



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 31st May 2020

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Psalter Week 1

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Today is **Pentecost Sunday** when we celebrate the unique event of the **Holy Spirit** coming down upon the Apostles and disciples in Jerusalem. They were filled with the Holy Spirit as He descended on them in **tongues as of fire**. Normally we celebrate this day with a big Parish Mass and much festivity, so I hope you are celebrating well in your homes. Pentecost also marks the completion of Easter and so the Paschal Candle will be removed from the Sanctuary.

St Paul says in today's Second Reading, "*No one can say 'JESUS is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit*" (1 Cor 12:3). This is true because faith is a gift of grace and the Holy Spirit moves our hearts and our wills to accept the truth of who JESUS is. In Baptism and the other Sacraments we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and Sanctifying Grace into our souls which is ordered to *our* becoming holy. But the Holy Spirit also operates in another way so as we help *other people* on the path to salvation. For example in today's First Reading the Apostles had the **gift of tongues** in which all their listeners heard them speaking in their own language so as they could be converted to the True Faith, and as a result 3,000 were baptised that day!

It could well be that the Holy Spirit wants to use you to touch the heart of someone who might otherwise be lost forever. Perhaps through your compassion or kindness God will heal somebody who is truly suffering. A few words of sound advice to a young person might help them find their true vocation in life. Or maybe our courage to stand up for our Faith will encourage someone else to play some major role in society or in the Church.

When the Polish Pope **St John Paul II (Karol Wojtyla)** was a young man, there was a mystic by the name of **Jan Tyranowski** living in his parish in Krakow, Poland. Following the arrest by the Nazis of many Polish priests, Tyranowski (a layman) was asked to found a group for the young people called the **Living Rosary**. At first he objected because he had no skills in dealing with young people and was not a good speaker, but the priest told him not to worry and that Our Lord would guide him. Many thought Tyranowski a little odd because he had a strange appearance, a high-pitched voice and a rather intense manner. But nevertheless, he had a huge influence and led many of this group of over a hundred to a much closer relationship with Christ. He had a great concern for all of them and began to direct some of them individually including Karol Wojtyla with whom he became good friends. Wojtyla, at the time, wanted to be an actor. Well, eleven of them became priests and one of them a Pope and a canonised Saint. As

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MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat	30 th	6.00pm	Dale Morrison RIP
Sun	31 st	<u>PENTECOST SUNDAY (Solemnity)</u>	
		9.00am	Stephen Merriman RIP
		11.00am	For the Parish
Mon	1 st	<u>Mary, Mother of the Church (memoria)</u>	
		9.15am	Anne Fahey RIP
Tues	2 nd	9.15am	Intention for the living
Weds	3 rd	9.15am	Alison Fahey RIP
Thurs	4 th	<u>Our Lord JESUS Christ, Eternal High Priest (Feast)</u>	
		9.15am	Intention for the living
Fri	5 th	9.15am	First Friday – For our deceased relatives & friends
Sat	6 th	9.15am	Stanley Bell RIP
		6.00pm	Intention for the living
Sun	7 th	<u>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (Solemnity)</u>	
		9.00am	Antonietta Acierno RIP (Anniversary)
		11.00am	For the Parish

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 online edition of the newsletter.

PLEASE PRAY for those who have recently died: Fr Richard Adam, Anna Krauze, Anna Pelosi and Stephen Merriman. **May they rest in peace.**

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Giovanna Palmieri, Vito Caruso, Lucy Peck, Jean Clarke, Peggy Burgess, Andrew Derby, Ryszard Stabik, Hilda Faulks, Edward O'Sullivan, Pasqualino Cassello, Maureen Connell.

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Pope, Wojtyla was one of the most influential figures of the Twentieth Century. He had a massive influence on the Church and the world and played a vital role in the collapse of the Iron Curtain. Fr Mieczyslaw Malinski, one of the eleven who also became a priest said, *"I can safely say that if it wasn't for Tyranowski, neither Wojtyla nor I would have become priests. If I hadn't become a priest, perhaps it wouldn't have made so much difference, but if Wojtyla hadn't become a priest...!"*

The Holy Spirit can work wonders through us if we allow Him. We might be a link in an important chain. All we need to do is spend some time in prayer with Him each day asking Him to guide us and work through us. We can't do anything on our own but we can do much through His power. This is the good news of Pentecost. Veni Sancte Spiritus!

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

ON RE-OPENING THE CHURCH FOR PRIVATE PRAYER: You may be aware that the Government and a multi-faith Task Force is in the process of considering the re-opening of churches and other places of worship. Although the guidance is not yet clear, and in the case of Catholic churches, has not yet been reviewed by the Bishops' Conference, there have been indications that initially some churches will be able to open for private prayer only, conditional on these churches introducing appropriate safety measures and strict protocols for those who will be allowed to enter. There will have to be a limit on the numbers entering the church, designated single-directional walkways, minimal social distancing, both when seated and whilst moving inside the church, the provision of hand-sanitising materials and some marshalling. The holy water fonts will have to remain empty and the WCs will have to remain closed. These measures will almost certainly be mandatory, but we do not know whether there will be additional advisory measures. **It would be very helpful to the Parish if we could have some assistance in modifying the Church for the day when it can be re-opened.** The over 70s may not be able to assist in this. Moreover, those who are under any restrictions under the developing track and trace rules will also be prevented from participation in any preparations to re-open the Church. I would be very grateful if parishioners who would be willing to provide some practical help in preparing for the Church to re-open could kindly contact me. Thank you.

Fr Paul

ORGAN DONATION - PRESUMED CONSENT: The law has recently changed on organ donation to a presumed consent, unless you have specifically opted out. The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have issued a statement here: www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/04/Organ-DonationGuidelines-Feb-2020.pdf. And there is guidance for Catholics here: www.cbcew.org.uk/organ-donation-guidelines-200520/

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.

ROSARY RALLY TODAY: In response to the Pope's request that we pray the daily Rosary in the family particularly during this month of May, a Rosary Mission has been arranged. Monsignor John Armitage, Rector at the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham, has invited each diocese to take part in a simple initiative – a Rosary Relay. We have been asked to encourage you to pray the Rosary either individually, or where possible in small family groups, during a designated hour. The Diocese of Nottingham has been asked to pray the Rosary at **10am today, 31st May**, Pentecost Sunday. Let us all make an effort to join in this, imploring God's mercy in this time of world crisis.

Fr Paul

MASS BY PHONE: You can hear Mass from Middlesbrough Cathedral by phone. You just dial the number 01642130120 which should be the cost of a local call and you hear Mass over the phone. You can access the Mass at any time. Useful for those who have no internet connection.

FROM THE SAINTS: “The breath of the divine life, the Holy Spirit, in its simplest and most common manner, expresses itself and makes itself felt in prayer. It is a beautiful and salutary thought that, wherever people are praying in the world, there the Holy Spirit is, the living breath of prayer” (*Pope St John Paul II, 1920-2005*).

PLEASE KEEP CHECKING THE PARISH WEBSITE FOR UPDATES FROM ST MARY'S

www.stmarysloughborough.org.uk