



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 17th May 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalter Week 2

Confirmation and the Pentecost Novena

This past Friday, Bishop Patrick was due to come and administer the **Sacrament of Confirmation** to our young people. Obviously this had to be postponed, but the First Reading today from the Acts of the Apostles (which tells us all about the early Church) has some interesting things to teach us about this Sacrament.

The events being related here took place *after* Pentecost – so the Holy Spirit had already come, and we're told that Philip, who was a deacon and now full of the Holy Spirit, goes to Samaria to proclaim Christ. He casts out evil spirits and heals many people. There are some verses missed out in our reading, but in those missing verses, we learn that Philip also preached to and baptised many of the Samaritans. Then it says:

*“When the Apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet He had not come down on any of them. **They had only been baptised** in the name of the Lord JESUS. Then they **laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.**”*

This is the earliest description we have of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Philip, as a deacon, could preach and baptise but could not confirm. This was something the Apostles had to do. So Peter and John came all the way from Jerusalem to lay hands on these newly baptised so as they would receive the Holy Spirit. Bishops, who are the successors of the Apostles, do the same laying on of hands today in Confirmation before anointing the candidates with the **Oil of Chrism**. So we learn from this that Confirmation is *distinct* from Baptism. We receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism, and Original Sin and any personal sin are removed. But in Confirmation we receive the **full outpouring of the Holy Spirit** so as we can go out and witness to the Gospel in our lives. And so it is fitting that the Apostles themselves should lay hands on the people to complete their Baptism, and then send them out as missionaries, because ‘Apostle’ means ‘to be sent out’. This is why it is a Bishop, a Successor of the Apostles, who normally administers this Sacrament. The Bishop may delegate a priest to do so in his absence, which nowadays happens more often.

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MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	16 th	6.00pm	Peter Foster Boswell RIP
Sun	17 th	<u>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</u>	
		9.00am	Vito Caruso RIP (Anniversary)
		11.00am	For the Parish
Mon	18 th	9.15am	Intention for the living
Tues	19 th	9.15am	Rocco Acierno RIP
Weds	20 th	9.15am	Cliff Brookes RIP
Thurs	21 st	<u>ASCENSION OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY)</u>	
		9.15am	Protection of all Altar Servers of the Parish
		7.00pm	Katie Mercer RIP (Anniversary)
Fri	22 nd	9.15am	Violet & Philip Bowler RIP
Sat	23 rd	9.15am	Eamon Johnston RIP
		6.00pm	Rogelio Gunhuran RIP (Anniversary)
Sun	24 th	<u>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</u>	
		9.00am	For the Parish
		11.00am	Phyllis Harrison RIP (Anniversary)

MASS INTENTIONS: Although the times of Masses have been left on the weekly calendar, the priests will not necessarily offer Mass at those specific times, but the Masses will all be celebrated for the particular intentions on the days advertised.

NB: Due to government regulations regarding personal data (GDPR), we are only able to publicise the Mass intentions for the deceased in the printed edition of the newsletter.

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Cardinal Renato Corti, Edith de Lisle, Dale Morrison, John Newman and Barbara Carpenter. **May they rest in peace.**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Jozef Gebski, Vito Caruso, William Thorpe, Irene Callis, Tony Wade, Henry Smith, James O'Rourke, Thomas Onions, Jo Sparano, Ellen Ramsbottom, Harry Oakley, Frank Durning Snr, Lidia Orzeszek, Patricia Drane, Katie Mercer, Giovanni D'Amato, Noreen Glendon, Rogelio Gunhuran and Phyllis Harrison

Cont'd from front page

On Friday of this week we begin the **Pentecost Novena**. Before His Ascension (which we celebrate on Thursday), Our Lord told the Apostles to gather together and pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. And so with Our Lady, they gathered in the Upper Room, and for nine days prayed before receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. This is where the word 'novena' comes from. It means 'nine'. So if we pray a novena for Pentecost we are doing what Our Lord commanded the Apostles to do. I have put a link to a novena in this newsletter (*page 4*) and I will also post the link on the parish website so you can even sign up and have it sent to you via email each day. I would encourage you to pray this novena at home and in your families to help you all grow in holiness, and it will also help to unite the parish in prayer at this time.

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

FROM THE SAINTS: "All Christians, incorporated into Christ and His Church by Baptism, are consecrated to God. They are called to profess the faith which they have received. By the Sacrament of Confirmation they are further endowed by the Holy Spirit with special strength to be witnesses of Christ and sharers in His mission of salvation" (*St John Paul II, 1920-2005*).

THE FOOD BANK will be open 2-3pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the parish hall. A Grub Club volunteer will be present during those times. As time goes on we believe that the need may be greater. We will keep you posted how it is going. Thank you for the donations. Families are appreciative.

CARDINAL RENATO CORTI RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Cardinal Renato Corti who died on Monday. He was a great friend of the Rosminians and very instrumental in Rosmini's beatification in 2007. For many years he was Bishop of Novara in Italy. I met him a number of times when I was a novice at Sacro Monte Calvario. A very holy man who has done much for the Rosminian Order. Pope Francis created him a Cardinal in 2016 and his titular church in Rome was San Giovanni in Porta Latina which as many of you will know is in the care of the Rosminians, and where many of us lived for several years while in formation. Requiescat in pace. Amen. *Fr Paul*

ROSMINI CENTRE: **Healing Mass and Rosary, celebrated by Fr Denys Labartette every Wednesday** starting with Mass at 11am followed at 11.30am to 12.00noon by the Glorious mysteries of the Rosary with Adoration/intercession. This will begin on **Wednesday 20th May** until the end of August. If you wish particular people to be remembered at the Mass, please email their names and these will be placed in a basket on the altar. Please send the email to rosminicentreinfo@gmail.com. **Joining together in spirit all are welcome to take part in this prayer of healing and intercession while you are at home.**

CORONAVIRUS AND STAYING CONNECTED: While the church is closed, you can keep in touch in two ways:

1. **The Parish website – www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk.** Here you can sign up to receive the newsletter by email every week and access the Sunday Mass readings and prayers. The home page will keep you updated with links to News posts and other helpful information.
2. **A private Facebook support group (St Mary's Community Support)** that you can join and through which you can interact with other parishioners and offer each other support. To join the group you will need to have a Facebook account. A link to the group is available on the Parish website.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

LEADER: Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.

ALL: O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.

LEADER: Bless our families. Bless our children.

ALL: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.

LEADER: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

ALL: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. *Amen.*

PRAYER TO OUR LADY AGAINST DISEASE

Priest: The Star of Heaven that nourished the Lord drove away the plague of death which the first parents of man brought into the world. That very Star is now worthy to encompass the world, whose wars cut down the people with the sore of dreaded death.

All: O glorious Star of the Sea, preserve us from pestilence; hear us, O Lady, for Thy Son honours Thee by denying Thee nothing. Save us, O Jesus, for whom Thy Virgin Mother supplicates Thee.

THANK YOU to the Senior Citizens Group who have raised £80 for parish funds. *Fr Paul*

CONFIRMATION: Please keep our forty plus Confirmation candidates in your prayers. They were due to receive the Sacrament from Bishop Patrick last Friday. Let us pray they will be able to receive it soon. *Fr Paul*

POPE ST JOHN PAUL II: I'm sure many of you would like to know that tomorrow, Monday 18th May, is the centenary of the birth of the Polish Pope, St John Paul II, the second longest reigning Pope in the history of the Church at nearly 27 years – Blessed Pius IX reigned for 32 years. Pope Francis will be celebrating Mass at his tomb in St Peter's Basilica tomorrow. Let us thank God for all the blessings He gave us through him. *Fr Paul*

A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION is an earnest desire to receive Holy Communion when you are unable to. St Padre Pio, even though he celebrated Mass every day also had the habit of making a spiritual communion a number of times throughout the day. Here is a form used by him and many other saints: **My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to possess You within my soul. Since I am unable at this moment to receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

PENTECOST NOVENA LINK: <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/novena-to-the-holy-spirit>

PLEASE KEEP CHECKING THE PARISH WEBSITE FOR UPDATES FROM ST MARY'S
www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk