

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor
Registered Charity no. 234025

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Newsletter for the week of 19th May 2024 Sunday Readings Cycle B Weekday Readings Cycle II

Readings for Pentecost Sunday Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 103; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13; John 20: 19-23

Saturday 18th May 5.30pm 1st MASS of PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday 19th May 10.30pm MASS of PENTECOST SUNDAY

Monday 20th May Mary, Mother of the Church

Tuesday 21st May FEAST: THE DEDICATION OF THE CATHEDRAL

Wednesday 22nd May 11.30am Mass (Optional St. Rita of Cascia)

Thursday 23rd FEAST: OUR LORD THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST

Friday 24th May Solemnity: Our Lady Help of Christians, principal patron of the diocese

Saturday 25th May 10.00am Mass St. Bede the Venerable, priest, religious, doctor of the Church
10.30-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 25th May 5.30pm 1st Mass of Holy Trinity Sunday

Sunday 26th May 10.30am Mass of Holy Trinity Sunday

Readings for Holy Trinity Sunday: Deuteronomy 4:32-34,39-40; Psalm 32; Romans 8: 14-17; Matthew 28:16-20

FUNERAL

Tues 21st May 10.30am Funeral Service for Steve O'Dea died 19th April after suffering many years of multiple sclerosis. Burial in Adlington Memorial Park for family members. May he rest in peace!

HOSPITAL MASS

Fridays 1.00pm in Macclesfield District General Hospital. After being suspended during the 4 years of the pandemic, a weekly Mass has returned.

DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE

Sat 8th June 12noon at St. Columba's Plas Newton, Chester CH2 1SA for any parishioners celebrating a special wedding anniversary in 2024.

CRAFT CLUB

Wed 12th June 12.15-2.30pm Craft Club meeting, then on Wed 26th June

PARISH SUMMER FOOD FESTIVAL

Sat 13th July Clear this date in your diary because the PPC are organizing a food feast with a barbecue but also inviting parishioners to bring along their own ethnic dishes to share with others to taste and experience. More details to after the PPC planning meeting on Tuesday 28th May

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING GIVING

Last Sunday Collection £237.40

Communications Sunday (Bishops' Media Office & Web-site) £19.70

GET IN TOUCH QUICKLY –IF YOU ARE SICK If you or your relative enters Macclesfield Hospital let Fr. Peter know as soon as possible tel: 01625 423576 or by e-mail st.edmacc@gmail.com

PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

Father,
pour out your Spirit
upon the people of this Parish,
and grant us
a new vision of your glory
a new experience of your power
a new faithfulness to your Word
and a new consecration to your service
that your love may grow among us
and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord. Amen



WHAT NAME DID JESUS OUR LORD CALL THE HOLY SPIRIT?



16C EL GRECO/ IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Jesus himself calls the Holy Spirit the *Paraclete*.

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another *Paraclete* to be with you always.” (John 14:16)

So, what does this mysterious name *Paraclete* mean? The original Greek word “*paraklēton*” that Jesus uses is difficult to translate with just one word. It has such a deep meaning that it is translated variously: as *advocate*, *comforter*, *helper*, *defender*, *protector*.

The Latin Church Fathers most often translated the name *Paraclete* as *Advocatus*. The Spirit of Jesus is our “*advocate*.” Many times in this world we are faced with the accusation that following Christ is an error. We are misunderstood or ridiculed. Then we need the Spirit who defends the Truth of the Gospel, that is, the peace and certainty within us that Jesus live. St. Paul writes that everything good in our lives, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, is the fruit of the Spirit (cf. Galatians 5:22-23). He encourages believers to let the Holy Spirit guide them.

The *Paraclete* is the one who cares for us and who encourages us (greek: *parakaleo*) not to stop on the path of faith, not to lose the peace of heart, that is, the certainty that the Risen One is with us. He is a comforter in the sense that he gives us courage and reassurance in moments of doubt and difficulty

The Advocate knows us and is our Defender; the *Paraclete* encourages us and sustains us in the faith, he is our comforter and protector. The Spirit that Jesus gives us is just like that.

The Holy Spirit gives us freedom and does not intrude. He comes when we call upon Him.

There are so many situations in life when we need the light and help of the Holy Spirit.

A Christian could use the words of a hymn, or one verse in such a situation to call upon the Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator, come
from thy bright heav'nly throne;
come, take possession of our souls,
and make them all thine own.



THE *Wednesday*
WORD



Encountering Christ
The Wednesday Prayer Custom
for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families



Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross and remain still for a minute of settling silence.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.

1

Read
The Gospel for Sunday 19th May 2024
THE GIFT OF PEACE

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."

Taken from John 20:19-23 Pentecost Sunday, Year B
(ONE OF THE OPTIONS FOR THE PENTECOST GOSPEL)

2

Reflect
After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

None of the gospels gives an account of the Day of Pentecost, but St John tells us of another incident where the Risen Christ gave the Spirit to his disciples. There are two emphases in the account. The first is peace. Christ brings peace to his disciples with the double greeting of peace, and peace is a Christian watchword. Peace was the song of the angels at Jesus' birth; each of Paul's letters opens with a greeting of peace; the letter to the Ephesians proclaims that Christ is our peace - the reversal of all worry, strife, envy, jealousy, self-seeking ambition. 'Go in peace' is Jesus' dismissal of those he cures, and also the dismissal at the end of Mass. Peace was Jesus' bequest to his disciples after the Last Supper. The second watchword is forgiveness, for God was always known as a God of mercy and forgiveness; Jesus came to show this by his constant meeting with and welcoming of sinners. Moreover, the Lord's Prayer shows that if we do not ourselves forgive, we block God's forgiveness of ourselves too.

How can you bring peace more effectively to those you meet?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

3

Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, joy, forgiveness, hope or something else.

4

Pray for Families

This Wednesday's word for our school families is PENTECOST!

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 19th May 2024**



1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

The Birth of the Church

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 ministry of Jesus starts with the coming of the Spirit at his Baptism, and in a similar way the ministry of the Church begins with the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. There can be no witness to Jesus or to his message, no spreading of the Kingship of God, without the Spirit of Jesus. Another lesson from this parallelism between Jesus' Baptism and Pentecost is that the task of the Church and the life of the Church are the same as those of Jesus himself: to bring God's kingship to its fulfilment by bringing healing, love and joy through the message of the Risen Christ. The rushing wind and the tongues of fire are an allusion to the account in the Old Testament of the coming of God's Spirit upon Moses and the Elders. So the message of the New Testament is the fulfilment of the Old Testament, breaking out beyond the borders of Judaism to include all peoples of the world. The union of all these peoples, all understanding one language in their own way, is a deliberate contrast to the Old Testament scene at the Tower of Babel, when all the peoples of the world defied God and so were split up and could no longer understand one another's languages. The list of unpronounceable peoples is itself a witness to the universality of the Church! **How does the Church reveal the Spirit at work in the world today?**



2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

(One of the options for the Pentecost Gospel)

The Body of Christ

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.



The slightest glance round a church full of people is enough to show the variety within the Christian community. But it needs the words of St Paul to remind us that every member of that community has his or her own special gift to contribute. Mercifully, these gifts are all different. It is good to reflect on the natural gifts that we find all around us. It is also valuable to reflect how dull, or even intolerable, life would be if I lived with a lot of clones of myself, all with the same gifts and the same faults as myself! Every one of us contributes something different and valuable, whether it is the baby squeaking as a sign of new, developing life or the older person contributing wisdom, experience and even the suffering of Christ. Another inspiring thought is that all we varied and diverse people go to make up the Body which is Christ. We all have experience of various corporate bodies, organisations and companies, but none of these 'bodies' manifest the presence of a person as do our own individual bodies. But as the Body of Christ, the Church, we show forth to the world the presence of Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, through the indwelling of the Spirit.

What gifts do you bring to help build up the Body of Christ?

**“ We show forth
to the world the
presence of Jesus. ”**

2024

**THY
KINGDOM
COME**

In this Year of Prayer, the Catholic Church in England & Wales is supporting the 2024 'Thy Kingdom Come' worldwide initiative. All are invited to take part between the Feast of the Ascension, 9th May 2024 until Pentecost Sunday, 19th May 2024.

To find out more, head over to thykingdomcome.global & rcdow.org.uk/evangelisation/