

Prayer

You open wide your hand, O God, and satisfy with your good gifts the needs of all.
Pour forth your Holy Spirit on your church, gathered in prayer with the mother of Jesus,
and cause springs of living water to well up within it,
so that all may quench their thirst for justice and truth.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

NATIONAL ROSARY RELAY : Sunday 31 May

This year, at the conclusion of Mary's month of May, each diocese throughout Britain has been invited to take part in a Rosary Relay on Pentecost Sunday; our diocese is scheduled to pray the Rosary at 11.00 am. We are encouraged to do this individually, or where possible in groups, during our designated hour. Bishop Alan will be praying the Rosary during this hour after the live-streamed 10.00 am Pentecost Mass at Wickford.



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP : PRAY FOR US

◀ Throughout these weeks of 'lockdown', when it is not possible to visit the church to pray and light a candle, the votive light at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is burning night and day for us all - for our cares, prayers and intentions.

Please remember in your prayers

Those who are ill . . .

Neil Abrahams, Isabella Ayres, Mary Brennan, Lesley Carroll, Tom Coddington, Pat and Janet Defreitas, Brenda Duke, Compton Glasgow, Father Tom Jordan, Eddie Margot, Gary Martindill, Maureen Mongan, Helen Murray, Sue Read, Stephen Smithers, Sue Spelling and Mary Treston.

Those whose anniversaries are recalled at this time . . .

30 May – 5 June: Andrew Cason, Bob Hoy, Leonard Bryce, Patrick Shaw, Stephen Farrell, Daniel Ayling, Frank Kromer, Florence Kelly, Saint John XXIII and Annie Henry.

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Monday is the **Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church** – this relatively new feast honours Mary under the title "Mother of the Church". Following centuries of tradition, in 1964 Pope Paul VI declared Mary to be 'Mother of the Church'; in 1975 a special Mass in her honour was included in the Roman Missal and in 2018 Pope Francis decreed that this feast should be inserted into the universal Roman Calendar - celebrated annually on the Monday following Pentecost.

Wednesday is the **Memorial of SS Charles Lwanga and his Companions** – in the mid-1880s, Charles Lwanga and twenty-one other Catholic men and boys were cruelly put to death in Uganda. They were canonised by Pope Paul VI in 1964. Together with many other Christians, Catholic and Protestant, they suffered persecution under the anti-Christian King Mwanga.

Thursday is the **National Feast of Christ the Eternal High Priest** – this is also a new feast, celebrated on the Thursday after Pentecost.

Friday is the **Memorial of St Boniface** - a great English missionary. Born in c 675, he left England in 718 to preach the gospel in Germany, where he is still held in high esteem. Even in old age he did not rest but went on to evangelise Holland, where he was martyred, about 754.

CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This week, the light in honour of Our Lady is in memory of Mary Sequerah.

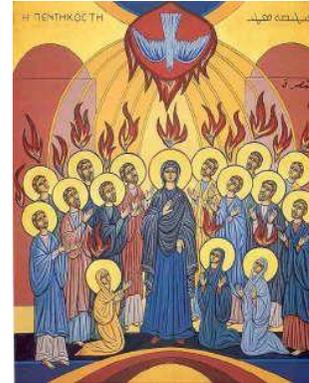
Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

Lowshoe Lane, Collier Row, Romford, Essex RM5 2AP

Parish Priest:
Father Philip Denton

to contact Church House:
☎ 01708-749050 ✉ collierrow@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Solemnity of Pentecost *Prayers and Readings* 30-31 May 2020



*May you be filled with joy and hope
as we come to the end of the Easter season.
Christ has conquered death
and is risen to newness of life!*

*Due to the Coronavirus pandemic,
all public acts of worship are suspended
and churches are locked until further notice.*

*This newsletter includes readings from Sunday's Mass,
which you might like to use as an aid to prayer and reflection.*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

available at any time on request

PARISH WEBSITE

www.corpuschristicollierrow.org

(for use at home)

Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast
sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation,
pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth
and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed,
fill now once more the hearts of believers.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Acts 2: 1-11

Commentary For Christians, Pentecost (that is, the fiftieth day after Easter) is the celebration of the foundation of the Church as an active, missionary community. The various elements which appear in Luke's description of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the first Christians combine to produce a picture of a group made new, alive and strong in the power of God, bestowed abundantly upon them.

Luke draws upon the language of the Old Testament to symbolise the fact that the disciples really were inspired by the Spirit of God to proclaim the resurrection of Christ and his conquest of sin and death. The prophet Isaiah, for example, speaks of God coming in fire to judge all humanity (Isaiah 66:15-16). The gift of tongues is referred to in the Book of Numbers where Moses' assistants are enabled to prophesy through the gift of the spirit (Numbers 22: 25-29), there is a similar instance in the first book of Samuel, where Saul joins a group of prophets and goes into ecstasy with them because the spirit of God has seized them (1 Samuel 10:5-7). Scholars think that Luke has edited an earlier tradition when he says that all the people of

different nationalities were able to understand the apostles' words. The first tradition of Pentecost probably stated that the apostles simply spoke 'in tongues' - that, in their initial excitement, their speech had become unintelligible. This apparently happened not infrequently in the early Church and St Paul took a rather critical view of it – see I Corinthians 14:20-25. Luke, as a disciple and 'secretary' of Paul, would have shared his views. He therefore represents the gift of tongues as a power to speak foreign languages. This fitted in well, of course, with his concern to show that the gospel was for all people. He probably had in mind, too, the Genesis story of the tower of Babel. According to that story, God punished human beings for their pride by making it impossible for them to understand one another. An appropriate sign of the restoration of unity among human beings, which is the purpose of the Church, would be a healing of this confusion of tongues at the very beginning of the Church.

The Christian feast of Pentecost was, of course, taken over from the Jews. It is a major feast for them (known in Hebrew as Shavuot) – a spring harvest festival and also the commemoration of the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. This explains the vast numbers of Jews on pilgrimage to Jerusalem at the time; the countries and peoples named represent the whole world. No doubt, Luke was thinking too of the Old Testament imagery of thunder, lightning, cloud and smoke in its description of the giving of the Law (Exodus 19:16-19)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. "Surely", they said, "all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God."

Psalm

Ps 103

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

How many are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your riches.

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever! May the Lord rejoice in his works!

May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find my joy in the Lord.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Second Reading

I Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13

Commentary We are reminded that the bestowal of the Spirit on the Church was not a once-for-all event. The Spirit is a permanent presence in the Church, inspiring all its members in every variety of Christian service and uniting them to their one head who is Christ.

The original context of this reading has a direct connection with the 'gift of tongues' mentioned in the first reading. Paul had been pointing out to the Corinthian converts that their baptism must mean a complete break with their former pagan way of life. One of the features of that life had been immoral feasting leading to exhibitions of frenzy in which the participants lost control of their speech. Paul points out how no one under the influence of the Spirit could possibly curse Jesus, presumably a feature of these pagan orgies, whereas, 'No one can say, "Jesus is Lord" unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.' In other words, the gift of tongues can be said to come from God only if it leads to the praising of Christ.

It is important to note Paul's insistence on the vital importance of unity in the Church. We are all bound together by our baptism; and there are no second-class citizens in his idea of the Church.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

No one can say, "Jesus is Lord" unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit. There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Gospel Reading

John 20: 19-23

Commentary John's purpose here is to stress that the Spirit is given to the Church to bring human beings into a living relationship with God. Since sin is the only barrier to that relationship, the bestowal of the Spirit must mean that the Church has the power to forgive sin. Peace, reconciliation and love ought therefore to be the hallmarks of the Church. It is sad that, through sin, this is by no means the image which it always presents to the world.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you," and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, "Peace be with you. "As the Father sent me, so am I sending you." After saying this he breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained."

Prayers of Intercession

For God's holy church, gathered from every nation under heaven:

May we proclaim, in every language, God's mighty deeds of power.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

For the United Nations and for all who work for justice and peace:

May the Spirit's power put an end to division and gather us as one.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

For those who serve our parish community in a variety of ministries:

May the Spirit inspire us to exercise our gifts for the good of all.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

For the dead:

May they receive virtue's sure reward and joys that never end.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Our Father . . .

Spiritual Communion

written by St Alphonsus Ligouri

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever.

Amen.

Antiphon

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.