

## FEASTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Feast: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The formality of celebrating the Visitation as a liturgical feast was instituted in 1389 by Pope Urban VI as a means to ending and healing the ‘Great Western Schism’. The schism had been caused by the political intrigues, rather than any theological implications, perpetrated as a result of moving the Papacy from Rome to Avignon. The feast was originally inserted into the Roman Calendar on July 2<sup>nd</sup> but was later placed on May 31<sup>st</sup> to better reflect the time-frame between the celebrations of the Annunciation and the Birth of John the Baptist. Mary set out from Nazareth in Galilee for a town in the hill-country of Judah, probably just a few miles to the west of Jerusalem. This constituted a significant journey for a young woman. When the expectant-Mother Mary encounters the expectant-Mother Elizabeth the exchange of greetings takes place that we know so well. We hear the joyful proclamations of the ‘Hail Mary’ by Saint Elizabeth and the exultant tones of ‘The Magnificat’ by the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Memoria: St Justin, Martyr.



Justin was born at Nablus, ancient Shechem, in Samaria-Palestine around the year 100 AD. He was born into a pagan family with Greek origins. He studied the classical arts at Ephesus and Alexandria, becoming a student of philosophy. He was already an acknowledged scholar when he converted to Christianity at the age of thirty-three. It was the philosophy of Platonism that had captured his intellectual interest and its precepts opened his heart and mind to the glories of revealed faith. Alexandria was the centre of the Platonist school. Following his conversion, Justin remained a philosopher but dedicated the rest of his life to the promulgation and defence of the Christian faith. He worked across Asia Minor (Turkey) and moved to Rome around the year 150 AD. Justin is the most important Christian Apologist of the second century. We have original copies of his works and they constitute the earliest examples of Christian philosophical writings. We know of two of his great ‘Apologias’ which outline the moral values taught by Christianity, one was addressed to the Emperor Antoninus and the other was addressed to The Roman Senate. We also have a Dialogue with Trypho, a Jewish intellectual. In 165 AD, having bettered the Cynic philosophers in debate, Justin found himself condemned for his Christian faith. His arrest took place during the reign of Marcus Aurelius. Following arrest, he was commanded to offer sacrifices to the Roman gods, but he responded by saying that “no right-minded man forsakes truth for falsehood.” Original authentic accounts of his condemnation and death survive. Justin was put to death for the faith in the company of six steadfast companions. We invoke the intercession of Justin as we strive to engage our brothers and sisters in this age of cynical atheism.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Memoria: St Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs.

King Mtesa of Uganda had granted permission for the White Fathers to preach the faith. How-ever, in 1885 King Mwanga succeeded to the throne and he immediately unleashed a persecution against “all those who pray”, that is the Catholics. The King made a point of attacking those among the elite who had converted to the Christian faith. Charles Lwanga was a young member of the elite, the chief of the royal retinue of pages. Charles exhorted his companions to hold fast to their faith. He was the first of twelve to be burned alive on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1886. Many others were martyred over the following year. These martyrs were beatified in 1920 and canonized in 1964. Pope Saint Paul VI declared that these martyrs of Uganda represented the powerful witness of a ‘young and free’ Africa.



## ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

We still have spaces for our Reception and Nursery classes to start in September 2022.

Application packs can be collected from the school office or downloaded from our website [stmarysprm.cardiff.sch.uk](http://stmarysprm.cardiff.sch.uk) – key info – admissions

You are very welcome to visit, please phone to arrange a walk around the school with the head.



## H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II CELEBRATES THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF HER ACCESSION TO THE THRONE



During the forthcoming week the Nation, the Commonwealth and the World Community will rejoice to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty's Accession to the Throne.

Her Majesty's service to nation and commonwealth has been outstanding. The dimensions of what she has achieved are immense. Beyond the simple longevity of her reign, which itself bears eloquent witness to a remarkable fidelity to duty, Queen Elizabeth has provided a sincere and enduring example of Christian faith across the decades. With immense generosity, Her Majesty has maintained her focus on service to her people.

We are all conscious that last year Her Majesty endured the loss of Prince Philip, her husband and companion, just a few months before his one hundredth birthday. We can only imagine what effect the loss of her husband, her lifelong companion and closest adviser, would have had upon her.

We give thanks for seventy years of enduring dedication, undertaken on good days and on bad, in good years and in bad. We extend to Her Majesty our loyal congratulations and we offer the assurance of our prayers for her continuing health and wellbeing.

### **GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.**

O God, who providest for thy people by thy power,  
and rulest over them in love: Vouchsafe so to bless thy  
Servant our Queen, that under her this nation may be wisely governed, and thy Church may serve thee in all  
godly quietness;  
and grant that she being devoted to thee with her whole heart,  
and persevering in good works unto the end,  
may, by thy guidance, come to thine everlasting kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
ever one God, world without end.

**Amen.**

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO JOE KEMBLE**

I ask your prayers for Joe Kemble as he prepares to embrace Solemn Perpetual Vows as a Lay Member of the Dominicans (Order of Preachers). The ceremony will take place at the Cathedral on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 7.00pm, with the Dominican Prior of Blackfriars in Oxford presiding. For a period during his twenties, Joe explored the potential of a religious vocation with the Dominicans. As you will realise, he left formation and eventually married. Joe has always maintained his links with the Order, drawing spiritual strength and guidance from the Rule of St Dominic. We give thanks for Joe's great service to the parish and to the diocese and we pray that God's blessing will descend upon him as he embraces his solemn perpetual vows.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO SEMINARIAN DALE CUTLAN**

I ask your prayers for Dale Cutlan, currently the single seminarian for the Archdiocese of Cardiff, who will celebrate his official 'Admission to Candidacy' at Allen Hall Seminary in London on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May. 'Candidacy' is the formal ceremony during which the diocesan bishop confirms that the candidate seminarian is suitable to enter the final stages of formation for ordination to the diaconate and priesthood. By the grace of God, Dale should proceed toward ordination to the diaconate in 2023 and onward to ordination to the priesthood in 2024.