

St. Vincent de Paul (Osterley) Newsletter

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Leenane, 2 Witham Road, Osterley, TW7 4AJ.

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31st May 2020 PENTECOST SUNDAY

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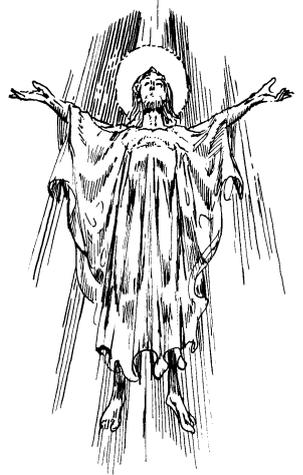
Acts 2:1-11. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak. At the festival of Pentecost the Holy Spirit comes to the assembled community in Jerusalem, filling everyone, and enabling everyone to speak in different languages recognised by the crowds.

1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13. In the one Spirit we were all baptised. Paul reminds the Corinthian faithful that they all, individually, have received gifts from the same Spirit and that, by their Baptism, they are all different members of Christ's body.

John 20:19-23. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you: receive the Holy Spirit. The risen Jesus comes to his disciples, bringing them

peace, inspiring them with the Holy Spirit and commissioning them with the same commission which he had from the Father.

Psalm 103:



Fr. Robin Burgess has prepared a homily for today

You can read it on our website in the section entitled 'Homilies/Pastoral Letters' or scroll to the end of this page.

To protect all people, the church building is closed until further notice. We continue to pray privately, in our homes and online in union with the church worldwide.

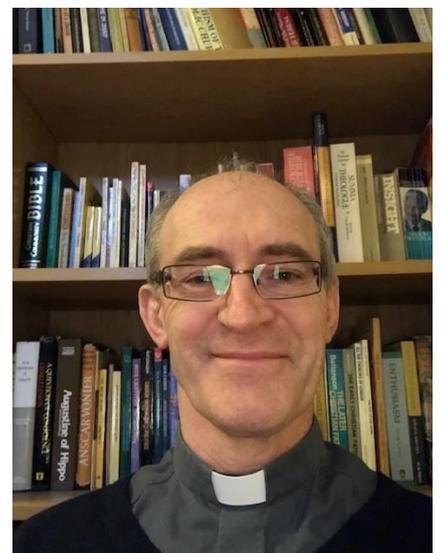
31st May 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost. Pentecost means fifty and is celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday, bringing to a close the season of Eastertide. I have put up the banners for Pentecost in the church, made by the late Sister Bernadette Crook. Please enjoy the photographs of them which I have posted in this newsletter.

Fr Robin Burgess has written a homily for this feast which I recommend.

During Eastertide the candles on the altar have burnt down and wax has accumulated, on them and on the Easter candle. I have posted photographs of these candles as they are a symbol of the mass which continues to be said each day and of the life of faith continuing in the lives of parishioners in your homes, online and in our private prayers.



I have also posted a photograph of the new candle I have put out for Pentecost but you will notice that I have not cleaned off all the wax. This was due to a lack of time but it is also a simple reminder that we need our sacristan Maria and indeed all of you to be fully functioning as a parish.

After Pentecost we enter the season of Ordinary Time. There is nothing ordinary about the times we are living in but that is not really the meaning of Church Ordinary Time. The church counts or “orders” each day because we see each day as a gift from God with its joys and sorrows but always with the Holy Spirit present at our side.

The feast of Pentecost reminds us that through baptism we have been given the gifts of the Holy Spirit to guide us. Please see a reflection on these gifts below.

Re-opening of Churches

The Catholic Church in England and Wales is in active discussions with the government to establish when churches can re-open for private prayer and eventually for services. We the church want to play our part in controlling Coronavirus so our leaders will ensure that we observe what social distancing measures are necessary.

It has been wonderful to see so many resources online for Catholics to use during these times. Cardinal Vincent has recorded a message for us all as we celebrate Pentecost. You can watch it by following this link <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/news/cardinal-pray-fervently-for-the-coming-of-the-holy-spirit/>.

This link brings you to the diocesan website. This also has many prayer resources and information on the practical steps being taken by the people of our diocese and by Caritas Westminster to help people in material need. Caritas Westminster was established by Cardinal Vincent using funds donated by parishioners during the “Growing in Faith” campaign which ran in the diocese some years ago.

Once again I send particular greeting to those who are sick or living alone. You are in my thoughts and prayers. We also pray for those who have died, may they rest in peace, and for those who mourn, may God console them with Easter hope.

I publish below some new photographs of the parish garden especially of the prayer garden rockery for your enjoyment.

Whilst we wait patiently to be re-united in body as a community, I ask God to bless you all in the following words. (Your response is four times Amen!)

May Almighty God bless you this Eastertide and keep you free from sin.

People: Amen

Through the resurrection of Christ may you be given new hope, healed in body and spirit and, in the fullness of time, enter into eternal life.

People: Amen

Christ has ascended to the Father. May you be given a spirit of joyful hope as you await a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

May almighty God bless you.

The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

People: Amen Alleluia! Alleluia!







Gifts of the Holy Spirit



In the Book of Isaiah 11:2-3, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are described. In the passage the gifts are considered ones that the Messiah would have possessed. Through Jesus, we also receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Wisdom helps us recognize the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives.

Understanding is the ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message.

Knowledge is the ability to think about and explore God's revelation, and also to recognize there are mysteries of faith beyond us.

Counsel is the ability to see the best way to follow God's plan when we have choices that relate to him.

Fortitude is the courage to do what one knows is right.

Piety helps us pray to God in true devotion.

Fear of the Lord is the feeling of amazement before God, who is all-present, and whose friendship we do not want to lose.



SUNDAY OFFERING AND SUPPORTING THE PARISH:

Dear Parishioners,

We are conscious that many parishioners may be struggling financially, if however, you are able to continue your weekly donations please see how to do this below:

- 1) On Sunday 5th April those who give by planned giving envelopes ran out of envelopes. It is not currently possible to distribute new boxes of envelopes.

If possible, please set up a Standing Order to replace your Planned Giving Envelopes. To see how to do this electronically please See “Donate to our parish” on our website. Should you wish, you can change this back to planned giving envelopes when they are distributed and movement restrictions lifted.

- 2) If you give cash, you can set up a standing order in favour of the parish electronically. For our bank details please see “Donate to our parish” on our website.
- 3) You can use the donation facility on our website to make your donation each week by credit or debit card. See “Donate to our parish” on our website.
- 4) If you do not already do so, you can Gift Aid all your donations. This increases your donation by 25% at no costs to you. You simply have to pay sufficient tax to cover 25% of your donations to the parish. If you do so the government will refund this money direct to the parish. Please follow the instructions on the parish website under “Donate to our parish”

We know that those who are able, will sustain the parish financially during this challenging time and enable us to minister to our parishioners and those in need.

If you have any queries you can contact the parish bookkeeper Steve McEvoy on osterleybk@rcdow.org.uk or 079 3278 3647.

Thank you.



POPE FRANCIS: Pope Francis called for all Christians to respond to the coronavirus pandemic “with the universality of prayer, of compassion, of tenderness”, adding, “Let us remain united. Let us make our closeness felt toward those persons who are the loneliest”. Speaking after the traditional recitation of the Angelus, the Holy Father called on all Christians to join together in prayer. “In these trying days, while humanity trembles due to the threat of the pandemic, I would like to propose to all Christians that together we lift our voices towards Heaven

MASS INTENTIONS: *Mass intentions can still be requested via e-mail or by ringing the parish office. Please leave a message and phone number if there is no reply from the office. Offerings for such masses can be made using the online donation link on the website or submitting it to the parish only when movement restrictions are lifted. Masses offered prior to the reduction in Sunday masses will be allocated to the nearest free mass.*

SERVICE TIMES & INTENTIONS
31st May – 7th June 2020

SUNDAY 31 May Pentecost Sunday	Anthony Carvalho RIP Anniv
Mon 1 June: BVM Mother of the Church	Tanios Ghossoub Intention
Tues 2: Weekday 9 th wk.	Special Intention
Wed 3: St Charles Lwanga and Companions Martyrs	Emilia Danielewicz Month's Mind
Thu 4: Weekday 9 th wk.	Kathleen and Andrew Curran RIP Anniv
Fri 5: St Boniface, Bishop and Martyr	People of the Parish
Saturday 6: Weekday 9 th wk.	Rosalind Andrew RIP(Birthday Anniversary)
SUNDAY 7 June The Most Holy Trinity	Maria C. Fernandes (anniv) and Caetano Fernandes RIP

PARISH OFFICE:

Please do not call to the parish office without an appointment. Enquiries can be made by telephone or you can e-mail the parish at osterley@rcdow.org.uk

- **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Mrs. L. Faria
- **PLANNED GIVING CO-ORDINATOR:** Mr. Steve McEvoy
- **PARISH BOOKKEEPER:** Mr. Steve McEvoy
To contact Mr. McEvoy by email: osterleybk@rcdow.org.uk
- **300 CLUB:** Enquiries to Parish Office.

ADMIN

• **PARISH WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR ONLINE NEWSLETTER:**
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/osterley/>

• **PARISH REGISTRATION:** Please take a Welcome Pack from the lobby when the church re-opens in due course. Completed Registration and Planned Giving forms should be posted through the door of the Parish house. Thank you.

• **BAPTISM:** Contact Fr. Mark to arrange a baptism date and attend a course. Please complete a form (available in the lobby or online) and submit to the Parish Office. Next course: TBA.
 NB Unfortunately courses are now cancelled until further notice.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE: This parish operates a system of Mass Attendance Cards. This is only applicable for parents who wish to send their children to a Catholic primary or secondary school. Attendance at 75% of masses at which stickers are given out will be deemed to comply with the conditions for receiving a Certificate of Catholic practice. Parents can apply to Catholic schools without a Certificate of Catholic practice but will usually be considered after those who possess one. The Certificate of Catholic Practice should be downloaded from our website. (Do not use the form provided by the school). Please print one for every school to which you are applying.

Parents/Guardians should begin collating forms two years before the closing date for their child's application to Nursery, Reception, Secondary and 6th Form.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Mass attendance stickers were not distributed on Sun. 15/3/2020.

They will not be distributed in the near future until further notice. These weeks will be omitted in our calculation of the 75% attendance for school admission

• **MARRIAGES:** 6 months' notice required. Please ring the office for initial discussion with Fr. Mark.

CONTACTS

- **SAFEGUARDING REP:** Mrs. A. Trigger. Tel. 07764482186
Email: osterleysg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
- **WEST MIDDX HOSPITAL RC CHAPLAIN:** Tel. 020 8321 5447.

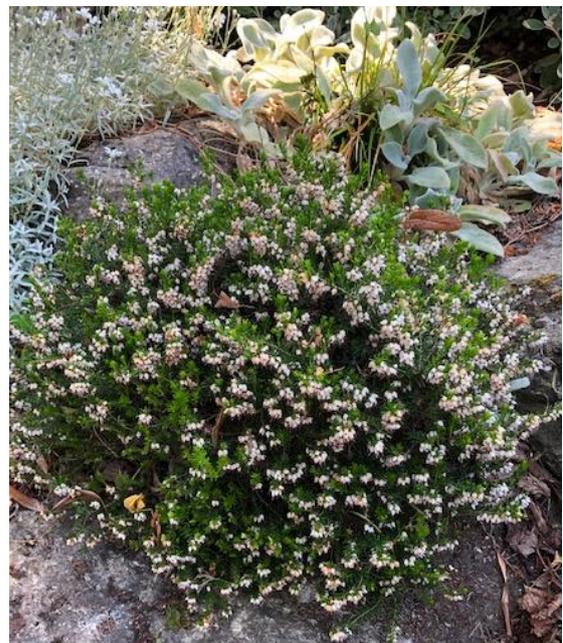
Truda Weiler RIP. The death has occurred of Truda Weiler, aged 93, wife of the late Terry Weiler, one of our longstanding parishioners. We express our condolences to her children Martin, Michael, Teresa and Frances and to her grandchildren, great grandchildren, family and friends. Truda's funeral will take place on Thursday 4th June at Hanworth Crematorium. Family mourners only in accordance with current regulations. A Memorial Service will be organised in due course. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

REDEMPTORIST PUBLICATIONS bring the Sunday Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr. Denis McBride into your home every Sunday. Each Sunday service will be accessed at: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online> Visit their BLOG section for a variety of reflections.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has written to the Priests of the diocese and asks us to publicise the item below which I am very happy to do. He writes:

There is a small initiative agreed by the bishops in England and Wales that every Thursday evening, at 7pm, a bishop, in turn, will celebrate Mass in his cathedral, live streamed, for all those frontline workers in the NHS and care homes, for the sick and their families. This will begin next Thursday with Mass in our Cathedral. There will be publicity about this initiative which I ask you to share. More importantly I would like every priest to celebrate Mass for this same intention each Thursday, if possible.





Homily for Pentecost Sunday 31st May 2020

Fr Robin Burgess writes

Dear Friends,

One Saturday in summer some years ago I was driving with friends to Buxton in Derbyshire to go to a concert at the festival there, one of those enjoyable events that this year cannot take place. It was a long drive and a very hot day, we felt quite parched on arrival so the first thing we did was to go to a café and enjoy ice-cold spa water, which you can buy in shops as Buxton water. It was the most delicious drink I can ever remember! There is nothing like water for quenching your thirst on a hot day.

Water is indeed vital for us. It can be dangerous in floods and torrents, but it cleanses and refreshes and it is essential for life. In the story of creation, it was only when the seas were made that life could emerge on earth, first plant life, then animals and humans. Our bodies I believe contain 75% water and two thirds of the earth is made up of water. Whenever space probes detect traces of water on other planets or in other galaxies some people get excited at the thought that there might be life somewhere else in the universe other than just our own earth.

I am concerned at the prolonged absence of rain just now. It is good in the midst of lockdown to have a spell of warm weather, even if we cannot enjoy it in ways we would ordinarily do, but the lack of rain is making the ground dry and plants are beginning to wilt. There is a park near where I live with a stream running alongside in which the water level is noticeably dropping: maybe this is why the heron I like to see there has disappeared in search of wetter conditions elsewhere.

Water can be a symbol of the Holy Spirit, who also cleans and refreshes and is even more necessary for life. God is the author of all life, the creator of the universe and all its many elements. It is God's Spirit who swept like a wind over the face of the waters to bring life into being. On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the coming of the Spirit to the first followers of Jesus. A rushing wind filled the house where they were sitting and tongues of fire rested on them.

An ancient hymn for the day, of the type known as a Sequence, says of the Spirit:

Left without your presence here

Life itself would disappear,

Nothing thrives apart from you!

It also speaks of the Spirit as 'sweet refreshment, ... pleasant coolness in the heat, consolation in our woes.' Coolness in heat, wind, fire – the Spirit is all of these, and the Spirit's work is to enliven, to bring life and also to unite. Since all life is the creation and the gift of God, all life is one in God through the power of the Spirit. Whatever separates and divides is overcome by the Spirit. The barriers our different languages make between us were overcome at Pentecost, as people of every race and language could understand – in their own language, that is, at the heart of themselves, at a level deeper than surface divisions – what Peter and the others were saying. The tower of Babel, where human language was divided, is thrown down by Pentecost.

Maybe it is a special gift of this otherwise uncomfortable time we are living through that we are appreciating more of what unites us. There are many signs of how people are becoming more appreciative, for example, of those who give us our essential services: the NHS certainly, but also farmers who provide the food we need, those who work in transport, in shops and supermarkets, in refuse collection. We usually take them for granted, but realising how much we rely on them helps to see how interdependent society is, how united at its centre by our common humanity.

We are appreciating also more of the world around us, birdsong and trees, all life indeed as the sign of God's creative love, all life as sacred and therefore special, however ordinary it may be. And this deeper sense of appreciation is the result of a greater possibility of being still and listening, which is another product of this time when our lives are emptier of what normally fills them. Emptiness is not just negative, but can be a means to deeper, richer insight, if we can use the opportunities wisely and well.

Pentecost is our Christian version of the Jewish festival of Shavuot that occurs at this time. It coincides with the first fruits of the wheat harvest and commemorates the giving of the Law through Moses at mount Sinai.

For Jewish people the Law is the pledge of God's presence with them, for us it is the Spirit active in Jesus and his apostles who assures us that God is with us and we are always in God. Shavuot has other names, one of which is *Atzeret*, which means closure. After their delivery from slavery in Egypt and forty years' journey through the wilderness to the promised land the giving of the Law completes this phase of the life of God's people. Now they are to live the full, God-filled life which God makes possible for them and gives them the freedom to live.

For the Church in a similar way Pentecost, the fiftieth day, completes the season of Easter and gives way to 'Ordinary Time,' the season in which we must live the new life of the risen Lord and do so guided and inspired by the Spirit. The term "Ordinary" makes it sound dull and workaday, but one suggestion is that it really means "ordered," time which does not just drift on, but is filled with and given order by the guidance of God's Spirit, in that sense not ordinary but special, and we who are the Church likewise have the freedom to make of it what we will.

As we look forward to the return to normality, not least in the Church itself when our buildings can be open once more and the sacraments publicly celebrated, it will be important not to lose sight of what we have learned and gained through lockdown, but, as I heard a rabbi say, use the freedom we have "to shape a more attentive, appreciative and compassionate reality." Who knows, when everything is back to normal, we might even begin to regret the blessed quiet and peacefulness we are presently experiencing. Enjoy it while you can!

With best wishes and prayers, Fr. Robin (robinburgess@rcdow.org.uk).

P.S. The Sequence for Pentecost is said to be written by Stephen Langton, whom Pope Innocent III wished to appoint as archbishop of Canterbury. Because King John would not accept his choice the Pope put the Church in England under an interdict, which meant that Mass could not be celebrated in churches. Only baptisms and confession for the dying were permitted. This situation lasted for six years! England in the 13th century was of course a very different world, but the Church recovered and normal service was eventually resumed. We can hope that it will be so for us today.

Fr Robin is happy to receive any comments or questions you may have. He can be contacted at robinburgess@rcdow.org.uk