

## Food Bank

We know that food is hard to come by at the moment, but **the Foodbank need donations of the following UHT Milk, Tinned Tomatoes, Jam and Sponge Puddings. Also you can donate baby food in Tins or Jars, BUT NO BABY MILK. The food bank would prefer their regular donors to avoid giving beans if possible as they always receive plenty of these from supermarket donations. Please can I ask you to check the dates on your donated goods.** **Joan**

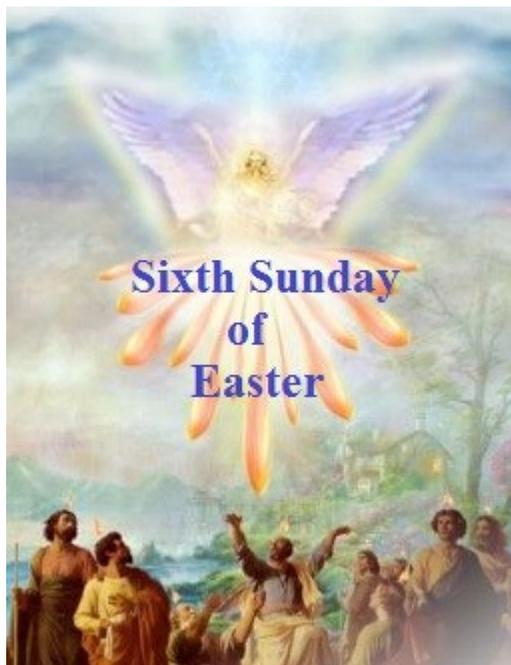
**Any queries please contact the Churchwardens  
Colin Keam 01928 576293**

**or  
Rosemary Lunt 01928 569863**

**or the  
Church Mobile  
Bookings for baptisms and weddings  
Tel: 07722470940 and speak to  
Robbie**

**Church website  
www.runcornstmichaels.org.uk  
Facebook**

**Saint Michael and All Angels Church, Runcorn**



**Parish Church of  
St Michael and All Angels  
Sunday 17th May 2020  
6th Sunday of Easter**



## Readings

Acts 17: 22-31

John 14: 15-21

## **A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen

## Reflection for this week's readings

17th May 2020

God is very near to us

Read both the Bible passages on the next page. Both readings tell us that God is close to us, even when we do not realise this.

**In the first reading, Paul tells his audience in Athens that, even though they do not know God, he is not far from any one of them. He says, "For in him we live and move and exist."**

**Thank God that he cares for every person on this planet. In the midst of the global pandemic, pray for his mercy over the whole world. Pray that the virus may be defeated and a vaccine found.**

**In the gospel reading, Jesus tells his disciples that he will never leave them. He promises them that the Holy Spirit will come to live in them. He reassures them of his love and of the love of God the Father. These are words for every Christian. Pray to know God's presence with you now. Remind yourself at intervals during the day that, whatever you are doing, God is with you.**

**Pray for those self-isolating, that they would know the presence of God in their homes.**

**Jesus said, "I will not abandon you as orphans – I will come to you." Pray for those who might feel abandoned by God at the moment. May they know that he is with them and cares about them.**

## Readings

### **Acts 17: 22-31**

<sup>22</sup> So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, <sup>23</sup> for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘To an Unknown God.’ This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about. <sup>24</sup> “He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, <sup>25</sup> and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. <sup>26</sup> From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. <sup>27</sup> “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. <sup>28</sup> For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ <sup>29</sup> And since this is true, we shouldn’t think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone. <sup>30</sup> “God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. <sup>31</sup> For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.”

### **John 14: 15-21**

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, obey my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. <sup>17</sup> He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. <sup>18</sup> No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”

**The licencing of our new vicar, Rev Karen Brady will taking place on Wednesday 10th June at 7.00pm. We are hoping that it will be on screened live on our Facebook page or YouTube. We will keep informed how you will be able to watch nearer the day.**

**Colin & Rosemary  
Churchwardens**

## PRAYERS

### **A prayer for family life**

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:  
strengthen us in our daily living  
that in joy and in sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence  
to bind together and to heal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

### **PRAYERS ABOUT THE OUTBREAK**

#### **For you to pray at home**

### **For hospital staff and medical researchers**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **General Prayer for this time**

Father of all,  
you call us to be generous to one another,  
and to recognise in their faces the true image of your Son.  
Give us grace that as individuals,  
and as a whole society,  
that in this time of great need  
we may minister friendship and support in ways that are safe  
to all those who are in need of the service of others this day,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.