

New Moon 28 <sup>th</sup> May @ 19:41	First Quarter 5 <sup>th</sup> June @ 21:39	Full Moon 13 <sup>th</sup> June @ 05:12	Last Quarter 19 <sup>th</sup> June @ 19:39
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*Note: Times are in Chailey local time – BST/GMT+1*

This month there are plenty of planets around to have a good look at in the night sky. Jupiter can still clearly be seen in the evening to the West. It is the first bright object you can spot after the Sun goes down. Jupiter is in the constellation of Gemini, and is very easy to spot as it is so bright compared to the background stars. Jupiter is speeding away from Earth in its orbit now, but it is still a stunning sight – you should be able to spot the bright Galilean Moons (Callisto, Io, Ganymede and Europa) with just a pair of binoculars. Watch them night after night to see them move around the giant planet.

Mars has also passed its closest point to the Earth for this year. The Martian year is almost twice the length of the Earth year at 687 days. During June it will get dimmer as it speeds away from the Earth on its orbit of the Sun. It is still a relatively bright planet in the sky though, and is easy to spot as the red dot near to the Crescent Moon on the 7<sup>th</sup> June to the South. It is in the constellation of Virgo throughout June.

A bit lower in the sky at 24 degrees in the constellation of Libra, the majestic planet Saturn is visible to the South at 10:24 PM. The rings of Saturn are easily seen in a small telescope. It is well worth a look if you have access to a telescope, as it is one of the most beautiful sights in the night sky.

Early in the morning, see if you can spot the bright planet Venus in the morning sky. One of the brightest objects in the sky, it can be seen rising at about 3:30 AM on the 1<sup>st</sup> June in the East, and is easy to spot as it is so bright.

I am now available to give talks on Astronomy to local groups and schools. Please contact me on 01273 400989 or use the email address below. I am a registered STEM Ambassador, and have been CRB checked accordingly.

Richie Jarvis

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