



# Our Lady of Grace & St Edward's Chiswick and St Dunstan's Gunnersbury with St Joseph's Grove Park

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For even more regular news on parish life and activities, check the Latest News page on the parish website [www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org](http://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org) or follow the parish on Twitter @ourladychiswick or Facebook at Our Lady of Grace & St Edward, Chiswick, London W4

31<sup>st</sup> May 2020

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

Fr Michael Dunne  
Fr Mike Maguire  
Sharon Bowden  
Mike Guthrie

Parish Priest  
Assistant Priest  
Administrator  
Seminararian

### Fr Michael writes:

What a wonderful conflation of richness and confluence of grace and glory today, 31<sup>st</sup> May, presents. Principally it is Pentecost, of course, the birthday of the Church, the celestial and divine fruit of the Paschal Mystery of the Passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus, Son of God, Word made flesh. But today, too, has an echo of the Feast which 31<sup>st</sup> May usually is, the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St Elizabeth. On that occasion you'll remember something of a mini-Pentecost even so soon after the very inception of the Incarnation at the Annunciation as Mary rushes off to assist her older cousin Elizabeth with the birth of John the Baptist. "Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting," the Gospel reads, "the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit" (Lk 1:41). So there is the Holy Spirit, bringing about God's purpose in joy – "For the moment your greeting reached my ears the child in my womb leapt for joy" – even before the fullness of His Presence is revealed at Pentecost, in the Age of the Church, in our age. This should not surprise us of course since it was the same Spirit Who 'brooded over the waters' (Gen 1:1-2) and from the 'formless void' God created the heavens and the earth. In spite of our own rather remarkable contribution to the experience of creation recounted later in Genesis, namely sin, God's loving plan for us continued to unfold. Indeed, in the words of the Exultet which, alas, you did not hear on Easter Night this year but which Fr Mike chanted as fulsomely as he did for the two previous years, "O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!" In His Ascension the Lord again brings about God's purpose in joy, to send us the Advocate, the Paraclete, the very Spirit Who has accompanied us and formed us from the beginning, to effect God's plan even through the vicissitudes of history and of our lives. It's St Basil the Great who celebrates Pentecost with a lovely joyful phrase: "This grace enables souls that carry the Spirit to understand mysteries, to grasp hidden things, to receive spiritual blessings, to have their thoughts fixed on heavenly things and to dance with angels." Dance with angels! In every time and age, in every tribe and culture, human beings dance and we dance when we are celebrating, when our lives, even if sometimes only intermittently, are filled with hope and joy. But if we are dancing with angels, then there is no need for the dancing to come to an end as angels live forever and so do we. Furthermore, the very cause of our dancing and our

celebrating is also forever; it is irrevocable. God has loved us so much that in our fallen humanity He has rescued us from what makes us miserable in sin, suffering and death and so transformed us in the death and Resurrection of Jesus that He even calls us to share His own eternal joy. Today, Pentecost, is the birthday of the Church when the same Holy Spirit Who, in the words of the Creed, "proceeds from the Father and the Son", is given to us to make us alive together in Christ. We become "one Body, one Spirit in Christ" as the Eucharistic Prayer teaches us also in Mass. Little wonder then that we should celebrate and even dance with the angels with whom we rejoice now on earth and will do so forever in heaven. St Basil gives us the reasons to rejoice: "So is our joy unending, so is our perseverance in God unending, so do we acquire likeness to God, so — most sublime of all — do we ourselves become divine." Let us not be despondent therefore in the demands of these times but rather wish ourselves and each other a very Happy Birthday and pray in confidence and love, "Come, Holy Spirit!"

### PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sat 30/5	Easter Feria	•William Foster •Dr John Robinson	RIP Ann
Sun 31/5	PENTECOST SUNDAY	•William McGovern •People of the Parish living and deceased/ and Tracy Reed	RD Ints/ RD
Mon 1/6	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church	•Rose Braniff  •June Pearl	Ann  RD
Tues 2/6	St Marcellinus and St Peter	•Isobel Walsgrove •Andrew McCarron	RIP RD
Wed 3/6	Sts Charles Lwanga and Companions	•Margaret Frankreiler  •Michael Moore	RD  RD
Thurs 4/6	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST	•Emma McGonigle •Frontline NHS & Care Home workers; the sick & their families	RD  Ints
Fri 5/6	St Boniface	•Prof Claire Dwyer •Dr William Brace	RD RD
Sat 6/6	Feria	•Doris Almeida •James Francis Kiggins	RIP Ann

### LET US PRAY

**For those who are sick:** Sandra Bocca, Cecil Pocock, Romeo Monthoy, Fr. Noel O'Boylan, Celine Duignan, Andy Cronin, Eulalie Raymond, Jim O'Grady, Greta Gribben, Jim Ryan, Mike O'Farrel, Bridget Hayden, Alaina Embling, Hannah Thomas, Lauren, Anna and Joseph Mullan, Ewa Blonska, Phoebe Rodriguez, John Moylan, Cyril McKeefrey, Wanda Jeziorska, together with all those suffering in the pandemic.

**For those recently deceased:** Ann Walker, Mary Graham. May they rest in peace.

**LENT PROJECT 2020** – Our charities this year are: Friends of the Holy Land [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk) so far **£5,784**; The Cardinal Hume Centre [www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk](http://www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk) so far **£3,216**; The Cardinal's Lenten Appeal [www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk) so far **£3,012**. The current total for the Lent Project is an astonishing **£12,012** between the three charities. Because of the match funding of the FHL explained below, the actual total fund these three charities will receive is **£17,796!**

**DOUBLE YOUR DONATION TODAY ONLY FOR FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND in their PENTECOST CHALLENGE.** Of the **£12,012** raised in the Lent Project Appeal above, **£5,784** has been given by parishioners specifically to Friends of the Holy Land (FHL). Amazingly, with FHL's current 'Pentecost Challenge' three of their wealthiest donors are pledging to **DOUBLE** any other donation up to **£100,000!** This means that **when we send our donation off tomorrow, our £5,784 will be doubled to £11,568!** But why stop there? TODAY is the moment to consider either going directly to FHL's website to donate (which would also be doubled) or make a donation through the parish and increase our total which itself would also be doubled. **By all means drop off a donation today in the letterbox in an envelope marked FHL or Friends of the Holy Land or just phone or email the Parish Office to make a pledge and, subject to confirmation, we'll send the full donation off on Monday** to the Christians in the Holy Land who are suffering dreadfully from the devastation of Coronavirus. Visit the website to see. The religious tourist industry in 2019 generated 4.5 million visitors to Christian sites. This year, total collapse. This is why FHL is pulling out all stops for as much support as possible in this poverty. *On Pentecost Day can you support the Pentecost Challenge for the Christians in the land of Pentecost?*

**CARDINAL VINCENT'S VIDEO** – The Cardinal has recorded a message to us all which helps us join the first disciples as they were told to await the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. He invites us all, at some stage of Saturday evening, the Vigil of Pentecost, to join in prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit. The video can be viewed on the parish website [www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org](http://www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org) or the diocesan website [www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk)

**FOODBANK COLLECTION THIS WEEK** – Between this weekend and next is our monthly collection of non-perishable items of food for our foodbank (which is very short of stock and funds). Parishioners already intending to be out at exercise or shopping may leave food all this week outside at the presbytery door. Please just ring the bell to alert a priest, if a priest is available, that food is outside and he will bring it soon inside. Cash donations are welcome also in envelopes marked 'Foodbank' through the letterbox. (£350 was raised at the beginning of May.) On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June the food/toiletries/cash will be delivered to the foodbank.

**STEWARDSHIP & CLEANING THE RE-OPENED CHURCH?** – It's hoped that places of worship will be allowed to reopen from 4<sup>th</sup> July or perhaps earlier for private prayer. Whilst none of this can be confirmed it is time to plan for the re-opening because when it does happen, churches must be safe with social distancing measures in place. Conditional to re-opening is that we have volunteer stewards in place assisting, for instance, with access in terms of numbers, akin to what we see at supermarkets etc, and with sanitising. Volunteer cleaners will also be needed as the church will have to be cleaned each day. It is hoped that stewards and cleaners will work in teams. How long our church is open each day will be determined by how many volunteers we have to steward and clean as we cannot open without volunteers present. Volunteers must be in good health, under 70 years of age, and have no underlying health conditions. If you can offer an hour or two each few days or each week, please phone or email the Parish Office. *Thank you!*

**CENTERING PRAYER** – In the current lockdown the Centering Prayer group has found a new way to convene via the internet platform Zoom. The group is meeting EVERY Monday at 7.30pm so if you would like to join please phone or email John O'Brien who will be happy to assist: 07747611616 or [john@jobrien.co.uk](mailto:john@jobrien.co.uk)

**THURSDAY MASS for NHS & CARE HOME staff & the SICK** – The next live-streamed Masses to be celebrated by a Bishop on behalf of the Bishops' Conference at 7.00pm each Thurs are:  
4<sup>th</sup> June: Bishop John Arnold, Salford Cathedral  
11<sup>th</sup> June: Bishop Patrick McKinney, Nottingham Cathedral  
18<sup>th</sup> June: Archbishop Bernard Longley, Birmingham Cathedral  
25<sup>th</sup> June: Bishop Alan Hopes, Norwich Cathedral  
2<sup>nd</sup> July: Archbishop John Wilson, Southwark Cathedral  
9<sup>th</sup> July: Bishop Tom Williams, Liverpool Cathedral

**BAPTISMS, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION** – It is impossible to determine an exact timetable for the re-opening of churches though if all goes according to the Government plan the weekend beginning 4<sup>th</sup> July would be the first back in church, and even then, the social distancing measures are likely to be prohibitive. The return to large and festal occasions such as First Holy Communion or Confirmation Masses is more distant. However, it is conceivable to see that soon after the re-opening of churches then Baptisms postponed could be rescheduled as social distancing would not present an insurmountable obstacle provided guest numbers were limited. Rescheduling the First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses is very likely going to have to wait for as near a return to normality as possible perhaps in the Autumn. The parish will swiftly contact parents and guardians of existing candidates for these sacraments as soon as the Church and State authorities give appropriate direction.

**PARISH ASSOCIATION WITH THE CATHOLIC UNION** – Our parish has become the first in the country to have a formal association with The Catholic Union [www.catholicunion.org.uk](http://www.catholicunion.org.uk) and many more will follow where there is shared interest. Fr Michael much recommends going to the website to sign up for their news briefings directly emailed completely free of charge. The news from parliament is always interesting if often worrying with initiatives to challenge the common good. Other briefings are more specifically pertinent to Catholic life and seasons.

**FEELING VULNERABLE AND NEEDING HELP?** – Some parishioners are offering to shop and deliver groceries etc for any others who may not feel strong enough to shop for themselves. If you would like this help, please phone the Parish Office and leave a message. You are not alone! Help is at hand! 020 8994 2877

**CAN YOU OFFER HELP?** – If you'd be happy to volunteer to assist particularly elderly, isolated or isolating parishioners with just one or two errands each week as you are about your own, please also email or phone the Parish Office. You must be known to the priests and other parishioners from attendance at Mass. We'd be aiming to match postcodes of volunteers and recipient.



**On this great feast of Pentecost, we reflect with St Cyril of Alexandria (c. 376 - 444) on Jesus' promise to send us His Holy Spirit: Everything has been accomplished which remained to be done on earth; but it still remained necessary that we should share and participate in the divine nature of the Word - that is, that we should put away our life and be utterly transformed and launched on a new way of holy living. We would be able to cry out with confidence: 'Abba! Father!'; and to make peaceful progress towards every virtue. Now this could not be brought about except by a sharing and a participation in the Holy Spirit. St Paul said: 'We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into the same likeness from one degree of glory to another; and this comes from the Lord, the Spirit; for the Lord is the Spirit.' The Spirit re-creates, so to speak, in a new pattern those among whom He is seen to dwell. He readily replaces their desire to think earthly thoughts with the desire to fix their gaze only on the things of heaven; He changes their unmanly cowardice into the spirit of courage. We can certainly see that the disciples experienced this: the Spirit became their armour, so that they did not yield to the attacks of their persecutors but held fast to the love of Christ. And so the truth of our Saviour's words can be seen: 'It is to your advantage that I go away to heaven.' For that was the time for the descent of the Spirit.**