



Sunday 15th May 2022

The Weekly Link

**Welcome to St Wulstans today!
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This Week's Special Prayer

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Today's Gospel from Matthew 28

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."



While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

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saintwulstans.online



All you need to do is put your email address in and you will receive everything we publish in your inbox.

good news

In today's service we are thinking about the idea of conspiracy theories. We have been exploring the Resurrection. It's our 'dangerous rumour' that turns everything upside and inside out, and changes the lives of women and men with hope and light and joy and purpose. Our world today needs those things in buckets full doesn't it! Sadly, in darker times, another set of dangerous rumours can take hold. They are reports that the world is run by schemers and charlatans, a secret 'they' who are out to control ordinary people through hoaxes and fear and suspicion. So, *how can we grow in wisdom and learn to sort the fake from the trustworthy?*

What are conspiracy theories? Why do they flourish?

1. What are they?	The belief that certain events or situations are secretly manipulated behind the scenes by powerful forces with negative intent.
2. Conspiracy theories have these six things in common	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An alleged, secret plot.2. A group of conspirators.3. 'Evidence' that seems to support the conspiracy theory.4. They falsely suggest that nothing happens by accident and that there are no coincidences; nothing is as it appears and everything is connected.5. They divide the world into good or bad.6. They scapegoat people and groups.
3. Why do they flourish?	They often appear as a logical explanation of events or situations which are difficult to understand and bring a false sense of control and agency. This need for clarity is heightened in times of uncertainty like the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. How do they take root?	Conspiracy theories often start as a suspicion. They ask who is benefiting from the event or situation and thus identify the conspirators. Any 'evidence' is then forced to fit the theory. Once they have taken root, conspiracy theories can grow quickly. They are hard to refute because any person who tries is seen as being part of the conspiracy.
5. People spread conspiracy theories for different reasons:	Most believe they are true. Others deliberately want to provoke, manipulate or target people for political or financial reasons. Beware: They can come from many sources e.g. internet, friends, relatives.

May 2022

14-May --- Saturday

1pm Sarah is taking the wedding of Dan and Lottie at St Barnabas

15-May --- Sunday

11.15am Together for Communion

16-May --- Monday

10am Post-a-Prayer Club

12.30pm Cluster Ministers lunch

2.30pm to 6pm Sunflowers

7pm Diamond Group meets in church

17-May --- Tuesday

10am Sarah is taking assemblies in St Barnabas Primary School

2pm Cluster website training event

2.30pm to 6pm Sunflowers

5pm Pentecost Sunday planning group meets at the Vicarage

18-May --- Wednesday

12.00pm Midweek Fellowship

Sarah is at Deanery Chapter

2.30pm to 6pm Sunflowers

19-May --- Thursday

9.15am Mainly Music

2.30pm to 6pm Sunflowers

20-May --- Friday

10am Miriam Room in use

12pm Sarah at St Barnabas School looking at involvement in RE lessons

2.30pm to 6pm Sunflowers

22-May --- Sunday

11.15am Together for Communion

23-May --- Monday

10am Post-a-Prayer Club

2.30pm to 6pm Sunflowers

24-May --- Tuesday

2.30pm to 6pm Sunflowers

25-May --- Wednesday

12.00pm Midweek Communion

2.30pm to 6pm Sunflowers

26-May --- Thursday

9.15am Mainly Music

12pm Sarah and Diane are meeting with Nikki Groarke and Bishop Martin about next steps for the cluster

26-May --- Thursday continued

2.30pm to 6pm Sunflowers

7.30pm Ascension Day Celebration at St Martins London Road

29-May --- Sunday

10am Sarah is at St Barnabas service

11.15am Happy Samtsirhc! A joyful celebration of communion for

Ascension Sunday

30-May --- Monday

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CLUB ON SITE ALL DAY

31-May --- Tuesday

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CLUB ON SITE ALL DAY

June 2022

1-June --- Wednesday

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY CLUB ON SITE ALL DAY

at St Barnabas 10am Midweek Communion

2-June --- Thursday

3-June --- Friday

Closed for the bank holidays

4-June --- Saturday

11.30am - 2.30pm Birthday booking

5-June --- Sunday

11.15am Together for Pentecost --- Eve, Brian and Sarah are leading a special service which includes celebration of the Platinum Jubilee

6-June --- Monday

10am Post-a-Prayer Club

10.30 Sarah at a Diocesan meeting

2.30pm to 6pm Sunflowers

7-June --- Tuesday

2pm School Chaplains meeting

2.30pm to 6pm Sunflowers

7pm Tolladine Trustees meeting

8 June --- Wednesday

12.00pm Midweek Communion

9 June --- Thursday

9.15am Mainly Music

2.30pm to 6pm Sunflowers

7.30pm Diocesan Lay Readers using St Wulstans for the evening