

St Thomas More – Parish Newsletter

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SUNDAY 28th MAY PENTECOST SUNDAY (Year A)



Some Considerations about Pentecost

On this feast of the Spirit and the Church, let us thank God for having given to his people, chosen and formed in the midst of all peoples, the precious good of peace, of his peace! At the same time, let us renew the awareness of the responsibility that is connected with this gift: the Church's responsibility to be, constitutionally, a sign and instrument of God's peace for all peoples. (...) However, we must not only think of these events "at the summit". The Church carries out her service to Christ's peace above all in the ordinary presence and

action among men and women, with the preaching of the Gospel and the signs of love and mercy that accompany it (cf. Mk 16: 20).

Of course, among these signs it is mainly the Sacrament of Reconciliation that should be emphasised. The Risen Christ instituted it at the very moment he gave the disciples his peace and his Spirit. As we heard in the Gospel passage, Jesus breathed on the Apostles and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn 20: 22-23). How important and, unfortunately, insufficiently understood is the gift of Reconciliation which sets hearts at rest! Christ's peace is only spread through the renewed hearts of reconciled men and women who have made themselves servants of justice, ready to spread peace in the world with the force of the truth alone, without descending to compromises with the world's mentality because the world cannot give Christ's peace: this is how the Church can be the leaven of that reconciliation which comes from God. She can only be so if she remains docile to the Spirit and bears witness to the Gospel, only if she carries the Cross like Jesus and with Jesus. The saints of every epoch witness precisely to this! (*From a Homily of Pope Benedict XVI, 11 May 2008*)

Forthcoming Parish Activities

Seminars on Catholic Anthropology: Understanding yourself in today's world

On **17 and 18 June** we shall be hosting afternoon seminars from 3pm to 5.45pm to explore the notion of 'personhood' and its implications for a number of contemporary issues: who (rather than what) are we? Are we capable of knowing and relating to God? What can science tell us about the world and about God? The seminars will be led by Dr James Navarro, a research Professor at the University of the Basque Country. James has also taught at Imperial College and at Cambridge University. The seminars require no previous knowledge of the subjects covered.

Parents who would like to improve the way they talk to their children about the human body, love and parenthood; students who want to engage more confidently with their fellow students on topics such as gender dysphoria; and people who want to be able to explain Christian anthropology to their colleagues, will all find the seminars helpful.

Further details about the seminars and about Dr James Navarro can be found in the flyers at the entrance to the church. He has plenty of experience explaining philosophical ideas to the general public.

Rosary in the Garden

The Rosary will be said in the parish garden in front of the statue of Our Lady after the 10am Mass on Wednesday 31 May to mark the end of the month of May.

Young Adults Group

Keep updated on future events by contacting:

young.adults.group.stm@gmail.com or Fr Alvaro (alvaro.tintore@netherhall.org.uk)

Magnificat — June

Copies of the June *Magnificat* (£5) are now available to buy. Please ask Maggie, or one of the priests for copies. It is possible to pay using the card reader at the entrance or placing cash in the newspaper and leaflet

collection slot.

Mass intentions

Whenever a priest celebrates Mass, he has at least two intentions. The first intention is to celebrate the Mass according to what the Church does. The second is to apply the grace of that Mass towards a specific need, whether it be a person(s), living or dead, baptised or not, or a special need.

Often the "Mass intention" is requested by a parishioner for the repose of the soul of a loved one. It is a good and pious custom for the faithful to make an offering to the priest who celebrates the Mass. The money does not "buy" a Mass! Masses and graces are not for sale. Rather, the money is a gesture of solicitude to the priest for his upkeep.

If you would like to have a Mass offered for a particular intention please contact Maggie in the parish office (Tuesday & Friday mornings) or email her at

swisscottage@rcdow.org.uk

Alternatively, please use the brown Mass Intention envelopes in the Narthex.

Post Confirmation Course

So, I've been confirmed - now what?

If you'd like to continue learning about your faith in a relaxed and fun environment, sign up for the ASCENT.

theASCENT is a discipleship process for Catholic young people in years 10-13 who want to embrace their faith in Jesus Christ and learn how to share it with others.

Bookings are now open for the group based in Brentwood starting in October and full details can be found at

www.theascentuk.co.uk

The Holy Spirit and Mary

Some consideration about the Holy Spirit and Mary from the Catechism of the Catholic Church nos 721-725:

Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the

Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom." In her, the "wonders of God" that the Spirit was to fulfill in Christ and the Church began to be manifested:

The Holy Spirit prepared Mary by his grace. It was fitting that the mother of him in whom "the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" should herself be "full of grace." She was, by sheer grace, conceived without sin as the most humble of creatures, the most capable of welcoming the inexpressible gift of the Almighty. It was quite correct for the angel Gabriel to greet her as the "Daughter of Zion": "Rejoice." It is the thanksgiving of the whole People of God, and thus of the Church, which Mary in her canticle lifts up to the Father in the Holy Spirit while carrying within her the eternal Son.

In Mary, the Holy Spirit fulfills the plan of the Father's loving goodness. With and through the Holy Spirit, the Virgin conceives and gives birth to the Son of God. By the Holy Spirit's power and her faith, her virginity became uniquely fruitful.

In Mary, the Holy Spirit manifests the Son of the Father, now become the Son of the Virgin. She is the burning bush of the definitive theophany. Filled with the Holy Spirit she makes the Word visible in the humility of his flesh. It is to the poor and the first representatives of the gentiles that she makes him known.

Finally, through Mary, the Holy Spirit begins to bring men, the objects of God's merciful love, into communion with Christ. And the humble are always the first to accept him: shepherds, magi, Simeon and Anna, the bride and groom at Cana, and the first disciples.

At the end of this mission of the Spirit, Mary became the Woman, the new Eve

("mother of the living"), the mother of the "whole Christ." As such, she was present with the Twelve, who "with one accord devoted themselves to prayer," at the dawn of the "end time" which the Spirit was to inaugurate on the morning of Pentecost with the manifestation of the Church.

ANGELUS

After Pentecost we return to saying the Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to thy Word.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. And the Word was made flesh,
R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord,
thy grace into our hearts;
that we, to whom the Incarnation of
Christ,
your Son, was made known by the
message of an angel,
may by His passion and cross
be brought to the glory of His
Resurrection.
Through the same Christ, our Lord.
Amen

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pentecost Sunday

28th May – 3rd June 2023

Tel: 020 7435 1388; <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/swisscottage/>

	MASS	OTHER ACTIVITIES
SUN 28th May PENTECOST SUNDAY (Readings. Year A)	9.30am Marie Sobotta-Tabet (RIP) 11am Mass Jim and Hildegard Charles (intentions) 6pm Mass People of the Parish	The Church opens at 9.15am 10.30am Confessions 5.30pm Confessions
MON 29th May The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church	BANK HOLIDAY No 7am Mass 10am Mass Elizabeth Burns (RIP)	Today the Church opens at 9.30am and closes after the 10am Mass
TUE 30th May feria	7am Mass Paul Dicken (RIP) 10am Mass Arthur Gibson (RIP anniversary)	The Church opens at 6.50am Tuesday to Friday for 7am Mass (entry via Church car park). Main doors open at 9.30am
WED 31st May THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	7am Mass For peace in Ukraine 10am Mass Ava Maria Lockyer and family (intentions)	10.45am Rosary in the Garden
THU 1st June OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST	7am Mass Silvie Frangieh Tabet (RIP) 10am Mass Laura Deschamps (RIP anniversary)	
FRI 2nd June Ss Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs Friday abstinence	7am Mass Mick Morrisse-Tabet (RIP) 10am Mass Ann Koushi (RIP)	10am to Noon Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 3rd June St Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs	10am Mass Amanda and Chris Ellis (Wedding anniversary)	The Church opens at 9.30am

Prayer Intentions:

Recently deceased: Helen Birch; Alice Hancock; Rita McNally; Mick Morrisse Tabet; Edouardo Arboleda; Duarte Costa Pereira

Anniversary: Peggy Attlee; Camillo de Castiglioni; Peter Monaghan; Arthur Gibson; Laura Deschamps

Confessions:

Monday to Friday (before and after 10am Mass)

Saturday: before and after 10am Mass

Sunday: 10.30am and 5.30pm (before Mass)

Forthcoming Events:

4th June: THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

11th JUNE: THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST