



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

020 8994 2877

www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org

chiswick@rcdow.org.uk

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

7TH JUNE 2020

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Fr Michael Dunne
Fr Mike Maguire
Sharon Bowden
Mike Guthrie

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
Administrator
Seminarian

Fr Mike writes:

St Athanasius, in the Office of Readings for the Holy Trinity, reminds us that 'the Trinity is endowed with the complete power of creating and energising; its nature also is consistent with itself and undivided, and its energy and activity is one. For the Father makes all things through the Word in the Holy Spirit, and in that way the unity of the Holy Trinity is preserved. Thus, in the Church one God is preached, who is 'above all things and through all things and in all things.' Yes, certainly, 'above all things' as the Father, the first principle and origin; and truly 'through all things,' that is through the Word, and finally 'in all things' in the Holy Spirit.' The Trinity's power of energising, then, displays the dynamic nature and the inner life of God, as the Trinity. During Lent we reviewed spiritually our inner selves and lives, with many of us continuing a holistic 'interior review' of ourselves and lives during lockdown. But, Lent afforded us the time for a little 'interior spring cleaning' of our hearts and lives in preparation for the joyful Resurrection of Christ at Easter, when we experienced afresh and more dynamically God's inexhaustible energising power in His nearness to us, for all eternity. This weekend, then, we consider again the Most Holy Trinity as Jesus presented us to it: 'The God who is wholly and only love, the purest, infinite and eternal love. The merciful Father. The Only-Begotten Son, eternal Wisdom incarnate, who died and rose for us. The Holy Spirit who moves all things, cosmos and history, toward their final, full recapitulation' (*Pope Benedict XVI*). St Paul says, 'In him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28),' and, so, I pray that we experience more fruitfully the dynamic, energising and mysterious way in which the seamless unity of Persons of the Trinity - that community of love, as Jesus presented us to it - touches and happily transforms our lives. For, as Pope Benedict XVI conveyed, 'love alone makes us happy because we live in a relationship, and we live to love and to be loved.' Dear friends, this not only proves that we are created in the image of the Trinity, but it highlights the fundamental truth that God loves us and delights in us so much that the dynamic relationship that *is* the Trinity reaches into the very depths of our world, and their mission, to which we're all called to participate, fulfils the promise God made from the beginning of time: That, the Trinity brings salvation, justice and peace to the whole of creation and humanity, and gives us the hope of new and permanent life with God, in which our ultimate happiness is fulfilled. As we participate in the life and mission of the Trinity, **WE NOW NEED YOUR HELP TO RE-OPEN OUR CHURCH!** Please see the item opposite and pass this message to your family, friends and parishioners and invite them to offer some of their time each week so that we can all

enjoy the happiness of being back in our precious and beloved church, with each other and Our Lord. The grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Sat 6/6	Feria	•Doris Almeida •James Francis Kiggins	RIP Ann
Sun 7/6	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY	•Helen Fitzharris •People of the Parish living and deceased/ and Timothy O'Leary	Ann Int/ Ann
Mon 8/6	Feria	•Frances Buckley •Peggy & Joe Malloy	RD Int
Tues 9/6	OUR LADY, MOTHER OF GRACE	•Winifred McKay	RD
Wed 10/6	Feria	•Patsy McLoughlin •Rose Braniff •Sheila Dodd	RIP Ann RIP
Thurs 11/6	St. Barnabas	•Isobel Walsgrove •Frontline NHS & Care Home Workers; the sick & their families	RIP Int
Fri 12/6	Feria	•Jim Lennon •Eunice Warr	RIP RD
Sat 13/6	St. Anthony of Padua	•John, Cathering & Eekie O'Sullivan •Nora Hardiman & Family	RIP INT

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, Aina 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: Elizabeth Davey and John Gilbert. RIP

STEWARDSHIP & CLEANING THE RE-OPENED CHURCH? - It's hoped that the church will reopen from 4th July or earlier for private prayer. We're busy now with the planning as churches must be safe with social distancing measures in place. Conditional to re-opening is that we have volunteer stewards assisting, for instance, with access in terms of numbers, and with sanitising. Volunteer cleaners will also be needed as the church will have to be cleaned regularly through the opening hours each day. **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 every few days or each week, please visit the parish website for information and a sign-up form www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org or phone or email the Parish Office. *Thank you!*

CARDINAL VINCENT'S MASS BROADCAST ON BBC RADIO 4
On Sunday 14th June, the Sunday Worship Programme, which airs at 8.10am on BBC Radio 4, will broadcast Mass celebrated by the Cardinal in Westminster Cathedral. This is an ideal opportunity for those who do not have access to the internet, so please share this with those who have been unable to watch livestreamed Masses.

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:

11th June: Bishop Patrick McKinney, Nottingham Cathedral

18th June: Archbishop Bernard Longley, Birmingham Cathedral

25th June: Bishop Alan Hopes, Norwich Cathedral

2nd July: Archbishop John Wilson, Southwark Cathedral

9th July: Bishop Tom Williams, Liverpool Cathedral

BAPTISMS, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION –

Even if we can open the church by 4th July 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 the Baptisms postponed could be rescheduled as social distancing would not be too difficult provided guest numbers were limited. Rescheduling the First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses is 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 authority is given.

THE MEN'S GROUP - Men of all ages are warmly invited to our next meeting on Thursday 18th June, from 8.30pm on the Zoom app. John O'Brien will give an introduction to Centering Prayer, a way of contemplative prayer. We are affiliated to www.catholicman.uk Email Stephen Donnelly at donnellysm@hotmail.com for details.

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

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 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 rather worrying with initiatives to challenge the common good.

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.

POPE FRANCIS' PENTECOST SUNDAY HOMILY (most of it, not all) on the THREE ENEMIES OF SELF-GIVING:

Let us now focus on ourselves, the Church of today. We can ask ourselves: "What is it that unites us, what is the basis of our unity?". We too have our differences, for example: of opinions, choices, sensibilities. But the temptation is always fiercely to defend our ideas, believing them to be good for everybody and agreeing only with those who think as we do. This is a bad temptation that brings division. But this is a faith created in our own image; it is not what the Spirit wants. Our principle of unity is the Holy Spirit. He reminds us that first of all we are *God's beloved children*; all equal, in this respect, and all different. The Spirit comes to us, in our differences and difficulties, to tell us that we have one Lord – Jesus – and one Father, and that for this reason we are brothers and sisters! Let us begin anew from here; let us look at the Church with the eyes of the Spirit and not as the world does. The world sees us only as on the right or left, with one ideology or the other; the Spirit sees us as sons and daughters of the Father and brothers and sisters of Jesus. The world sees conservatives and progressives; the Spirit sees children of God. A worldly gaze sees structures to be made more efficient; a spiritual gaze sees brothers and sisters pleading for mercy. The Spirit loves us and knows everyone's place in the grand scheme of things: for him, we are not bits of confetti blown about by the wind, rather we are irreplaceable fragments in his mosaic.

If we go back to the day of Pentecost, we discover that the first task of the Church is *proclamation*. Yet we also see that the Apostles devised no strategy; when they were locked in there, in the Upper Room, they were not strategizing, no, they were not drafting any pastoral plan. They could have divided people into groups according to their roots, speaking first to those close by and then to those far away, in an orderly manner... They could have also waited a while before beginning their preaching in order to understand more deeply the teachings of Jesus, so as to avoid risks... No. The Spirit does not want the memory of the Master to be cultivated in small groups locked in upper rooms where it is easy to "nest". This is a terrible disease that can also infect the Church: making her into a nest instead of a community, a family or a Mother. The Spirit himself opens doors and pushes us to press beyond what has already been said and done, beyond the precincts of a timid and wary faith. In the world, unless there is tight organization and a clear strategy, things fall apart. In the Church, however, the Spirit guarantees unity to those who proclaim the message. The Apostles set off: unprepared, yet putting their lives on the line. One thing kept them going: *the desire to give what they received*.

Here we come to understand what the secret of unity is, the secret of the Spirit. The secret of unity in the Church, the secret of the Spirit is *gift*. For the Spirit himself *is* gift: he lives by giving himself and in this way he keeps us together, making us sharers in the same gift. It is important to believe that God is gift, that he acts not by taking away, but by giving. Why is this important? Because our way of being believers depends on how we understand God. If we have in mind a God who takes away and who imposes himself, we too will want to take away and impose ourselves: occupying spaces, demanding recognition, seeking power. But if we have in our hearts a God who is gift, everything changes. If we realize that what we are is his gift, free and unmerited, then we too will want to make our lives a gift. By loving humbly, serving freely and joyfully, we will offer to the world the true image of God. The Spirit, *the living memory of the Church*, reminds us that we are born from a gift and that we grow by giving: not by holding on but by giving of ourselves.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us look within and ask ourselves what prevents us from giving ourselves. There are, so to speak, **three main enemies of the gift, always lurking at the door of our hearts: narcissism, victimhood and pessimism**. *Narcissism* makes us idolize ourselves, to be concerned only with what is good for us. The narcissist thinks: "Life is good if I profit from it". So he or she ends up saying: "*Why should I give myself to others?*". In this time of pandemic, how wrong narcissism is: the tendency to think only of our own needs, to be indifferent to those of others, and not to admit our own frailties and mistakes. But the second enemy, *victimhood*, is equally dangerous. Victims complain every day about their neighbour: "No one understands me, no one helps me, no one loves me, everyone has it in for me!". How many times have we not heard these complaints! The victim's heart is closed, as he or she asks, "*Why aren't others concerned about me?*". In the crisis we are experiencing, how ugly victimhood is! Thinking that no one understands us and experiences what we experience. This is victimhood. Finally, there is *pessimism*. Here the unending complaint is: "Nothing is going well, society, politics, the Church...". The pessimist gets angry with the world, but sits back and does nothing, thinking: "*What good is giving? That is useless*". At this moment, in the great effort of beginning anew, how damaging is pessimism, the tendency to see everything in the worst light and to keep saying that nothing will return as before! When someone thinks this way, the one thing that certainly does not return is hope. In these three – the narcissist idol of the mirror, the mirror-god; the complaint-god: "I feel human only when I complain"; and the negativity-god: "everything is dark, the future is bleak" – we experience a *famine of hope* and we need to appreciate the gift of life, the gift that each of us is. We need the Holy Spirit, the gift of God who heals us of narcissism, victimhood and pessimism. He heals us from the mirror, complaints and darkness.

Brothers and sisters, let us pray to him: Holy Spirit, memory of God, revive in us the memory of the gift received. Free us from the paralysis of selfishness and awaken in us the desire to serve, to do good. Even worse than this crisis is the tragedy of squandering it by closing in on ourselves. Come, Holy Spirit: you are harmony; make us builders of unity. You always give yourself; grant us the courage to go out of ourselves, to love and help each other, in order to become one family. Amen.