



# RAF ROMAN CATHOLIC

## MAY 2021 UPDATE



“The Holy Spirit transforms and renews us, creates harmony and unity, and gives us courage and joy for mission.”  
– Pope Francis

Welcome to the May 2021 update which aims to inform and connect the RAF Roman Catholic Community. The Church, having celebrated the risen Christ at Easter and being filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, looks ahead to 2 great feasts: The Ascension of the Lord, when Christ entered into his eternal glory, and Pentecost, when Christ filled the Church with the power of his Spirit. May I invite you to join with the global church in the 2021 Thy Kingdom Come prayer wave which takes place from 13 to 23 May? The shared hope for this wave of prayer is that as Christians pray together, they will be transformed through prayer. My prayer is that all in the RAF family be guided by the Holy Spirit and allow him to speak to our hearts.

**Rev (Sqn Ldr) Deacon Dave Skillen, RAF Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain**

### ...events...events...events...events...

#### Thy Kingdom Come - *Light Up the World with Prayer* – 13 to 23 May 2021

Now in its sixth year, [Thy Kingdom Come](#) (TKC) is an 11-day ecumenical prayer initiative which takes place between Ascension and Pentecost (this year from 13 to 23 May). Defence Christians of all denominations are encouraged to join the following events:



**Thu 13 May – Ascension Day launch service at 1700.** Military chaplains will lead a live, online launch service to mark the start of this year’s TKC season of prayer and renewal.

**Fri 14 May to Sat 22 May – A Novena of Daily Devotions.** During the novena of 9 days of prayer, a short, pre-recorded daily devotion will be offered each morning to assist individual prayers.

**Sun 23 May – Pentecost Sunday.** Attend your local church service in person or online (check out [Church Services TV](#) for live services).

All events will be hosted on the [Defence Christian Network YouTube channel](#).

See Cardinal Vincent Nichol’s message for TKC Novena of Prayer [here](#).

For [Catholic specific resources](#) check out the novena, prayer journal, and journey with Mary.



#### Marian Devotions

May is the month when Catholics traditionally make a special devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus. One such devotion is to pray and to meditate on the Rosary. Join the [daily live broadcast](#) of the recitation of the Holy Rosary in link-ups with Marian Shrines around the world, as part of the May marathon of prayer called by Pope Francis.

#### Bishopric of the Forces Retreats 2021

Are you in need of stillness and sanctuary? There are still places at one of the 2 Bishopric of the Forces Retreats planned for 2021:



- **Worth Abbey, Sussex**
- **Ampleforth Abbey, Nth Yorks**

**4 – 7 Oct 21**

**29 Nov – 2 Dec 21**



DIN Reference 2020DIN01-124 gives more details. In the meantime, to express an interest or to receive an application form, contact [Caroline.Routledge475@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Caroline.Routledge475@mod.gov.uk) or [rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com](mailto:rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com).



### RAF Annual Mass

The first RAF Annual Mass took place on Sunday 18 April at the RC Cathedral of St Michael and St George in Aldershot. The Mass provided an opportunity for those from the whole RAF RC family to gather together to worship and share in the Eucharist in the presence of Bishop Paul Mason, the RC Bishop to the Forces, and the RAF Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain alongside his Chaplains and the faithful.

The Mass was streamed live on Zoom and was made extra special by the reception of Cpl Luke Bluer into the Church. We wish Luke and his family every blessing in the future.



The second RAF Annual Mass will take place at 1400 on Thu 21 Oct at the Central Church of the RAF, St Clement Danes, in London. All are warmly invited to attend with further details to follow in future newsletters.

### Online Christian Formation Opportunities

We have all become accustomed to undertaking meetings and courses remotely during the pandemic lockdowns. The RAF RC Chaplaincy have, to date, offered several successful online courses, with a wide range of participants, which have received very positive feedback. Further details to follow, but please make a note of the following dates in your diaries for online formation opportunities:



- **Spiritual Growth Sat 19 Jun 2021, 1000-1200.** An online guided session led by Padre Andrew Jones.
- **Jesus: The Way, The Truth, and The Life starting Tue 7 Sep 2021.** You are invited to take part in this online course called 'Jesus: the way, the truth and the life'. The course will run over 10 sessions on a Tuesday evening starting on 7 Sep and finishing on 16 Nov (no session on 26 Oct). Starting at 1930 each session lasts for about 90 minutes. The course, facilitated by the RAF PRCC and open to the RAF Whole Force community, is one of a series offered by [Ascension Press](#). To register your interest in joining the course contact either the RAF PRCC Padre Dave Skillen ([David.skillen100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:David.skillen100@mod.gov.uk)) or the RAF PRCC Pastoral Assistant Jem Wynne ([rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com](mailto:rafprccpastoralassistant457@outlook.com)).

### And Finally....

If you would like to know more about Catholic life in the RAF, or wish to be added to our database and receive updates about RAF Roman Catholic life, IMP, HCPT etc, get in touch with Jem Wynne at [RAFPRCCPastoralAssistant457@outlook.com](mailto:RAFPRCCPastoralAssistant457@outlook.com). To contact the RAF PRCC, Padre Dave Skillen to say hello, request prayers, or to know more about Catholic life in the RAF use [David.skillen100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:David.skillen100@mod.gov.uk). Check out the revamped [website of The RC Bishopric of the Forces](#).

