

# Saint Mary's Newsletter: May

**Vicar:** David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

**Lay Minister:** Charles Clark 021 02691764

**Peoples Warden:** Sally-Ann Riddell 022 107562

**Vicars Warden:** John Heaton 021 702871



## SERVICES FOR MAY

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>:

10am Holy Communion Service

**Refreshments:** Majella

**Prayers:** Majella

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>:

10am Holy Communion Service

**Refreshments:** Trish

**Prayers:** Trish

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>:

10am Pentecost Holy Communion Service

**Refreshments:** Rosalie

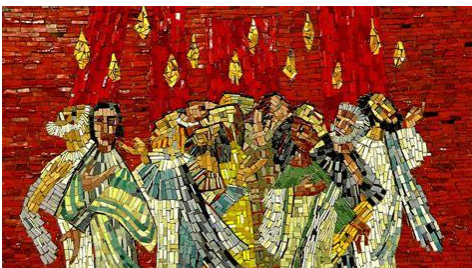
**Prayers:** Rosalie

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>:

10am Holy Communion Service

**Refreshments:** Helen

**Prayers:** Helen



**King's Birthday Weekend Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> June: No service**

## Parish Giving

If you are not already doing so, please also consider giving to the parish via Automatic Payment. 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:

**02 0410 0103053 00**

## ROMANS 16:19-20

I want you to see clearly what is right  
and stay to innocent of any wrong.  
The God of Peace  
will soon crush Satan  
under your feet.



## "SOME TRUST IN CHARIOTS"

Psalm 20:7 is a well-known verse that demonstrates King David's unwavering trust in God: "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God." During David's era and beyond, chariots and horses were a measure of military strength. In more contemporary terms, the verse might be rendered "Some trust in their armed forces and nuclear weapons, but we trust in the name of the LORD."

In ancient times, the strength of a kingdom was gauged by its possession of "chariots and horses." Hence, it was customary for kings to put their trust in their military resources. For example, King Solomon bolstered his strength by amassing "chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem" (1 Kings 10:26). Pharaoh of Egypt and King Sennacherib of Assyria are other biblical examples of rulers with large armies. These two kings are especially significant as God showcased His supremacy over their military powers (Exodus 14:6–14; 2 Kings 19). Grasping the significance of "chariots and horses" adds depth to David's words. Though a courageous warrior himself, David relied on the Lord to give him victory.

Although modern nations don't depend on chariots and horses, and regular individuals lack access to military resources, the metaphorical implication of this verse holds true. It is still possible to fall into the trap of relying solely on human strength, material possessions, and intelligence. This is evident sometimes in elections of political candidates, when people might assume that a certain candidate or party will usher in a utopia, disregarding the God-factor (see Proverbs 21:1; Daniel 2:21; 4:17). The wealthy may rely on their billions, intellectuals on their brilliance, and the physically strong on their bulk. Humans have been geared toward self-rule right from the Garden of Eden, and even Christians aren't immune (Genesis 3:4).

Given our inclination to play the role of our own gods, Psalm 20:7 should be both a challenge and a proclamation for believers. In challenging times when others might tap into their limited human resources, we have a heavenly Father to turn to for assistance (Psalm 18:2; 46:1; Hebrews 4:16). He is willing to grant us wisdom (James 1:5), guide us through our troubles (Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 23:4), and liberate us from all that would entangle (Psalm 34:17; Matthew 6:13; 2 Timothy 4:18).

We can extend the concept of trusting in chariots and horses to the matter of salvation. Various religions and belief systems advocate for salvation through good deeds and obedience to religious law. Even atheists and sceptics rely on their perceived goodness, hoping that, if God exists, their good deeds will suffice to secure salvation. However, Christianity is unique, as the gospel invites us to trust in the person and work of Christ. As Jesus Himself promised, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

In all aspects of life, may we unite with King David in professing our unwavering faith in God, refuse to be numbered with those who "trust in chariots and horses," and pray for the grace to remain steadfast



## Brother Lawrence



*Born Nicolas Herman in 1614 in a small village in Lorraine, France, he had a soul-altering experience at 18. That winter, while looking at a leafless tree, he marvelled that its barrenness would soon turn green again, flower, and bear fruit. This insight made him intimately aware of God's love from then on. Next, however, he chose military service, fighting and being wounded in the Thirty Years' War. Still unsure about his life's direction, he tried being a hermit, then a valet. At 26, he entered the Order of Discalced Carmelites on the Rue Vaugirard in Paris as a lay brother, took the name of Brother Lawrence, and lived there some 50 years. Plagued by a limp probably resulting from his war wound, he was cook and dishwasher until his physical limitations made that contribution impossible. Then he became the monastery's sandalmaker, a job that allowed him to sit and mend some 200 pairs of sandals worn by the clerics and lay brothers. Brother Lawrence died on February 12, 1691, but his inimitably simple writings still teach us how to walk boldly the path of God's love.*

*"If we renounce ourselves, we'll know unspeakable joy. Always turn to Jesus Christ, asking him for his grace that makes everything easy. Neither finesse nor learning is required to approach God, only a heart resolved to devote itself exclusively to him, loving him only. Ground yourself in God's presence by continually conversing with him. Nourish your soul by focusing your mind on God's glory. Accept the joy that comes from spending time with him. Renew your faith; it's terrible that we have so little. Give yourself completely to God. Abandon yourself to him. Find joy in doing his will, in all circumstances. Suffering and joy are synonymous to someone yielded to God. We must be faithful in times of aridity when God is testing our love for him." - Brother Lawrence*