

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY


DDf

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Ei  **PENTECOST SUNDAY**
 www.facebook.com /rcdhnbillingham
Week Beginning: 19th May 2024
Prayer Week: 3

www.diocesehn.org.uk

Sunday 19th May <i>Pentecost</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary
Monday 20th May <i>(Mary, Mother of Church)</i>	10.00am	Doreen Burnett	Holy Rosary
Tuesday 21st May <i>(St Godric)</i>	2.30pm	Jack McDonald (Requiem)	St John's
Wednesday 22nd May	7.00pm	Holy Souls	Holy Rosary
Thursday 23rd May <i>(Our Lord, High Priest)</i>	10.00am	Winnie Sheridan/ Fr John Knaggs	Holy Rosary
Friday 24th May	10.00am	Jamie Moon	St John's
Saturday 25th May <i>(Vigil Holy Trinity)</i> <i>(St Bede)</i>	5.00pm	Tommy Finnegan/Gerry Salmon	St John's
Sunday 26th May <i>Holy Trinity Sunday</i>	10:00am	Parishioners	Holy Rosary

Please pray for the sick : Rev. Dan Mckie, Sarah McAllister, Max Simpson, Carol Brownlee, Grace Ollie, Judy Houchen, Peter Smith, Cai Rive, Avril Wordsworth, Lily Ward-Thurlbeck, Rose Wall, Christine Rooney, Brian Kane, Margaret Hitchinson, Helen Webb, Jim Hodgson, Fr Stephen Dye, Judith Sowerby, Kate Williams, Maureen Maddren, Maureen Braithwaite, Baby Cassian, Sheila Allen, Sheila Holmes, Michael Bickers, Ann Christeson, Denise Tamblingson, Stephen Allison

Lately Dead- Bridget Kelly, Jack McDonald, Bill McCamley, Sister Philip

LAY TRAINIG FUND-Special collection this weekend

Dear Sisters & Brothers

In order to grow as a synodal Church it's important we all have chance to pray and discern how the Holy Spirit is inviting us to grow in mission in our parishes. To facilitate this, I together with others offer an initial diocesan vision for your prayerful reflection. Our discerned Diocesan commitments are:

- To Walk with Jesus and enable others to encounter him
- To grow as One Diocesan Family-rebuilding relationships
- Forming and developing people for mission
- Living justly and caring for our Common Home.

Each of these are developed in the vision. It's not my intention to impose this vision. It is offered for further reflection and I invite all of our parishes to prayerfully reflect on them. There are resources to enable this available on the diocesan website.

+Stephen

Advance notice-

- a) **Corpus Christi:** Eucharistic procession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Ushaw. 2nd June, led by the Bishop, starting at 3pm in St Cuthbert's chapel. Weather permitting the procession will go through the gardens returning to the Chapel for Benediction. Teas and coffees available afterwards. No ticket required.
- b) **Significance Festival Weekend,** Saturday 29th June from 10am. The Youth Ministry Team invite to various activities, guest speakers, live music and Mass at 3.15pm with the Bishop. All welcome- to book nsalkeld@ymt.org. The event is to support Fr Dermot Donnelly's charity.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2024

Please- remainder of cost in an envelope marked "**Walsingham**" and your name. Cheques to "St Thomas of Canterbury" or cash: £194 per person
URGENT- 2 PLACES LEFT. PLEASE CONTACT ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY BEFORE I LEAVE. (Fr B)

Funeral Service- Jamie Moon, Holy Rosary, Wednesday, 22nd May, 11am

From May 26th-

Any enquiries please contact Fr Mark Milward at St Peter & Paul, Stockton, 01642 806469

It is hoped that there will be 2 weekday Masses: Tuesday 10am Holy Rosary
 Thursday 10am St John's

Confession- Saturday St John's. 10.30-11am

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rm 5:5; cf. 8:11

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

THE COLLECT

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 our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

2:1-11

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 all 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.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 103:1.24. 29-31. 34. R.cf v30

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

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. **(R)**

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. **(R)**

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. **(R)**

SECOND READING

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

5:16-25

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desire.

Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE

Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasurers which endure;
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength
renew;
On our dryness pour thy dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:
Give us comfort when we die;
Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 15:26-27;16:12-15

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'When the Advocate comes,
whom I shall send to you from the Father,
the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father,
he will be my witness.

And you too will be witnesses,
because you have been with me from the outset.

I still have many things to say to you
but they would be too much for you now.
But when the Spirit of truth comes
he will lead you to the complete truth,
since he will not be speaking as from himself
but will say only what he has learnt;
and he will tell you of the things to come.

He will glorify me,
since all he tells you
will be taken from what is mine.
Everything the Father has is mine;
that is why I said:
All he tells you
will be taken from what is mine.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that, as promised by your Son,
the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly
the hidden mystery of this sacrifice
and graciously lead us into all truth.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Acts 2:4,11

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church,
safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given,
that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her
may retain all its force
and that this spiritual food
may gain her abundance of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



With the announcement of the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus completes the revelation of the Holy Trinity. He has already spoken of his

relationship with the Father, but now he is telling the Apostles that the Spirit of Truth, 'who issues from the Father' is coming as his witness. While on earth, Jesus lived the will of the Father and shared his relationship with the Father with the Apostles. Now, as he prepares to leave this earth he promises that the Spirit will communicate the will of the Father. And what do we have to do to receive the Holy Spirit – just ask! Jesus promises us that all we need do is ask the Father and he will give us the Spirit. Our task is to ask for the Spirit and then be attentive to his voice. This is often more difficult

than it may seem as the noises of the 'world' often drown out the voice of the Spirit. Or sometimes we take something as coming from the Spirit when it is just our idea. If we want to be certain that it comes from the Spirit, then we need to put our 'inspiration' in common with others who are trying to live the Christian life. In this way we can more easily discern the inspirations of the Spirit.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM
(JOY OF THE GOSPEL)

POLITICAL LOVE

180. Recognizing that all people are our brothers and sisters, and seeking forms of social friendship that include everyone, is not merely utopian. It demands a decisive commitment to devising effective means to this end. Any effort along these lines becomes a noble exercise of charity. For whereas individuals can help others in need, when they join together in initiating social processes of fraternity and justice for all, they enter the "field of charity at its most vast, namely political charity".¹⁶⁵ This entails working for a social and political order whose soul is social charity.¹⁶⁶ Once more, I appeal for a renewed appreciation of politics as "a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good".¹⁶⁷

165. PIUS XI, Address to the Italian Catholic Federation of University Students (18 December 1927): L'Osservatore Romano, 23 December 1927, p. 3.

166. Cf. ID., Encyclical Letter Quadragesimo Anno (15 May 1931): AAS 23 (1931), 206-207.

167. Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (24 November 2013), 205: AAS 105 (2013), 1106

The Fire of Love*
CHRIST IS FOUND
IN THE HUMBLE HEART

The longer we live, the more fervently we want you.
For the soul that truly loves you, Jesus, would rather die the most awful death than consent to even the smallest sin.
A person with a true love of Christ is not afraid of anyone else and sees themselves as beneath others, who seem to them more gifted and virtuous. In this state, we long for the kiss of love from the mouth of the beloved (Song 1: 1). We long only for Jesus, and keep in our minds a picture of his wounds and his cross as we sigh for the vision of his most glorious purity.
Christ is found in the humble heart that gives up all for his sake and refuses to pass judgement on others.
'Go forth, daughters of Sion,' says the Scripture, meaning, 'you souls who are new born', and 'see King Solomon crowned' (Song 3: 11). This means: understand that Christ is truly our peace, that he suffered for our salvation. Gaze at him, and you will see the divine head crowned with thorns, his face covered in spittle, those clear eyes languid and overcast, his back scarred from the flogging, his breast bare and bleeding, his hands nailed to the cross, his dear side pierced with a spear, his feet nailed and all his tender flesh marked with wounds. See what Christ suffered for you, so that your sins could be forgiven and your heart burn with love.

*The Fire of Love by Richard Rolle Published by Aeterna Press