

St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

PENTECOST
SUNDAY

NEWSLETTER

The Breath of God, His life in us

We all like spectacular fireworks. They are exciting, impressive, exhilarating. The Church's **first Pentecost** had some **spectacular** fireworks. The Apostles, Our Lady and other Christians were gathered "in one place together". We don't know exactly where. Probably it was somewhere inside or near the Temple in Jerusalem, since right after the fireworks, crowds started to gather. It may have been the same large room where Jesus and the Apostles had eaten the Last Supper. But they were all in one place, and then a **thunderous noise** like a strong wind, like a tornado, came from the sky. And then **flames** appeared. Flames of fire just appeared **out of nowhere**, spontaneously, **hovering in the air**. And these flames **divided up** and started **floating** through the air until they came to rest on each of the people gathered. But the fireworks didn't stop there. All of a sudden, the Christians started speaking in **languages that they didn't know**. A crowd had gathered by now, with visitors from **all over the world** who were in Jerusalem for the festival. Each one heard those first Christians explaining the gospel in their **own** language.

It was a **dramatic**, spectacular display.

But we would be wrong to conclude from this that the Holy Spirit's **normal way** of acting in our life is through **dramatic fireworks**. In fact, **it's just the opposite**. God's action in our life is most often **gentle and hardly perceptible** at first but the results can be **life changing**. St John in his Gospel tells us Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to his Apostles by **breathing on them - quietly and subtly**. And St Paul describes the action of the Holy Spirit in the Church like the **soul of a body** - powerful, essential, but **invisible and subtle**.

The Holy Spirit works quietly. Like the sap of a **vine**, which constantly but silently carries nutrients to every branch, invisibly producing luscious, visible fruit and effects. The Holy Spirit is always **gently inspiring us** to follow Christ more closely, so that we can experience a **truly abundant life**. But, unlike vines, this process doesn't happen **automatically** in us. It depends partly on our **free choice**. That's why Jesus says in the Gospel, "**Whoever loves me will keep my word.**" We don't obey the Holy Spirit's inspirations like **robots**; we obey **out of love and the Holy Spirit comes to help, equip and strengthen those who love and obey Jesus**.



St Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

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Served by the Rosminians

Parish Priest

Fr Paul Gillham, IC

Assistant Priest

Fr Simon Giles, IC

On attachment

Fr David Jones, OLW

Parish Catholic Schools

St Mary's Primary

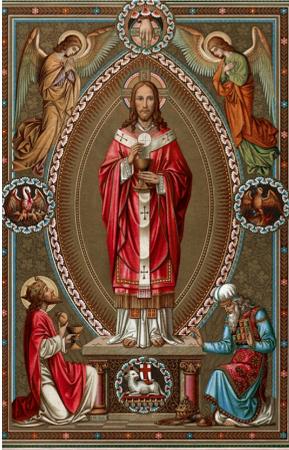
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Headteacher: Dr J F Pye



MASS INTENTIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sat 22nd

6.00pm Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 23rd Pentecost Sunday (Solemnity)

9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am Gordon Henry Mee RIP (Anniv) – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

Mon 24th Mary, Mother of the Church (Memoria)

9.15am Intention for the living – PUBLIC MASS

Tues 25th

9.15am Private Intention (KK)

Weds 26th

6.30pm Hugh Brendan Mead RIP (Latin) – PUBLIC MASS

Thurs 27th Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest (Feast)

9.15am Intention for the living

Fri 28th

6.30pm Mary Pitchford RIP – PUBLIC MASS

Sat 29th

9.15am Keith Newton RIP (Anniversary)

10.30am **Private prayer with Exposition of the**

Blessed Sacrament with Confessions 10.30-11.30am

6.00pm Rogelio Gunhuran RIP (Anniversary) – PUBLIC MASS

Sun 30th The Most Holy Trinity (Solemnity)

9.00am For the Parish – PUBLIC MASS

11.15am Family Intention – PUBLIC MASS

4.00pm Italian Mass – PUBLIC MASS

There will be another Pastoral Letter from Bishop Patrick this Sunday.

Veni Creator Spiritus: You may gain a Plenary Indulgence today (Pentecost Sunday) by devoutly reciting or being present at the public singing of the Veni Creator, or in English, Come Holy Ghost Creator come. The usual conditions of Confession, Holy Communion and praying for the Pope's monthly intention by saying an Our Father and Hail Mary apply. If one does not fulfil all the conditions the Indulgence is partial. You may gain it for yourself or for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Fr Paul

Please pray for those who have recently died
May they rest in peace

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time

Giovanni D'Amato
Noreen Glendon
Winnie Culley
Tadeusz Misiura
Barbara Finch
Eamon Johnston
Monica Davison
Rev Sr Mary Agatha
Beryl Ward
George Scrivens
Gordon Henry Mee

Continued from front page

And since the Holy Spirit typically works quietly, we have to pay **close attention** to Him. We have to make a **point** of listening to Him, of **consulting** Him when we have decisions to make or doubts to resolve or needs to address. Listen to His voice in the teaching of the Church and the Holy Scriptures, the voices of the Saints, and the silence of our souls.

**Breathe on us breath of God and make our hearts your home.
Help us love Jesus and may our love show.**

Fr David Jones, OLV

Congratulations to our 28 youngsters who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Patrick on Friday night. May the Holy Spirit embolden them so that nothing may deter them from giving public witness to Christ and the Gospel. Thank you to Fr David and the catechists who helped prepare them under very difficult circumstances.

Fr Paul

Updated Covid Guidance for Public Worship: New guidance has been issued by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. Face masks should still be worn and hands sanitised on entry. Congregational singing is still not permitted. However, Holy Communion is now permitted on the tongue, but those wishing to receive on the tongue should come up at the end. We will now restore the reception of Holy Communion within Mass but it remains under one kind only. The Sign of Peace is still omitted. Bidding Prayers may be re-introduced. The times of public Masses will remain unchanged at this point. Please continue to follow social distancing rules. Pre-booking online and signing-in for NHS Track and Trace also remain in place.

Fr Paul

Mass Intentions: If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date or weekend, you would be well advised to book at least 3 or 4 months in advance to avoid disappointment. The suggested diocesan offering is £10.

Fr Paul

The Word and the Common Good: Join Catholics from around the Diocese for an interactive online course over six Monday evenings from **7th June at 7.00pm**. As life starts afresh after lockdown: **discover** how Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching can help us seize this moment and build a society that reflects God's Kingdom; **build bridges** following a year of social distancing and foster a new 'culture of encounter'; **form new friendships**, renew old ones, and help to build our parish communities for mission. Visit dioceseofnottingham.uk/here-now-us for further details and to book your place.

Year of St Joseph



Application forms for this year's First Holy Communion are now available in the church and must be returned by **Sunday 30th May at the latest**. No applications will be accepted after this date as classes need to commence very soon after.

Fr Paul

The Food Bank

continues to operate at John Storer House and the next collection will be on Saturday **5th June** 10.30 to 11.00am. As usual we will be in the car park with masks and gloves. Suggested items for donations are washing machine liquids (medium sized bottles), shower gels, soaps, shampoo, cleaning materials, tea bags, instant coffee (medium and small jars) drinking chocolate, long life milk, along with the usual treats of chocolate and plain biscuits. Thank you once again.

Jane Monaghan

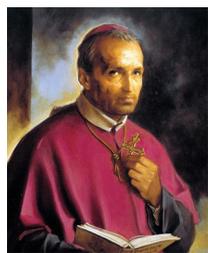
Prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life

- 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.

Gift Aid: New boxes of numbered envelopes for UK tax-paying parishioners will be available at the back of church for all Masses during the weekends of **16th & 23rd May**. Please remember to take your box. If anyone else would like to join this scheme please complete one of the yellow forms & drop it into the collection or church post box. All gift-aiders will receive their annual letter, either directly or by post. Our G/A income continued to earn an extra £11k last year. Any member of our congregation currently paying UK tax on their income could easily join this effective form of fundraising. Please help to reduce the slump in our regular collection income that the lockdowns have caused, complete one of the yellow forms at the exit points or Repository & drop it into the collection or church post box. Thank you.

Geoff Mercer



From the Saints

"Let us thank God for having called us through the Holy Spirit to this holy faith. It is the greatest of gifts, and the number of those who thank Him is small."

St Alphonsus Liguori (1696–1787)

Pre-booking places for Mass:

Online bookings can be made on the diocesan website at <https://massbooking.uk>. Telephone bookings can be made by calling **07554 603972** **Tuesday or Wednesday 2pm – 4pm** or **Thursday and Friday, 5pm – 7pm**.

Please do not phone the Presbytery. Due to the higher demand at weekend Masses, a pre-booked seat is not guaranteed if you arrive after Mass has begun. May I take this opportunity to remind you that the Sunday obligation is still suspended, and therefore I would encourage some of you to take advantage of attending Mass during the week if possible to help ease the numbers at the weekend. Thank you.

Fr Paul

Last Week's Finance

Collection: £781, of which £187 was gift-aided

World Communications Day: £199

Standing orders: £819 @30/04, of which £717 was gift-aided

Mass attendance: 244
