

Monday 13 St Anthony of Padua, Priest & Doctor
Thursday 16 St Richard of Chichester, Bishop

A pause for thought on Pentecost Sunday:-

The Holy Spirit

“The Spirit comes gently and makes Himself known by His fragrance. He is not felt as a burden for He is light, very light. Rays of light and knowledge stream before Him as He approaches. The Spirit comes with the tenderness of a true friend to save, to heal, to teach, to counsel, to strengthen and to console. The Spirit comes to enlighten the mind first of the one who receives Him, and then, through Him, the minds of others as well”.

St Cyril

Visiting the Sick

If you know of any sick, elderly or housebound parishioner who would like a visit from a priest, please tell **Fr. Iain** at the Priory and he will be pleased to arrange for one of the Fathers to pay a visit.

Weekday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Saturday Masses: 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm (*Vigil for Sunday*)
Sunday Masses: 8.30am, 10.00am (*with Choir*) 11.00am **Latin Choir**
12.15pm, 6.00pm **Young Adults Choir**

Holy Day Masses 8.00am, 12.15pm, 6.00pm
Bank Holiday Masses: 9.00am, 12.15pm (no 6.00pm Mass)
Weekday Confessions: 5.30-5.50pm - Priest on duty except 12 Noon-3pm
Saturday Confessions: 10.30-11.45am, 3.30-5.50pm
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesdays 6.30pm-7.30pm

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Tongues of Fire

I came to this Church a little over six years ago. In that time I have written on many subjects in this Newsletter. For the remaining weeks that I am here I would like to share some reflections on life in this Church. To use the language of today's **Feast of Pentecost**, I will be looking around this parish and seeing where the Holy Spirit is at work. The Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles ***“like Tongues of Fire”***. These are the human lives and voices through whom the Holy Spirit speaks, sometimes audibly, often silently but always at the service of building up God's kingdom, making the love of Jesus better known and making this world a better place.

Today's **“Tongues of Fire”** are our children. Shortly after coming here, two mothers came to see me and asked: Can we do something for the children? When we look at the 10.00am Mass now we can only marvel at how the seed sown that day has grown. We have families from *“every nation under heaven”*, bigger numbers than ever preparing for sacraments, catechism classes for every age group and a great variety of other activities for our children. This has happened because a great number of people have responded to the voice of the Holy Spirit calling us as a parish to this ministry. Those who have responded are the children themselves, parents, catechists, and many others who support this work in so many ways. So the **“tongues of fire”** I invite you to celebrate today are:-

Children: Children are born with a limitless capacity to receive the word of God. I invite all our children to share with your friends the joy and happiness of knowing Jesus Christ. Let everyone know that coming to Church is something important, exciting and joyful. A lovely example of this are the works of art that greet everyone who enters the Priory. Each of these is a *“tongue of fire”*, a statement of faith, often coming from some of our youngest children. Never underestimate how much good this does.

Parents: Bringing your children to Church, teaching them to pray, encouraging them to receive the sacraments, passing on to them the wisdom and strength that Christian faith gives to you, are all works of the Holy Spirit. These are *“tongues of fire”* that your children will treasure all their lives.

Remember also that the children are “*tongues of fire*” in your lives. Often when I am with couples preparing for marriage they will share their desire that if they have children they want to bring them up with the Christian faith they were brought up with. Sometimes parents return to Church when they have children. Parents are challenged to learn more about their faith when they begin to try to pass on their faith to their children. There are many ways in which children are instrumental in deepening the faith of parents.

Catechists: You are the people who share your time, talents and faith experience with the Christian leaders of the future. Sitting in front of you are the parents, teachers, politicians, industrialists, bankers, priests, religious etc. of the future. Only the Holy Spirit knows where the “*tongues of fire*” that you allow Him to speak through you, are going to reach and influence.

At **Pentecost** the “*tongues of fire*” reached people of “*every nation under heaven*” and they all understood in “*their own language*”.

Let us thank and praise God that this is happening right here in our midst.

Fr Matt Blake, Prior

Changes at our Carmelite Church

Following the recent Carmelite Chapter, **Fr Tony Parsons** has been appointed **Prior** of this Church. Many of you will know Fr Tony – he was here for some years during the 1990’s. Since then he has spent some years in Glasgow [where he is a native of], and for the past nine years he has been at St Joseph’s, Gerrards Cross. Fr Tony is a person of many gifts and widespread experience. We welcome him and assure him of our prayers and support. **Fr Bob Davies**, who has been with us for just over a year, is moving to Gerrards Cross.

I myself will be moving to the **Carmelite Priory, Boars Hill, Oxford** – a place where I have spent many years of my life. No date has yet been fixed for these changes to take place but I expect it will be later in the summer.
(Fr Matt)

Funeral Mass

On Tuesday 21 June, the 12.15pm Mass will be a **Funeral Mass** for **Carol Howard RIP**

Children’s First Holy Communion

At our 10 o’clock Mass today, a group of children from this Parish will receive **First Holy Communion**. We ask you please to pray for these children on this special day in their lives, and to pray also for their families. And again on Sunday next 19 June at the 10. o’clock Mass, a further group of children will receive First Holy Communion.

Our Catechists

On behalf of all the parish, we wish to thank those who have taught catechism to the children of the parish during this year. Their dedication, faith and care has been a tremendous source of blessing. We pray that they in turn will be deeply blessed.
(Fr Iain)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during June

All are invited to **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6.30-7.30pm throughout the month of June.

Also on Friday next 17th June, from 6.30-7.30pm, we will have a **Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations to Religious Life**.

Solemnities in June

On Sunday next 19 June we celebrate the third of our Solemnities in June, *The Most Holy Trinity*, and on Sunday 26 June, *Corpus Christi, Most Holy Body & Blood of the Lord*. Following this we will have the *Solemnity of SS Peter & Paul* on Wednesday 29 June.

Notices

- * We will have our monthly **Parish Gathering** on Sunday 26 June, after the 10.00am Mass – all are invited downstairs to the Parish Centre for tea/coffee and to socialise with your friends.
- * We thank you for your contributions to the collection for *World Communications Network* on Sunday last. The amount collected was **£462.44**.

Weekday Readings: Starting tomorrow Monday 13 June, the Weekday Readings will be taken from **Year 1, Eleventh Week of the Year**, in the Lectionary. Will Readers please note.