

**Entrance Antiphon** **Acts 1: 11**

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?  
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven  
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

**Collect**

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,  
and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving,  
for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation,  
and, where the Head has gone before in glory,  
the Body is called to follow in hope.  
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.

**First reading** **Acts 1:1-11**

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. ‘It is’ he had said ‘what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.’

Now having met together, they asked him, ‘Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.’

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, ‘Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.’

**Responsorial Psalm** **Psalm 46(47):2-3,6-9**

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

God is king of all the earth,  
sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne.

*God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.*

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**Second reading** **Ephesians 1:17-23**

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

**Gospel Acclamation** **Matthew 28:19. 20**

Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
**Gospel** **Luke 24:46-53**

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

‘And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.’

Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

We offer sacrifice now in supplication, O Lord,  
to honour the wondrous Ascension of your Son:  
grant, we pray, that through this most holy exchange  
we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon** **Mt 28: 20**

Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

**Prayer after Communion**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries,  
grant, we pray, that Christian hope may draw us onward  
to where our nature is united with you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Solemn Blessing**

May almighty God bless you,  
for on this very day his Only Begotten Son  
pierced the heights of heaven  
and unlocked for you the way  
to ascend to where he is.

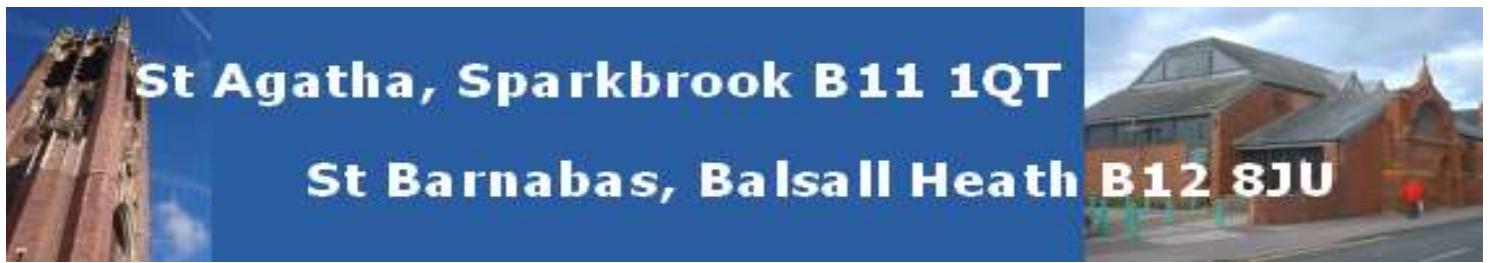
**Amen.**

May he grant that,  
as Christ after his Resurrection  
was seen plainly by his disciples,  
so when he comes as Judge  
he may show himself merciful to you for all eternity.  
**Amen.**

And may you, who believe he is seated  
with the Father in his majesty,  
know with joy the fulfilment of his promise  
to stay with you until the end of time.

**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, ☩ and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.  
**Amen.**



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## 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025 News/prayers Ascension Day

Mass times on Sundays:  
 St Barnabas' at 9am  
 & St Agatha's at 11am

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 God thy prayer. Alleluia!  
 V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.  
 R. For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia

Everyone is invited to :

**St Barnabas'**  
**Patronal Festival Mass**  
 11am on Saturday 14th June.  
 B12 8JU

The Mass will be followed by lunch. Please  
 feel free to bring along 'finger foods' to share.

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm at St Agatha's.**  
 This year we are privileged to host the  
**Archdeacon's Visitation** for our deanery.  
 Please come along, if you can, to support  
 the (re)commissioning our church  
 wardens.

We pray for our parish, for all who live and  
 work within our parish boundaries; holding  
 them up for God's blessing. We pray for all  
 pupils who attend the schools within our  
 parish. We pray for St Agatha's Boxing Club,  
 and St Barnabas' Nursery. We commend to  
 you all who are sick or in any kind of need.  
 We pray for the Fr Michael, Fr Sergei, Church  
 Warden Martin and the congregation of the  
 Russian Orthodox Parish of All Saints, who  
 meet at St Agatha's on Saturdays.

We ask your help for all in positions of  
 responsibility in our churches. We pray for  
 our priest Fr Thomas Singh and his wife  
 Sandhya as they minister in our parish. We  
 pray for Bishop Paul.

We pray for each individual member of our  
 congregations that we may be faithful to our  
 vocations and worthy ambassadors of our  
 Catholic faith.

### **St Agatha's Prayer**

Let your forgiveness be won for us by the  
 pleading of Saint Agatha, who found favour  
 with you by her chastity and by her courage  
 in suffering death for the gospel.

### **St Barnabas's Prayer**

God our Father, You filled Saint Barnabas with  
 faith and  
 the Holy Spirit and sent him to convert the  
 nations; help us to proclaim the gospel by  
 word and deed.

We pray for those who are in need or ill:  
 HM The King, HRH The Princess of Wales,  
 Janet Gregory, John Gregory, David Stokes, Peter  
 Rouillard, Mike Lock, Elaine Stanley, Donnette Rigg,  
 Ava Crossley, Phil Lee, Roger McDonald,  
 Fr Balwant Singh, Esther Micklewright, Robert Smith,  
 Fr. John Luff, Carole Luff, Ben Whitehouse,  
 Phillip Wheeler, Rene Priestly  
 We pray for those who have died recently,

*This weekend, many of the parish, including Fr Thomas, have gone on a  
 pilgrimage to Walsingham. Please pray for them as they pray for us!*

