

GARDENING: LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH As new life emerges in the natural world, our beautiful grounds need more work to keep them as lovely as they are. Our small team of gardeners need your help. No experience is needed. A sense of humour and working knees would be useful. Meet at 10am on the last Saturday of each month.

REQUEST FOR READERS We are looking for more people to read the readings and bidding prayers at Sunday mass. If you would be willing to help – please contact Mary Doran or Joe Naylor.

PARISHIONERS WHO ARE UNWELL If you would like the parish to pray for someone who is currently unwell, please email news@stfrancisgoosnargh.org.uk or ring Father Sony on 01772 865229. It will be then be included in the newsletter. We have an area in church where you can write a prayer intention on a card and hang it up if you prefer it not to go on the parish newsletter.

CHURCH DONATIONS With many people still unable to attend church we still need to maintain an income for maintenance. There are several ways you can still make your contributions including by cheque or direct debit. For details please go to the church website or contact Tom Smyth on 017722 865689.

Attendance and Collection

Sunday 9 May – 36: £106.00

Cycle of Prayer During Easter

We pray for: New members of the church; The Church, especially at Pentecost.

Feast Days this Week: Monday: The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; Tuesday: St Bede the Venerable; Wednesday: St Philip Neri; Thursday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest; Saturday: St Paul VI.

Letter and Prayers from Pope Francis: Pope Francis is asking for people to say the rosary in the month of May to bring an end to the pandemic. A letter giving further details and special prayers is available at the back of church.

Daily Mass live at 9.30am from St Clare's in Preston can be accessed on their YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch/>



St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter

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**In case of emergency (and unable to contact Father Sony) please ring
Father Dutton on 01772 782641 or Canon Doyle on 01772 782244**

PENTECOST

23 May 2021 (Readings: Year B)

Parish Mission Statement

Our Parish, guided by the example of our patron St Francis of Assisi, seeks to be a welcoming Catholic Community, by living, sharing and growing in faith. We strive to deepen our own relationship with Christ and meet the needs of others.

Mass today is for the people of the parish. Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially Thomas Gornall.

Church is now open again for Sunday mass at 10.30am. **Please only attend mass if you feel safe to do so. The dispensation for Sunday mass is still in place.**

SAFETY RULES FOR MASS

Stewards will be on duty to ensure that safety procedures are followed. Full details are on our website. Please do read them. **Face masks will need to be worn** as specified by the government. **Please follow these guidelines once entering church:**

* **Sanitise hands** on entry.

* Please do **keep your distance** – use the high visibility tape on floor as a guide.

- * Place your collection on the collection plate **as you enter**.
- * Please take a mass sheet & newsletter on entry and **take them away when you leave**.
- * At Holy Communion (given in silence):
Please wear a mask as you go up the aisle to communion and remove their mask before they receive the sacrament.
People from upstairs will go first down the right-hand side and return down the opposite aisle to maintain social distancing.
People on the right-hand side will then receive Holy Communion, followed by people on the left-hand side – guided by the stewards.

BIDDING PRAYERS

From next Sunday bidding prayers will be read out weekly at mass.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit. May that same spirit be present and alive within us as we offer our prayers to you today.

This Pentecost, we pray for Pope Francis and all church leaders. May God's Spirit help them to do God's work here on earth as they continue to inspire and encourage people to discover the presence of God in their lives – especially in these challenging times. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray that the conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis will swiftly come to an end before many more people lose their lives. May those in positions of power make compassionate decisions to prevent the killing of many more innocents. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

As we celebrate Pentecost let us reflect upon the Holy Spirit in our own lives and find time to commit ourselves to talking to God. We look forward to a time when members of our congregation who are self-isolating, feel safe and ready to return to celebrate the real presence of the Lord in the Eucharist. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Loving Lord, may your love and compassion be constantly with us as we face the week ahead, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

In my article last week, I wrote about St Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes. Lourdes, once a small village in the south of France, has now become one of the largest Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world. Each year four to six million pilgrims from around the world visit the shrine and it is

estimated that more than 200 million pilgrims have visited Lourdes since 1860. Our own Lancaster diocese organises a pilgrimage each July to Lourdes, but last year, and again this year, this has had to be postponed because of the Covid-19 virus. The pilgrimage has now been rescheduled for 22 July 2022. However, the diocese hopes to be able to host a Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage in July this year. If you are interested in joining in, or for more information, please visit the pilgrimage website at www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk. Until then, Bishop Swarbrick asks that, "We pray for all our Lancaster Lourdes family, the wider Diocese and indeed the World, as we continue to face substantial loss and pain. In particular, may we petition the prayers of our Mother of Mercy, health of the sick, comforter of the afflicted and patroness of our Diocese: Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us."

Before the pandemic, you may occasionally have noticed one of the Across Jumbulance ambulances, driving along our roads and motorways. The Across Trust organises pilgrimages to Lourdes for those needing special care. People who are sick and disabled (whom the Trust call VIPs) are taken to Lourdes, accompanied by a doctor, nurses, a priest and helpers, by this unique vehicle which has full ambulance status. The vehicles are specially constructed to carry those in terminal illness, those with progressive diseases and those whose medical conditions make it impossible or impractical to use conventional means of transport. Each vehicle contains 7 hospital beds, 18 sleeping chairs, comprehensive medical supplies, oxygen, resuscitation equipment and a hydraulic lift. They have a fully fitted kitchen, a disabled toilet and changing facilities. The Across Trust took delivery of a new Jumbulance in 2017, it cost £400,000, and is dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes; the 2012 vehicle is dedicated to Saint Bernadette. Each vehicle will clock up around 1 million miles during its 10 years of service, but it costs £100,000 to keep one Jumbulance on the road for one year. The Trust relies heavily on donations and sponsorship, and in 2017 it signed a five-year branded sponsorship agreement with the English Premier Football League, a testament to how highly the Trust is regarded. In addition, all volunteers and medical staff are required to pay their own fares and accommodation costs.

The Jumbulances usually operate from March to September but have not been running since 2019. During the winter months one of the vehicles is normally parked in a secure setting at Fulwood Barracks, Preston. We pray that the vehicles will soon be back in operation and that Lourdes will once again welcome pilgrims to its Holy Shrine.

Mike Bryan

First reading

Acts 2:1-11

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. ‘Surely’ they said ‘all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.’

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103(104):1,24,29-31,34

Second reading

Galatians 5:16-25

If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy,

peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires. Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

Sequence

Veni, sancte Spiritus

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.
Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure
Come, thou light of all that live!
Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow
Thou in toil art comfort sweet
Pleasant coolness in the heat
Solace in the midst of woe.
Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:
If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay
All his good is turned to ill.
Heal our wounds, our strength renew
On our dryness pour thy dew
Wash the stains of guilt away:
Bend the stubborn heart and will
Melt the frozen, warm the chill
Guide the steps that go astray.
Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:
Give us comfort when we die
Give us life with thee on high
Give us joys that never end.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:26-27,16:12-15

The Spirit of truth will lead you to the complete truth

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘When the Advocate comes,
whom I shall send to you from the Father,
the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father,
he will be my witness.

And you too will be witnesses,
because you have been with me from the outset.

‘I still have many things to say to you
but they would be too much for you now.
But when the Spirit of truth comes
he will lead you to the complete truth,
since he will not be speaking as from himself
but will say only what he has learnt;
and he will tell you of the things to come.

He will glorify me,
since all he tells you
will be taken from what is mine.
Everything the Father has is mine;
that is why I said:

*All he tells you
will be taken from what is mine.’*

HOMILY: Pentecost 2021

Acts 2:1-11; 1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20: 19-23

I think that you need the gift of tongues to be able to pronounce the various nations who heard the Pentecost proclamation: Medes, Elamites, Phrygians, Cappadocians, Cretans, and so on. I remember at the Diocesan Youth Centre a young man wading valiantly through all the names and being rewarded with a round of applause.

What is the gift of tongues? At Pentecost it was, it seems, a miraculous gift of spontaneous translation, by which the various language groups all heard the preaching of the apostles in their own native tongue. Elsewhere in the New Testament it appears to have a different meaning which I have never been able to fathom, but which has influenced the Charismatic Renewal.

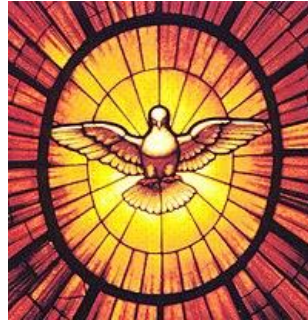
The Charismatic movement has exerted considerable influence within the Church during the last half century or so, though I have to confess that it has never appealed to me. Exuberance is not generally part of my make up unless I am watching football or cricket, and my approach to worship is rather more staid. If I am expected to clap along to a hymn, my response tends to be to thrust my hands into the sleeves of my alb.

Consequently, I am relieved that the Pentecost liturgy always includes the Gospel of Easter Sunday evening, despite the confusion which this sometimes causes. I am more comfortable personally with the gentle Easter Sunday bestowal of the Holy Spirit than with its more spectacular Pentecost manifestation.

What happened on Easter Sunday evening? The risen Christ appeared to the frightened apostles in the Upper Room and breathed the Holy Spirit into them, giving them the power to forgive sins, and preparing them for their mission. Thus, their fears were banished; they were made ready for more encounters with the risen Lord; and they were enabled to enter that period of intense prayer, in company with Our Lady, which had its fulfilment in the Pentecost event.

There is more than one way in which the Holy Spirit comes upon us and into us. The apostles encountered the Holy Spirit in these two profoundly different manifestations--in the gentle breathing of Easter, and in the powerful wind and flame of Pentecost—for two different purposes.

We too will receive the Spirit in different ways at different times. Indeed, we have already done so, or we would not be reading the Scriptures and attempting to explore their meaning. As St. Paul writes to the Corinthians,



“There is a variety of gifts, but always the same Spirit...The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose”.

It has sometimes been claimed, often with a degree of cynicism, that the Holy Spirit has been the forgotten member of the Holy Trinity. If there is truth in that statement it is largely because the Holy Spirit is difficult to envisage. We have pictorial minds, with which we can form a limited image of the Father (we know what a father looks like) and of the Son (we know what a son looks like, and we probably have a definite mental picture of THE SON) but the only physical manifestations of the Holy Spirit have been as a dove, a rushing wind, and tongues of flame: it is difficult to relate to a blast of wind.

I believe though that there is more fiction than reality in our alleged neglect of the Holy Spirit. We have always made the Sign of the Cross, invoking all three persons of the Trinity, and we have done the same in the “Glory be...” Meetings and gatherings have always begun with the prayer to the Holy Spirit (“Come Holy Spirit...”) and in the Infants I learned to belt out all the verses of “Come Holy Ghost”, admittedly not always accurately: “Thy sacred wing” became “thy Saint Credwing” and I heard “ne’er decays” as “Mary’s case” fixing in my mind a picture of Our Lady sitting on her suitcase, awaiting the arrival of the taxi which would take her to the station at the beginning of her holiday.

So, the Holy Spirit has always been part of our life in Christ. Had that not been so, as St. Paul points out, we would have no such life. Whether spectacularly as at Pentecost, or gently as on Easter Sunday, the Spirit has come and does come to us. Let us pray today for a deeper awareness of the Spirit’s presence.