

NEWSLETTER

ALL SAINTS, SCRAPTOFT & NETHERHALL - May 2025

The Holy Oils...

On Wednesday in Holy Week, priests from the See of Richborough gathered in the parish church at Walsingham for the Chrism Mass, at which priests and deacons reaffirm their ordination vows with their bishop. The Bishop also blessed the Holy Oils for use in our parishes for the year ahead.

The Oil of the Sick for use in the Church's ministry of healing and wholeness, following the example of the Apostles (Mark 6: 13) and the teaching of James (James 5: 14-15): 'Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the Church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.' The Oil of the Sick blessed at this service is a sign of the Anointed One; those who are anointed with the oil receive the healing, saving power of the Messiah. The anointing of the sick is linked to the sacraments of baptism and confirmation as sickness and death itself are united to the passion and death of Jesus into whose life we are baptized and transformed into signs of hope.

The Oil of Baptism awaits those across the See of Richborough who will be baptized into the life of Christ - making new Christians! We remember how in the gospels Peter acknowledged Jesus as the Christ' (Mark 8: 29), recognising him as the Lord's anointed. As Jesus had been anointed with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit at his baptism (Acts 10: 38) so from the earliest times, it became the Church's custom to trace the sign of the cross in oil (the Oil of Catechumens) on the heads of candidates for baptism, as a sign of their anointing with the Holy Spirit in union with Christ. The New Testament speaks of the gift of the Holy Spirit as anointing (1 John 2: 20; 2 Corinthians 1: 21-22).

The Oil of Chrism has perfume and balsam added to make it fragrant. This oil is used for a variety of consecrations - confirmation, at the ordination of priests and bishops, and in the consecration of church buildings and altars. As priests and monarchs in the Hebrew scriptures were anointed with oil to set them apart for God's service (Exodus 29: 7) so the Chrism Oil is used at the ordination of priests of the New Covenant, and at confirmations, as a sign that candidates sealed with the Spirit confirm their place in the 'royal priesthood' of Christ and the Church (1 Peter 2: 9) - the 'kingdom and priests serving our God' (Revelation 5: 10). We give thanks to God that we can use these oils joyfully in our life together this year.



May Diary

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| 3rd | 9.30am | Planters Fair & Coffee Morning to 2.00pm |
| 4th | EASTER 2 | |
| | 10.00am | Sung Eucharist |
| | 11.30am | PCC - Agree accounts |
| 6th | 10.00am | Coffee pop-in |
| 7th | 12.00pm | Eucharist |
| 11th | EASTER 3 | |
| | 10.00am | Sung Eucharist |
| | 11.30am | APCM |
| 13th | 10.00am | Coffee pop-in |
| 14th | St Matthias | |
| | 12.00pm | Eucharist |
| | 7.00pm | Concert Rehearsal |
| 15th | | Clergy Study Day |
| 18th | EASTER 4 | |
| | 10.00am | Sung Eucharist |
| | 4.30pm | Morsbag Making |
| 20th | 10.00am | Coffee pop-in |
| | 2.00pm | Scraptoft Valley School visit |
| 21st | St Helena | |
| | 12.00pm | Eucharist |
| | 2.00pm | Scraptoft Valley School visit |
| | 7.00pm | Concert Rehearsal |
| 25th | EASTER 5 | |
| | 10.00am | Sung Eucharist |
| 27th | 10.00am | Coffee pop-in |
| 28th | 12.00pm | NO Eucharist |

SCRAPTOFT CHURCH

PLANTERS FAIR

& Coffee Morning

COMMERCIAL BEDDING BASKET PLANTS

and Amateur Grown

SATURDAY

3rd May

9.30am to 2.00pm

The Month of May in the Church

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. This year the fall within Eastertide, when the colour of vestments and frontals is white - the colour of light, joy, purity and innocence. After this (from Pentecost onwards) is what we call Ordinary Time, when the liturgical colour changes to green. This reflects much of what we see around us, as much of nature is green (leaves, grass, etc.) and we carry on our journey rejoicing in the resurrection that is echoed in these new beginnings.

