

# St JOHN FISHER & St THOMAS MORE



Sunday readings from Year A

## Sunday 17 May Seventh Sunday of Easter

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Sunday Mass 9.30 am

Readers: Julie Bond and Carolyn Walton

Organist: Terry McNamara

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Please continue to remember the sick and the housebound of the parish in your prayers and continue to pray for the peoples of Ukraine and the Middle East and all those suffering due to oppression, poverty, persecution, violence or war. Remember also those who have died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

There will be a retiring collection today for Catholic Communications

**O**n Tuesday it is the Optional Memorial of St Dunstan. He was a 10<sup>th</sup> century English bishop and Benedictine monk. Successively Abbot of Glastonbury Abbey, Bishop of Worcester, Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury, he was canonised in 1029 some 40 years after his death.

His work restored monastic life in England and reformed the English Church. His 11<sup>th</sup> century biographer Osbern, himself an artist and scribe, states that Dunstan was skilled in

"making a picture and forming letters", as were other clergy of his age who reached senior rank.

Dunstan served as an important minister of state to several English kings. He was the most popular saint in England for nearly two centuries, having gained fame for the many stories of his greatness, not least among which were those concerning his famed cunning in defeating the Devil by pinching his nose with his red hot blacksmith's tongs.

**W**ednesday is the Optional Memorial of St Bernadine, also known as Bernardino of Siena. He was a 15<sup>th</sup> century Italian priest and Franciscan missionary. St Bernadine was an enthusiastic preacher; this made him famous during his own lifetime because his sermons were frequently directed against sorcery, gambling, infanticide, witchcraft, sodomy, Jews, and usury. It was no surprise that he was not universally popular. In L'Aquila someone sawed the legs off the pulpit from which he was preaching causing him to fall into the crowd.

St Bernadine was later canonised by the Church, becoming known as the Apostle of Italy for his efforts to revive the country's Catholic faith. He also devised the IHS symbol. He has many patronages including being the patron saint of advertising, communications, compulsive gambling,

respiratory complications and any problems involving the chest area.

**B**orn the year after Bernadino in 1381 St Rita of Cascia, whose optional memorial is celebrated on Friday, was an Italian widow and Augustinian nun. After Rita's husband was murdered she joined an Augustinian community of religious sisters, where she was known both for practising mortification of the flesh and for the efficacy of her prayers. Various miracles are attributed to her intercession, and she is often portrayed with a bleeding wound on her forehead, which is understood to indicate a partial stigmata.

St Rita is, together with both St Philomena and St Jude, regarded as the patroness of impossible causes. She is also the patron saint of sterility, abuse victims, loneliness, marriage difficulties, parenthood, widows, the sick, bodily ills, and wounds.

### Parish Summer Party

**W**e are hoping to again hold an evening drinks and canapé garden party here at Ss John Fisher & Thomas More on the evening of Friday, 31 July. If you would like to attend please keep the date and there will be more details over the coming weeks.

Weekday readings from Year II

### Monday 18 May

Optional Memorial of St John I, Pope, Martyr

### Tuesday 19 May

Optional Memorial of St Dunstan, Bishop

• Mass 10.00 am - Burford

### Wednesday 20 May

Optional Memorial of St Bernadine of Siena, Priest, Religious, Missionary

• Mass 9.30 am - Carterton

### Thursday 21 May

Optional Memorial of Ss Christopher Magallanes Priest, and companions, Martyrs

• Mass 10.00 am - Burford

### Friday 22 May

Optional Memorial of St Rita of Cascia, Religious

• Mass 9.30 am - Carterton

### Saturday 23 May

Easter Feria

• Vigil Mass 5.00 pm - Carterton

### Sunday 24 May

Solemnity of Pentecost

• Mass 9.30 am - Burford

• Mass 11.00 am - Carterton

*Prayer to St Rita, Patroness of the Impossible*

*O Holy St Rita, we honour you for your devotion to the passion of Jesus.*

*Despite your early life being filled with disappointment, frustration and unceasing tragedy, you never lost faith and trust in God. For this, you are the patroness of the impossible, and our inspiration and advocate in desperate circumstances.*

*Amen.*

### Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times.

Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Valerie Copping and she can be contacted at [sg.stjf-sttm.burford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stjf-sttm.burford@rcaob.org.uk) should you have any concerns.

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