

# Saint Mary's Newsletter: June 2020

**Vicar:** David Smithson 021 985530 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

**Peoples Warden:** Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

**Vicars Warden:** John Heaton 021 702871



## SERVICES FOR JUNE

**Please note that currently there is no morning tea roster due to Covid-19 restrictions**

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family Communion Service

Readings: Melanie Holdsworth

Intercessions: Melanie Holdsworth

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family Communion Service

Readings: Trish Smithson

Intercessions: Trish Smithson

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>:

10am Family Communion Service.

Readings: Katy Cockerton

Intercessions: Katy Cockerton

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>:

10am Family Communion Service followed by AGM.

Readings: Majella Heaton

Intercessions: Majella Heaton

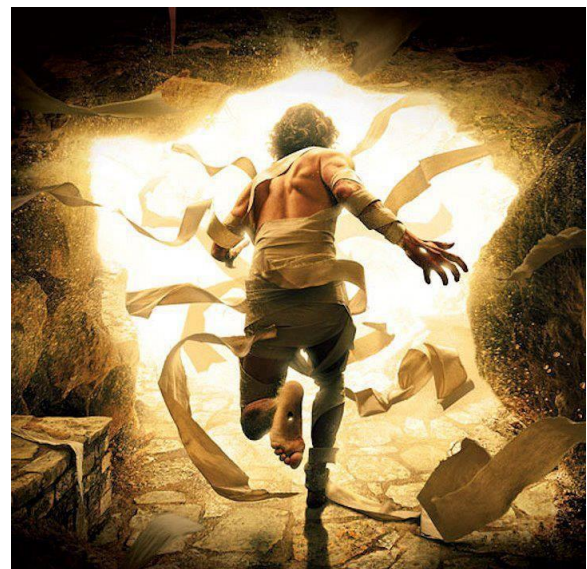


## A note from the vicar:

*I want to thank each one of you for your devotion to our parish and your Faith during this whole most unusual Covid-19 time since we last met as a church on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Thank you for your prayers and care for one another. It is both interesting and concerning that people of faith seem to be the least trusted by the government to be able to gather together, but we are grateful that we now can meet despite restrictions, and that we never really ceased to be the Church of St Mary's Gordonton, even though we physically could not meet in the building! Let's pick up from where we left, and get on with the business that Jesus charged us to be and do - being and making disciples!*

*David*

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An interesting painting of the Resurrection of Christ:



### Is Jesus God? — Jesus claimed to be God.

Take for example the words of Jesus in John 10:30, “I and the Father are one.” We need only to look at the Jews’ reaction to His statement to know He was claiming to be God. They tried to stone Him for this very reason: “You, a mere man, *claim to be God*” (John 10:33, emphasis added). The Jews understood exactly what Jesus was claiming—deity. When Jesus declared, “I and the Father are one,” He was saying that He and the Father are of one nature and essence. John 8:58 is another example. Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth ... before Abraham was born, I am!” This is a reference back to Exodus 3:14 when God revealed Himself as the “I AM.” The Jews who heard this statement responded by taking up stones to kill Him for blasphemy, as the Mosaic Law commanded (Leviticus 24:16).

### Is Jesus God? — His followers declared Him to be God.

John reiterates the concept of Jesus’ deity: “The Word [Jesus] was God” and “the Word became flesh” (John 1:1, 14). These verses clearly indicate that Jesus is God in the flesh. Acts 20:28 tells us, “Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood.” Who bought the church with His own blood? Jesus Christ. And this same verse declares that God purchased His church with His own blood. Therefore, Jesus is God.

Thomas the disciple declared concerning Jesus, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28). Jesus does not correct him. Titus 2:13 encourages us to wait for the coming of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ (see also 2 Peter 1:1). In Hebrews 1:8, the Father declares of Jesus, “But about the Son He says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and righteousness will be the sceptre of your kingdom.’” The Father refers to Jesus as God, indicating that Jesus is indeed God.

In Revelation, an angel instructed the apostle John to only worship God (Revelation 19:10). Several times in Scripture Jesus receives worship (Matthew 2:11; 14:33; 28:9, 17; Luke 24:52; John 9:38). He never rebukes people for worshipping Him. If Jesus were not God, He would have told people to not worship Him, just as the angel in Revelation did. Beyond these, there are many other passages of Scripture that argue for Jesus being God.

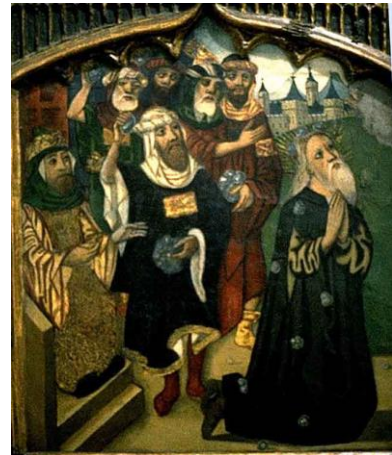
### Is Jesus God? — The reason Jesus must be God.

The most important reason that Jesus must be God is that, if He is not God, His death would not have been sufficient to pay the penalty for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2). A created being, which Jesus would be if He were not God, could not pay the infinite penalty required for sin against an infinite God. Only God could pay such an infinite penalty. Only God could take on the sins of the world (2 Corinthians 5:21), die, and be resurrected, proving His victory over sin and death.

Is Jesus God? Yes. Jesus declared Himself to be God. His followers believed Him to be God. The provision of salvation only works if Jesus is God. Jesus is God incarnate, the eternal Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8; 22:13), and God our Saviour (2 Peter 1:1).

### This Month in Christian History:

**30 June 1315:** Martyrdom of Raymond Lull, a Spanish mystic who devoted his life as a missionary to the Islamic people. Lull first travelled to North Africa in 1291.



### Parish Giving

Please consider giving to the parish via Automatic Payment. Did you know that St Mary’s has to pay for our Vicar and all other costs of running a Parish, as well as giving a proportion to the Diocese? Please help us to be sustainable by giving via Automatic Payment. It is an easy way to give and is useful for the parish in running its budget. The Parish Bank Account is:

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