

## *Parish of Ribbleton*

St. Mary Magdalene (SMM) The Ascension (ASC) -Longsands (LS)

*Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May*  
*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*‘As I have loved you, so you must love one another.’*  
*says the Lord.*  
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Alleluia!*

*Christ is risen!*

*He is risen indeed!*

*Alleluia!*

### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death  
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen

### **FIRST READING (Acts 11:1-18)**

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticised him and said, ‘You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.’ Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ‘I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me,

“Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.”

I replied,

“Surely not, Lord!

Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.”

‘The voice spoke from heaven a second time,

“Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying.

The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them.

These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house.

He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say,

“Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.”

As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning.

Then I remembered what the Lord had said:

“John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.”

So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?'

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying,

‘So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.’

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Psalm 148:1-6,11-13)

*The response to the Psalm is:*

**Praise the name of the Lord  
his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.**

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights above.  
Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his heavenly hosts. **R/**

Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars.  
Praise him, you highest heavens  
and you waters above the skies. **R/**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for at his command they were created,  
and he established them for ever and ever –  
he issued a decree that will never pass away. **R/**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
kings of the earth and all nations,  
you princes and all rulers on earth,  
young men and women, old men and children. **R/**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.  
Praise the Lord. **R/**

**SECOND READING** (Revelation 21:1-6)

I saw ‘a new heaven and a new earth,’ for the first  
heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there  
was no longer any sea.

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down  
out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully  
dressed for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
‘Look! God’s dwelling-place is now among the people,  
and he will dwell with them.

They will be his people, and God himself will be with  
them and be their God.

‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes.

There will be no more death” or mourning or crying or  
pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’

He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making  
everything new!’

Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are  
trustworthy and true.’

He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the  
Omega, the Beginning and the End.

To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the  
spring of the water of life.

**THE GOSPEL** (John 13:31-35)

When Judas was gone, Jesus said,

‘Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in  
him.

If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in  
himself, and will glorify him at once.

My children, I will be with you only a little longer.

You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell  
you now:

where I am going, you cannot come.

A new command I give you:

love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if  
you love one another.’



## Sunday Reflection

*'What a friend we have in Jesus'*

Quite often when I'm reading a Bible passage a hymn or song comes to mind.

It's happened again.

This time, as I read the Gospel passage from John 13 for this Sunday, it's the well-known hymn 'What a friend we have in Jesus'.

Everyone needs friends with whom they can share their life.

We all need companions to share with us in our joys and in our sorrows.

We naturally choose our friends and then we share part of our lives with them.

Sometimes they help us to do something we could not do on our own.

Friends come to us when we need them.

Jesus like everyone else, needed friends.

He needed people he could share with and who would help him in his work.

He chose to have twelve special friends.

His disciples who travelled with him, supported this work, and told others about him.

The twelve worked well with Jesus.

No one was forced to follow him; he invited them, and they came.

Jesus offers to be our friend.

He says,

'Come to me'.

He invites us to meet with him each day.

He offers us his love and seeks ours in return.

We are given the choice whether we will speak with him in prayer or not.

Jesus made friends with people that others did not count as friends.

In the Bible we are given examples of these.

Lepers and Tax Collectors were some of them.

Jesus said,

'Anyone who comes to me I will never drive away' (John 6: 37).

Jesus did not exclude anyone from his friendship, though there is one person who excluded himself.

Judas Iscariot was a disciple who betrayed Jesus.

Jesus sought to be friends with Judas, but Judas walked out to betray Jesus the very night Jesus shared a meal with him.

You cannot force people to love you.

Jesus let Judas go because Judas chose to go.

Jesus never excludes anyone from his friendship, but some choose not to be friends.

Jesus knew his arrest and even his death were now near.

He tried to prepare his friends the disciples for what lay ahead.

To help his friends he gave them a 'new commandment':

*"that you love one another. Just as I have loved you."*

And it is by this that people will know that we are his disciples; by our love for one another.

The best way to tell someone about Jesus is to love them and be a true friend, living out the selfless, sacrificial love that you have received from Jesus.

Extend that love to those who have not trusted Him as Lord and Saviour, and your actions will speak loudly about who Jesus is, and what He is all about.

Love, prayers,

***Captain David***

## *Intercessions*

God of love, before his betrayal and death, your Son commanded his disciples to love one another. Wherever there is friction and conflict in the church, wherever communities are divided and weakened, may we learn to love as you have loved us.

We pray for all who lead and guide your people, among them our bishops Julian, Jill, and Philip, and Archdeacon David.

We ask your blessing on those who struggle with their faith, and on those who suffer or are in danger because of their faith in you, among them the Christians of China, Sri Lanka and Libya.

We ask your blessing on Fr Chris, Captain David and Linda, and on their ministry to our parish. We give thanks for the service and witness Ron and Jacqueline, our parish wardens, and of those who work with them to make our worshipping communities places of welcome and compassion.

We pray for the person you are calling to lead our church and minister to this parish, and for those who will select and appoint them. Grant them wisdom and discernment in their task.

We hold before you Abi, Maisie, Max and Ryan as they prepare for confirmation. Let your love surround them and your Spirit grow within them.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God of love, you desire that humanity dwell in unity and peace. Heal in us the anger and bitterness that breed violence and hatred.

Wherever tangled political situations seem impossible to solve, wherever conflicting interests threaten or destroy peace, and the ears of the powerful are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, may we learn the way of Christ's self-giving love.

We hold before you the leaders of the nations and those in positions of power and authority: may they seek always to serve the wellbeing of the poorest and weakest among us.

We ask your blessing on all who work for peace and justice in our world, and on the charities and agencies working to relieve suffering.

We pray for those affected by warfare and natural disasters in our world: for the people of Afghanistan, Yemen and Ukraine, and we pray together the diocesan prayer for Ukraine.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God of love, you challenge us to embrace the communities and neighbours you place around us.

Wherever communities and families are dysfunctional or children are in danger, wherever daily living conditions are damaging to health and self-respect, wherever comfort and

security blind us to the needs of neighbours, may we show your love for all people.

We pray for all who live and work in our parish and for those who serve our community's needs.

We hold before you those who care for our elderly and vulnerable neighbours, whether at home, in hospital or residential care. May your love fill their lives.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God of love, you show compassion and mercy to all your children, embrace in your love all who cry for release in their suffering.

Wherever the sick and suffering need comfort and assistance, wherever the housebound and elderly need help and company, wherever the bereaved and lost need hope and comfort, may we be Christ's hands and feet bringing love and peace.

We ask your blessing on those who are close to death and those who grieve.

We pray for those who need your healing touch: for those known to us, those named on our prayer list, and those whose needs are known only to you.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God of love, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you open to all people the gates of your New Jerusalem. Welcome into your heavenly city all who have died.

Wherever people are travelling that last journey through death, may they be surrounded by your unfailing love and welcomed into the joy of heaven.

We pray for those who died: for those who have lost their lives this week in the ongoing conflicts and disasters in our world, for those who have died alone, afraid and unprepared, for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversary is around this time.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace and rise in glory

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

God of love, in Christ you have shown your love for each of us. Open our eyes and hearts, that we might see you in him and in those around us.

Wherever we are on our journey with you, hold us fast in your love.

Hear now the silent prayers of our hearts for ourselves and for those we love.

*Lord in your mercy      Hear our prayer*

*Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

The Diocesan prayer for Ukraine

Almighty God,  
seated above all the affairs of humankind  
and sovereign over nations and leaders,  
hear our prayer for Ukraine at this time of war;  
that lives may be spared,  
that national boundaries be respected  
and that forces of aggression be restrained.

Grant, Lord God,  
peace in your world in our time.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen

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**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**President: Rev. Dave Hanaon**

9:30am Eucharist at The Church of the Ascension

11:00am Eucharist at St. Mary Magdalene's

**Readings**

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67;

Revelation 21:10,22 – 22:5; John 14:23-29

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**Mid-week services and activities**

Tuesday 10am – 12 noon – Community Pantry at ASC

Tuesday – Eucharist at Preston Private

Tuesday 6:00 to 7:00 – Confirmation Class at ASC

Wednesday 10am – Eucharist at SMM,  
church remains open for private prayer until 12 noon.

Thursday 10am – 12 noon – Place of Welcome at ASC

**Dates for your Diary:**

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Confirmation Class.

5:30pm at St Mary Magdalene's

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May: Annual Church Meetings

12:30pm at St Mary Magdalene's

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May: Confirmation Service with Bp Julian

4:00pm at St Mary Magdalene's

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June: Baptism Preparation Class,

7:00pm at St Mary Magdalene's

**Ukraine Appeal**

International Aid Trust, are unable at present to accept donations of clothing and bedding – they have been overwhelmed.



We cannot accept further donations for them at SMM at present. When things change we will let you know.

**Our annual church meetings are on 22<sup>nd</sup> May –**

**at these meetings we will elect our Parish Wardens and PCC members for the coming year.**

**Please consider prayerfully whether you can serve our church – and serve God – by standing for election.**

**The nomination forms are available in both our churches or can be downloaded from the parish website: [parishofribbleton.com](http://parishofribbleton.com)**

**If you want to know more about what's involved, please speak to Barbara or Captain David.**

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**Help needed!!**

22<sup>nd</sup> May is a very busy day for our parish – as well as the annual meetings we have our confirmation service with Bp Julian at 4pm.

Could I have some volunteers to prepare and serve light refreshments after the service please.

Please speak to Barbara if you can help

**Christian Aid Week – it's this week!**  
**Envelopes are available in our churches.**

Please give generously to support their work.

**PARISH OFFICE**

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**WARDENS – St Mary Magdalene**

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**WARDENS – Church of The Ascension**

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