

# The Parish Church of Saint George



## PARISH MAGAZINE

*An open door in the heart of the City*



**MAY 2023**

## PARISH CONTACTS

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The Rector: The Reverend Brian Stewart Mob: 079 0279 2080

The Curate: The Reverend William Odling-Smee Tel: 028 4484 1868

Honorary Assistant Priests: The Reverend Ian Frazer; The Venerable Scott Harte;  
The Reverend Colin Young; The Reverend Ray Rennix

### **SELECT VESTRY**

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People's Churchwarden: TBA

Rector's Glebewardens: Tony Merrick Tel: 028 9042 7739

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Treasurer of the Select Vestry: Douglas McIlldoon Tel: 028 9023 1831

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Editorial Team: William Odling-Smee, Selby Nesbitt, Tony Merrick.

## From the Rector's Desk



Dear Friends in Christ,

Christ is risen, Alleluia! A happy and joyous Eastertide to you all! It may seem somewhat odd to be wishing you all a happy Easter in this May edition of the Parish Magazine, when Easter Day was celebrated on the 9th April. However, Easter is a season which lasts for 50 days until the Day of Pentecost on the 28th May, and we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ very clearly during the whole season by using the Easter greeting and proper words in our services until Pentecost or Whitsun, as it used to be called.

We are an Easter people, and indeed every Sunday is on acknowledgement of the Resurrection because as St Paul said, 'If Christ is not risen then your faith is in vain' (1 Cor. 15 v14). But Christ has been raised from the dead, and our faith is not in vain, so let us celebrate his triumph - He is risen. Alleluia!

Ascension Day will be celebrated on Thursday 18th May with a Choral Celebration of the Eucharist (Order 1) at 7:30 PM. On Sunday 21st May, the preacher at the 11:00 AM Choral Eucharist will be the Venerable Andrew Orr, Archdeacon of Cloyne, and the preacher at the 5:00 PM Choral Evensong will be the Very Reverend Susan Green, Dean of Cloyne.

By the time you are reading this, we will have held our annual General Vestry meeting and a new Select Vestry and various church officers will have been elected. I want to record my appreciation and thanks to all those who have recently served the parish in these roles. Although many of them may be reappointed, I wish to record my thanks to them all for all that they have done for the parish in the past and the 'behind the scenes' hard work they undertake which is absolutely vital to the smooth running of St George's. It is much appreciated.

Please do contact me directly on 07902792080 if you have any pastoral queries or concerns about someone who is unwell or would just like to talk about parochial matters or anything that is troubling you.

Yours sincerely in Christ

*Brian Stewart*

## PARISH NEWS

### **EASTER (GENERAL) VESTRY 2023**

The Easter Vestry was held on **Sunday, April 23rd at 12:30 PM.**

The following appointments/elections were made;

#### **CHURCHWARDENS**

**RECTOR'S** TBA

**PEOPLE'S** TBA

#### **GLEBEWARDENS**

**RECTOR'S** Tony Merrick

**PEOPLE'S** Pam Tilson

#### **SELECT VESTRY**

*Rector*

*Fr William Odling-Smee*

*Philip Black*

*Chris Jenkins*

*Agape Laoye*

*Selby Nesbitt*

*Douglas McIlldoon*

*James Beattie*

*George Storey*

*Matty Jeffrey*

*Lyn McGlade*

*Fr Graeme Pollock*

*Rod Clarke*

*William McArthur*

#### **PAROCHIAL NOMINATORS**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Matty Jeffrey*

*Anne McBride*

*Pam Tilson*

*Selby Nesbitt*

SUPPLEMENTAL MEMBERS

*Michael McGlade*

*Michael Clendinning*

*Carolyn Wallace*

*Tony Merrick*

#### **DIOCESAN SYNOD MEMBERS**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*George Woodman*

*Lyn McGlade*

SUPPLEMENTAL MEMBERS

*Janet Sandikli*

*Chris Jenkins*

'UNDER 35' SYNOD MEMBER

*Matty Jeffrey*

### **CAR PARKING DURING THE WEEK AT ST GEORGE'S**



The **Car Parking Donation** of £45 to Parish funds for parishioners who have a registered 'Carpark Fob', is now due for renewal for a period of 12 months, beginning **1<sup>st</sup> May 2023**. Please speak to Selby Nesbitt.

Registration of a new or existing 'fob' costs £45, payable to St George's; it is a very useful facility to have, if making a trip into Belfast city centre.

## PARISH NEWS

### WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE – 2023



Would all those who have put down their names for going to Walsingham this year please note that I will require a deposit of £30 from each of you by the end of April in order to secure our places at the Shrine. I also need to ask if anyone among our pilgrims is prepared to share a twin room, first of all in Walsingham, but more especially on the night we are stopping in the Ripon area on our way home. The outstanding balance of £800.00 will required by Sunday 24th.September at latest.

Please also note that the dates of the pilgrimage have been changed slightly. We will still be leaving Belfast on the 3rd October but will have an extra day with the Community of the Resurrection so that means we will be in Walsingham from Friday 6th.October to Wednesday 11th.October. The next meeting of the Walsingham group will be on Thursday 27th.April at 1.00pm for a celebration of the Eucharist followed by a light lunch.

Fr Graeme Pollock

### As Kingfishers Catch Fire

By Gerard Manley Hopkins

As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame;  
As tumbled over rim in roundy wells  
Stones ring; like each tucked string tells, each hung bell's  
Bow swung finds tongue to fling out broad its name;  
Each mortal thing does one thing and the same:  
Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;  
Selves - goes itself; *myself* it speaks and spells,  
Crying *Whát I dó is me: for that I came.*

I say móre: the just man justices;  
Keeps grace: *thát* keeps all his goings graces;  
Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is -  
Christ - for Christ plays in ten thousand places,  
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his  
To the Father through the features of men's faces.

Submitted by Geoffrey May

## **'PENTECOST' by James Hardy**

Christmas tinsel celebrates a short season of joie de vivre when families and work places try to lay down hostilities. People trying to be nice to each other, unless they happen to be vegan or vegetarian, often share a lamb dinner at Easter. But where does Pentecost, stripped even of its original biblical name, slot into the yearly cycle of holidays or festivals? So called "*Whitsunday*" often passes remarkably un-noticed in our secular age, and if we are honest about it another question must arise. Does the Church perhaps struggle, in an age of near ubiquitous images, to depict or present -"The Invisible God"- of Pentecost?

That's maybe where we need to pause sometimes, perhaps lighting a candle even, to enjoy a few quiet minutes at a silent Saint George's during a weekday trip into the city. The doctrines of the incarnation and atonement are wildly strange, far beyond what our most deluded imagination could contrive or invent. One Church Father commented thus: 'It is true because it is impossible.' Yet for seven to eight centuries, possibly a great deal longer, people have meditated upon these divine mysteries, at the point where the River Farset (after which Belfast's name is derived) once entered the sea.

The river is culverted over under High Street (in front of Saint George's) so it's strange to imagine boats having once rested on estuary sand where the perimeter front fence of the Church stands. Yet for all these centuries people have celebrated the feast of Pentecost on this same site. Might one of their ghosts, temporarily re-embodied and given modern attire, identify with the liturgy and candles in the 2023 Pentecost service, if they were able to discretely take a back seat? The living Church, for all its faults and problems, bears witness to a timeless truth and a spiritual superglue which binds all humanity.

Almost 25 years ago, with-'The Good Friday Agreement'-ink barely dry, I commenced work as a relief GP in the Outer Hebrides. An experienced receptionist handled the tiny dispensary, the front desk and my daily consultations or visit schedules. She also noted my interest in her evangelical faith and started to loan me a variety of books from her library. We eventually moved to the subject of the Holy Spirit during coffee time chats. And the rest-as they say-is history! My atheistic scepticism dissolved, much as the Farset merges into Belfast Lough.

Do we perhaps need to more frequently challenge each other on the doctrine and the person of the Holy Spirit? Members of mainstream Irish denominations seem to live in perpetual fear of-'Blasphemy

against the Holy Spirit'-to the point where people shy away from discussing a core Church belief. My life changing sojourn, among the Gaelic speaking Calvinists of the Hebrides, has lead me to respect the faithful witness of a culture where discussion of the supernatural and mysterious is not shied away from.

A short verse in our New Testament looks as if it has been paper clipped on or 'cut and pasted'. Yet Mark 3:30 defines blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (i.e. attributing holy works of God to the action of the devil). The modern Alpha Course, with its emphasis on the person and work of the Holy Spirit, bears testimony to the value of open and honest discussion. It's good to see the Book of Acts as 'a fifth gospel' and to read it at least once a year. Our communal fellowship and our prayer life is enriched, when we discuss and celebrate Pentecost in an open and honest manner.

### **TIME TO READ - Helping Children Read Better.**

Children who fail to read well before they leave their primary school, have a reduced prospect of doing well both in their secondary school and later in finding work.

Time to Read provides volunteers, who spend one hour each week helping two pupils in a primary school to read better. They are able to give the one-to-one tuition that the class teacher cannot give. Schools also find that pupils who read with a volunteer gain added confidence and self esteem.

Time to Read is sponsored by Business In The Community, so many volunteers are released by their employer for an hour, while others give of their own time. Volunteers do a short training course. Their reward is to see children start to enjoy books.

If you feel you could help at a primary school near you or would like to know more, why not contact me, Jeffrey Johnston, Tel: 90864993 or email: [jeffreyjohnston175@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyjohnston175@gmail.com)



# GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE (1)

1



## Grow annuals from seed

Pollinator-friendly favourites like sunflowers and cosmos are easy — simply sow in pots of peat-free compost and plant out in early summer.

2



## Make new plants from old

Dig up herbaceous plants like nepeta and cranesbills and use an old bread knife to slice the rootball in two, with intact stems. Replant and water well.

3



## Take softwood cuttings

Cut 10cm shoots from shrubs like lavender, remove lower leaves and push into pots of moist, gritty compost. Cover with a plastic bag sealed with an elastic band and keep on a bright windowsill for eight weeks.

4



## Make a log pile

Neighbours pruning or cutting down a tree? Ask for some logs! Piled up in a corner or beneath a bench they provide an easy, inexpensive habitat.

(Continued on page 10)

## GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE (2)

5



### Be less tidy

Let an area of grass grow long, allow leaves to pile up in borders, deadhead and cut back less.

6



### Make your own habitat boxes

From bird and bat boxes to hedgehog feeding stations and even bee hotels, there are plenty of instructions online on how to make your own bespoke wildlife homes.

7



### Grow your own bird food

Home-grown bird food is free: avoid cutting back seed-bearing plants like lavender, knapweed, grasses, sunflower and *Verbena bonariensis*, and watch the birds flock to feed from them.

8



### Enjoy free gifts from birds

Birds make great farmers. Keep an eye out for holly and hawthorn seedlings, often found at the base of fences or other 'perches'. With the landowners permission, dig them up and plant in your garden!

Eleanor Maynard

# THE WEE SNAP

by Paul McLaughlin



The memories are filled with sand and salt and a seashore that winds away lazily towards Carlingford Lough. I am on the beach at Cranfield in Co Down, long before the caravans consumed the massive dunes, standing in awe of the lighthouse that bears the name of the townland.

The salt on the wind is sharp and the smell of the sea hugs my nostrils, as savoury as the aroma of fish and chips from the Lighthouse cafe and just as welcome. Memories captured forever in the 'wee snap' as my mother called it.

The sun is directly above us and my father, thirty years younger than I am now, is sitting with my brother and I astride an old rowing boat that has been beached for nearly a decade. My sister sits to the side of the 'wreck' on a tartan rug gazing into the distance as only a teenager can.

I remember my red corduroy shirt with the black buttons and the khaki shorts that turned up at the knee. I remember my boy brother, his cow's-licked, little head turned to one side, the freckles playing around his smile. We had been playing football in the hayfield that we had helped to bale and the dust from the straw and the sweat makes gold of our hair.

The old box camera has reproduced the costumes and cast perfectly in one picture and I handle it gently as if 60 years or more of precious recollection might crumble and slip through in my fingers.

The Oxford Companion to the Photograph describes the snap this way: "The fundamental characteristic of the snapshot is that it is a 'naive' document, motivated solely by a personal desire to create a photographic record of a person, place, or event and with no artistic pretensions or commercial considerations."

This little photograph, a rare colour print from that time, stares back at me as if the requirements stated above have been performed in full. It is a record of a moment in time, a snapshot that illustrates an instant certainly, but one filled with personal desires and emotions that still sparkle more than 60 years later.

I have dreamed many times of that day at Cranfield, remembering the little snap as clearly as the day it was brought home from the chemist's shop that organised its processing.

Other holidays were just as good, some even better, but they never made it into my dreams. That one day struck a chord with me and became my tune. Months would go by without it and then, just when the results of the Christmas exams were coming up or the school football team was being picked, even the time when my father was dangerously ill with peritonitis, that day at the beach, that moment of happy, family togetherness - my mother was nervously taking the picture - would smooth the edges of a sleepless night, soothing nerves and relieving stress.

The snap was retrieved from a brown, leather handbag that my late mother used as part of her extensive 'filing' system. Handbags, filled with photographs, letters, postcards and memory cards for the deceased, most of whom are long gone and sadly forgotten, were tucked away in wardrobes to be kept safe.

As our late parents' house was being cleared after they had died, the system, still safe after six decades, proved a treasure trove of memorabilia.

Many more snaps saw the light of day for the first time in years, magical moments that chronicled how our home had changed from the drab days of the 1950s, through the leatherette and radiogramme 1960's, the riotous autumnal 1970s when brown and orange wallpaper brought a crazy, psychedelic backdrop to nearly every room to the more sedate 1980s and 1990s when **big** birthdays, ending in zeroes, were celebrated and commemorated stylishly on camera.

Little snaps, naive and without pretensions, were made for big occasions, weddings, first communions, confirmations, Christmases and even parties that didn't need excuses, but none is more important to me than that little snapshot of a sixties' summer's day at the seaside with my family before and behind the Box Brownie.



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## SURPRISES ON HOLIDAY - by Keith Suckling

We have found May to be an excellent month for a holiday. Once all the children had left home, Helen and I made several trips to the continent. We were always curious to see the many churches and to understand something of their background. Some were striking ancient buildings, like the huge basilica in Trier on the Mosel in Germany. It was built by the Roman emperor Constantine and he held court there. The ancient basilica is now a Lutheran church and lies right next to the medieval Roman Catholic cathedral. On another trip, in Venice we wanted to see in St Mark's Cathedral, but the queues of tourists were too long. We came back in the evening and went to the Office of Vespers, entering by a hidden side door. In the dimly lit sacred space the light glinted gently off the golden decorations as the service was sung. There was a feeling of timelessness and peace, holiness.



Back on the Mosel and on the first day of our holiday there, we took a boat trip from Cochem, where we were staying, upstream to a small village called Beilstein, tucked among the vines on the steep slopes of the river valley. The picture shows the river valley from the castle that overlooks the village. About halfway

up the slope you can see the church of a monastery. The interior of the church is decorated in pink and cream, giving a gentle feel. However, it was not particularly quiet since many of the visitors from

our boat had climbed up the hill to have a look. I tried to imagine what worship would be like in the church, and as I was walking slowly around, a small card caught my eye. It was placed almost casually just inside the altar rail, about A5 in size and full of text in German. Having worked in Germany many years earlier, I was able to read it, and what I read changed the sense of the whole visit. It was an invitation to



the visitor to a moment of quiet contemplation. It sat there, waiting to be read, and this is what it said (edited for English style): Now I sit here in this church. Quiet, meditative music calms me. We walked

up through the beautiful Moselle village of Beilstein and left the street noise behind. The pleasant walk and the boat trip on the romantic Moselle, the vineyards and the scenery, have inspired me.

It is nice to be able to rest here, to allow thoughts to come. They take me back to the place I have come from, to my job, to my family. Here in this church it is possible to unload everything. I can let go and leave behind all burdens and worry. Here at the altar, I am invited to put everything down. I know I am safe. I come to rest. I give thanks for the fact that there are people here who look after such a place of silence, a quiet oasis.

My free time, my vacation gives me the opportunity to review my life, to think about God and the world. Some things may well feel different when I return, when I come out of this church and go back down to the river. As I look down on the Mosel from the church square, I see how everything moves on, new life as it were.

My life also goes on, but differently. I found a new perspective. In this church of Beilstein I found rest.

Lord, I am on my way, meeting people as I go. People who have accompanied me for a while on my life path and continue to be with me. I think of them in too in these quiet minutes.

I walk out of the church joyfully, thankful for these few minutes of silence in this church of Beilstein which have helped me.

Reading this card did indeed change the way everything felt. If I remember correctly, the other visitors faded into the background, leaving a strong sense of the dedication of the people who maintained this place of prayer and of having been in a holy place that was just waiting for us.

There are many places like this, and many surprises to be had when we visit. What they have in common is summed up by the invitation to the sharing of the peace in Eastertide, 'The risen Christ appeared to the disciples and said, "Peace be with you". Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.'

We didn't rush back down to the river. We had time before the boat was due to leave for the return journey so we stopped for lunch at an outdoor restaurant a little way down. As it turned out, we needed all of that time because the service at the restaurant was painfully slow.

# MUSIC LIST May 2023

## Sunday 7th May

### 11am Choral Eucharist

## Easter 5

### Parish Choir

Processional Hymn	Christ is our corner stone 206
Setting	Darke in F
Psalm	31: 1-6, 17-18
Gradual Hymn	Good Christians 107
Offertory Hymn	God is Love 364
Communion Hymn	302
Motet	Beati quorum via - <i>Stanford</i>
Recessional Hymn	Christ is made 205

### 5pm Choral Evensong

### Parish choir

Responses	Rose
Psalm	147: 1-11
Setting	Stanford in C
Anthem	O taste and see – <i>R Vaughan Williams</i>
Hymns	104, 107

## Sunday 14th May

### 11am Choral Eucharist

## Easter 6

### Parish Choir

Hymn	All my hope on God 333
Setting	Canterbury Mass - <i>Piccolo</i>
Psalm	66: 7-18
Gradual Hymn	Blest are the pure in heart 341
Offertory Hymn	Thy hand O God 485
Anthem	If ye love me - <i>Tallis</i>
Recessional Hymn	Praise my Soul 436

### 5pm Choral Evensong

### Choral

#### scholars

Responses	Rose ATB
Psalm	36: 5-10
Canticles	Dyson in C minor
Anthem	The Call - <i>R Vaughan Williams</i>
Hymns	115, 121

## Thursday May 18th

### 8pm Choral Eucharist

## Ascension Day

### Parish Choir

Hymn	All hail the power 332
Setting	Little organ mass - <i>Haydn</i>



# MUSIC LIST May 2023

Psalm	47
Gradual Hymn	How shall I sing <b>373</b>
Offertory Hymn	Christ triumphant (separate sheet)
Anthem	God is gone up - <i>Finzi</i>
Recessional Hymn	At the name of Jesus <b>338</b>

## Sunday 21st May

### 11am Choral Eucharist

Processional Hymn	All hail the power <b>332</b>
Psalm	68: 1-10, 32-35
Setting	Stanford in C
Gradual Hymn	Come let us join <b>349</b>
Offertory Hymn	Lord enthroned in heavenly <b>296</b>
Communion Hymn	302
Motet	Amor Vincit
Recessional Hymn	Christ is made <b>205</b>

## Sunday after the Ascension Day

### Parish Choir

### 5pm Choral Evensong

### IDAHOT

### Chamber Choir SSA only

Responses	Tallis
Psalm	47
Canticles	Long in F
Anthem	Ex ore innocentium
Hymns	<b>115, 461</b>

## Sunday 28th May

### 11am Choral Eucharist

## Pentecost

### Parish Choir

Hymn	Come Holy Ghost <b>138</b>
Setting	Missa Princeps Pacis - <i>Lloyd Webber</i>
Psalm	104: 24-34, 36b
Gradual Hymn	Come down O love divine <b>137</b>
Offertory Hymn	We have a gospel <b>486</b>
Communion Hymn	307
Anthem	If ye love me - <i>Tallis</i>
Recessional Hymn	Angel voices <b>336</b>

### 5pm BCP

### St George's Girls' Choir

Setting	Addington Service - <i>Shepherd</i>
Anthem	Come Holy Ghost - <i>Attwood</i>
Hymns	<b>139,140,362</b>

# CALENDAR May 2023

**May 3**

**FERIA**

**10:30am Eucharist:** The Rector

**May 7**

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**9:30 am Eucharist:** The Rector

**11:00 am Choral Eucharist:** The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Acts 7: 55-60; 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14: 1-14

Sanctuary Flowers: *Betty Flynn, in loving memory of her husband John and their daughter Tracey*

Readers: *Janet Sandikli*

Intercessor: *Archdeacon Harte*

Servers: *Laura Brannigan, Agape Laoye, Mark Claney*

Tea and Coffee: *Linda McConnell, Yvonne Doherty*

**5:00 pm Choral Evensong:** Rev'd Colin Young

Lessons: Zechariah 4: 1-10; Revelation 21: 1-14 (*Fr Graeme Pollock*)

**May 10**

**FERIA**

**10:30am Eucharist:** The Rector

**May 14**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**9:30 am Eucharist:** The Rector

**11:00 am Choral Eucharist:** The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: Acts 17: 22-31; 1 Peter 3: 13-22; John 14: 15-21

Sanctuary Flowers: *Rosemary & Peter Hunter in memory of their parents*

Reader: *Eleanor Maynard*

Intercessor: *George Woodman*

Servers: *Laura Brannigan, Agape Laoye, Tony Merrick*

Tea and Coffee: *Brenda Claney, Judith Fawcett*

**5:00 pm Choral Evensong:** The Rector

Lessons: Zechariah 8: 1-13; Revelation 21: 22 – 22: 5  
(*Paddy Sloan*)

**May 17**

**FERIA**

**10:30am Eucharist:** The Rector

**May 18**

**ASCENSION DAY**

**8:00 pm Choral Eucharist:** The Rector

# CALENDAR May 2023

**May 21**

**SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION DAY**

**9:30 am Eucharist:** The Rector

**11:00 am Choral Eucharist:** The Rector

Preacher: Archdeacon Andrew Orr – Diocese of Cloyne

Readings: Acts 1: 6-14; 1 Peter 4: 12-14 & 5: 6-11; John 17: 1-11

Sanctuary Flowers: *Selby Nesbitt in memory of his wife Paddy and his parents Emily & John*

Reader: *Meisam Khalili*

Intercessor: *Fr Odling-Smee*

Servers: *Joan Calder, Geoff Newell, John Callaghan*

Tea and Coffee: *Valerie Roberts, Eileen Fee*

**5:00 pm Choral Evensong:** The Rector **IDAHOT Service**

**Preacher:** V Rev'd Susan Green – Dean of Cloyne

Lessons: 2 Samuel 23: 1-5; Ephesians 1: 15-23 (*Janet Sandikli*)

**May 24**

**HELENA**

**10:30am Eucharist:** The Rector

**May 25**

**THE VENERABLE BEDE, MONK**

**1:00pm Eucharist:** The Rector & Fr Graeme Pollock

The Walsingham Group meets at this Eucharist – all welcome

**May 27**

**Russian Orthodox Liturgy:** 9:30 am – 1:15 pm

**May 28**

**THE DAY OF PENTECOST (WHIT SUNDAY)**

**9:30 am Eucharist:** The Rector

**11:00 am Choral Eucharist:** The Rector

Readings: Acts 2: 1-21; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13; John 20: 19-23

Sanctuary Flowers: *Valerie Roberts in memory of her parents Joan & John Watterson*

Reader: *Paul McLaughlin*

Intercessor: *Meisam Khalili*

Servers: *Joan Calder, Jonny Calder, John Callaghan*

Tea and Coffee: *Betty Flynn, Dot Lutton*

**5:00 pm Choral Eucharist – Order 1:** The Rector

Readings: Joel 2: 21-32; Acts 2: 1-21 (*Fr Tom Layden*)

**May 31**

**VISIT OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY TO ELIZABETH**

**10:30am Eucharist:** The Rector

