

'Vespers' was an unfamiliar term to a member of the congregation who asked me about it, and I thought it might be helpful to provide a short explanation

Vespers (from the Latin, meaning 'evening') is the Church's Liturgy of Evening Prayer.

For particularly special holy days (such as the Ascension, coming up) our celebrations begin the day before, hence 'First Vespers', following the ancient Jewish custom of liturgical celebrations beginning at sunset.

At Morning and Evening Prayer, we follow a set order of psalms and canticles, which are selected specifically to be appropriate to the particular feast day. Normally at each service there are two psalms and a canticle.

After the psalms, canticle, and a short reading from Holy Scripture, the high point of the liturgy is the Gospel Canticle - in the Mornings the Benedictus, and in the evenings the Magnificat. After the Gospel Canticle, we pray some short intercessions together, concluding with the Our Father, and the seasonal Marian antiphon (in this season the *Regina Caeli*).

Normally I pray Morning and Evening Prayer on my own, either in church or in my study, therefore it's typically a quiet, said celebration. However, on particularly special feast days the service can be enriched with music and the singing of the psalms and canticles to simple plainsong tones.

It can be enriched further by use of the organ to support the singing, by the participation of additional ministers, and by the use of incense (which will be deployed during the Gospel Canticle as the altar is honoured with incense).

To mark the beginning of our Ascension celebrations, we will take part on Saturday 31st in Evening Prayer in its most solemn form, with singing, assistance from additional ministers, choral polyphony, and the service will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. This might be a new form of worship for some of us but I hope you will be able to participate as fully as possible - please bring along your singing voices to assist with the singing of the psalms!

If you would like to explore praying these services on a more regular basis please have a word with me. They can be a helpful daily anchor in our busy lives. Praying Morning and Evening Prayer in this particular way also reminds us that we are never alone when we pray - for we join each day in the set prayer of the Church - the same liturgy being prayed by millions of people that same day around the world. So while we might pray these services on our own or in small groups, we do so united with Christian brothers and sisters across the globe.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The meetings will take place on Sunday 25 May after Mass, to elect Churchwardens, to receive the 2024 accounts, and to appoint PCC Members and other officers for the next year. In terms of the PCC, there are vacancies for **nine** ordinary members.

If you are registered on our Electoral Roll, you will be entitled to vote at the meeting and to stand for various roles (PCC member, Churchwarden etc).

If you are interested to join the PCC and have a role as a charitable trustee of our Parish, please have a word with me. You will need to be nominated and seconded by someone who is on the Electoral Roll.

In terms of time commitment, the PCC meets usually five times per year, to transact business about the fabric, worshipping life, financial situation and to make future plans. These meetings take place usually at 7.00pm on a weekday evening and last no more than 90 minutes.

It is not an onerous commitment, but one that requires a certain amount of input and support, a willingness to contribute to discussions, to engage proactively with the business at hand, offering challenge and critique where necessary, to propose ideas, and to assist with making progress on items of business.

If you have any relevant key experience particularly with the preservation/conservation of historic buildings, legal, financial or other general experience with governance and trustee matters your presence and contribution would be particularly appreciated.

We have been blessed by the support of many longstanding and committed members of the Parish as members of the PCC, for which I am very grateful; and I would also be glad to hear from any newer members who might feel that now is the time they could offer their skills, talents and some of their time to this important aspect of parish life.

It's important that we have a good representation from all parts of our community in terms of age, background, skills and talents.

If you would like to explore any of this further please have a word with me. Forms are available to take away today if you wish.

Fr Philip