

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

PENTECOST (Whit) SUNDAY (a)
May 31st 2020



PRAYER IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Come Holy Ghost creator come!

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PENTECOST SUNDAY (A)

Psalter Week 1

Introduction: *Christ keeps his promise and sends the Holy Spirit to enliven the Church.*

First Reading: Acts 2 : They were filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues.

Resp Ps: Send forth your Spirit O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Second Reading : 1 Cor 12 : In the one Spirit we were all baptised.

Gospel : Jn 20 : "Receive the Holy Spirit".

MASS INTENTIONS

The following Mass intentions have been handed in.
It is my intention to honour these requests in due course,
respecting where possible any wish for a particular date:
Alfred Latimer RIP, Basil Ellison, C&M Holtom RIP (fam)

My thanks for your kindness in requesting Mass Intentions

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:

Mary Perry, Peter James, Adrian McHugh, Fr John Cairns, Cn Michael Moore, Pauline Anderson, Eileen Berry, Phillippa Phillips, Monica Krommendijk, Una Wilkinson, Nella Lewykyj, Evelyn Matthewman, Neil Appleton, Alice Canning, Dorothy Yarwood.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time : Frs Paul Klee, Neil McLaughlin, Frank Gavin, Andrew Murdoch; Roger Butler, Tony Atherton, Peter Bolton:

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, may they rest in peace. Amen

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.*

*O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations,*

Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND - fifty days since Easter Day, we reach the end of Paschaltide & Ascensiontide—and journey into Whitsuntide. Pentecost Sunday invites us to keep company with Our Lady and the apostles as the tongues of flame, as the window-shaking wind of the power of the Holy Spirit enkindles them, and us, with the fire of God's love. We celebrate the birthday of the church universal. When you go to your Mass-stream, you'll find the celebrant in red vestments—denoting fire & force and dynamism. Yet Whit has the connotation of the white garb worn by the Easter-baptised, as they are Confirmed. Customarily on this day our Bishop would celebrate High Mass in his cathedral, and Confirm those who presenting for that great sacrament. Sadly not so this year.

Some might recall my curious idiosyncrasy of offered Mass-goers a basket of the Spirit's Gifts & Fruits. On the elephant table those who chance by will find a few this year. Take one, and unwrap the gift the Father may wish to give you. This year I hope to pick up any of these much-needed virtues : forbearance, perseverance and hope. And maybe understanding too!

On Monday we journey into June, the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. May he comfort those heavy of heart, broken-hearted and even those with cardiac curiosities.

FATHER DANIEL offers this reflection : We can say that Pentecost is one of the most important festivals in the Church calendar, second only to the Sacred Triduum. It was certainly a glorious occasion, and although our celebration this year will be somewhat limited, we can still open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. We sometimes hear about the dignity of our Baptism. For those of us who are confirmed, how often do we reflect on the dignity of this sacrament? It is not simply a rite of passage, but a wonderful outpouring of the Sacred Spirit.

The images we find at Pentecost are wind and fire. The effects of the wind can be seen, but not the wind itself. The wind turbines we see dotted around can achieve incredible speeds, yet the force creating this energy is invisible. Fire provides light and heat. It is dynamic, never still. It invites communion: we only need think of campfires. It is unpredictable. Furthermore, it is a force to be respected and taken seriously; certainly not to be treated lightly. We too must never forget the awesome power of the Spirit.

At the moment, we are facing an invisible enemy in the virus. It sows illness, death, and keeps people apart. At this Pentecost, let us renew our love for our invisible friend: the Divine Spirit. He brings about spiritual health, life, and communion. Although we cannot gather as parishes to celebrate this great festival, our communion remains undiminished.

Come, Holy Spirit!

SAINTS ALIVE Amongst the celestial galaxy this week : on Monday, Our Lady, mother of the church : how much our church needs her intercession these days; Wednesday finds us honouring the Ugandan martyrs, and maybe praying for Fr Porphyrius; Thursday we thank the Father for the gift of his Son—Christ the High Priest; Friday - St Boniface, who left Devon to evangelise the Germanic peoples; and St Norbert, founder of the Norbertine community of brothers and priests.

KINDLY PARISHIONERS occasionally bring church-collection to the rectory letterbox. Thank You! From time to time such offering may contain cheques. The bank is quite precise these days about payee-names. "St Charles church" or St Margaret's church" is perfectly and simply acceptable. And if you are setting up a BACS standing order or transfer, in the message box put HAD or BB or GAM. That's enough!

RESPONDING TO PASTORAL EMERGENCIES Fr Martin and Fr Daniel are taking turns at being the priest on call for 24 hours at a time. To ring the duty priest, at any hour of day or night, please phone the special number: 01457 620272. You will hear some information, then you can press a button on your phone to be connected automatically to whichever priest is on call.

ODDMENTS

- ◆ 'Magnificat' : ten copies have arrived and maybe picked from the porch table. Settlement when we are back together;

- ◆ *“My Day by Day” has also arrived, but only ten copies. Come & collect! Whoops! All gone already. Please message me if you want a copy and I’ll get them to the table poste haste.*
- ◆ *At 6.45am on Wednesday last, summoned dressing-gowned from my bed to answer the doorbell. A distraught dog-walker being pursued not by a cuckoo, but by Big Bessie the local porker. All three standing at the door. A more or less friendly word with the agitated dog-walker, and back to morning ablutions!*
- ◆ *Who said we have to stop our Thursday clapping? Was it ever an order rather than an appreciative idea?*
- ◆ *The evening b2b moment: this wondrous weather often finds be sitting outside at dusk, when birdsong and bird flight ceases, and batflight round the church tower swiftly replaces them. Bewitching!*
- ◆ *Psalm 84 v3 tells of swallows and sparrows making their nest ‘near your altars O Lord’. Blue tits and blackbirds and crows are busy feeding their fledglings all around St Charles. Swallows memorably find homes in the crevices of the mighty basilicas in Lourdes.*
- ◆ *A crowded table: the elephant table at the rectory front door has copies of the current newsletter, My Day-by-Day, and Magnificat. The adjacent letterbox is frequently used by folk who want Mass Cards, candles—and also for passing in the weekly collection envelopes & Mass intentions.*
- ◆ *Sad that the custom of Whitsun processions from the Manchester churches to Albert Square are no more; sad too that the local brass band contest, always held on Whit Friday, is unheard this year;*
- ◆ *In one of my local-area litter-sweeps I found an abandoned “Uncle Joe’s Mint Balls” sweetie bag. That day we had a message from the Bishop, which, inter alia reminded us of those priests celebrating significant ordination anniversaries this year. On Friday this week, 5th June my “uncle Joe” is celebrating his diamond jubilee. I still remember fragments of his ordination at St Kieran’s college in Kilkenny in 1960. Fr Joe Keogh : Happy Anniversary!*
- ◆ *BB/GAM tote winners recently were Bob McKeown and, God rest his soul, Philip Love.*
- ◆ *‘Grapevine’ is the name given to a new e-publication from the diocese. This has a well-presented series of articles, photos & information about all aspects of diocesan life. I do urge you to track it down. Incidentally, the “Catholic Herald” for which I have a subscription, has now become a monthly magazine (£8!) but a daily web-edition, full of world-wide Catholic news.*
- ◆ *The recent high winds caused the Rambling Rector rose outside my door to become detached from its frame and bow towards the rectory. And the Rambler within . .*
- ◆ *Schools back? Well, after a limited fashion from this week. Welcome back!*
- ◆ *The ordo tells me that I should return the Paschal candle to the baptistery now that Eastertide comes to an end. I have lit the Paschal candle every day, all day during this exile. I propose to keep the candles on the sanctuary and light them day by day until we are together. And then when we are together.*
- ◆ *The ever-resourceful DN invited me to get an app. This apparently would allow voice-recording onto my PC/Kindle. Then he invited be to put it to evangelical effect. Which I have done . . .*
- ◆ *Were it not for COVID the headlines might all be about drought. Who would believe it after the wettest autumn & winter. Remember 1976 and Dennis Howell, Minister for Drought? Days after his August appointment the heavens opened for weeks. Remember the 2003 drought, when there was a 60% increase in usual mortality rates for three months. Sounds familiar?*

AND FINALLY

The month of May comes to an end, and with it our May Devotions. But strangely the first day of June is dedicated to Mary Mother of the Church. We have four major anthems to Our Blessed Lady. The Easter anthem which we now put aside is Regina Caeli Laetare, which during these seven weeks replaced The Angelus. Entering into ordinary time on Monday, we sing Salve Regina (Hail Holy Queen); as Advent starts we sing Alma Redemptoris Mater; and from Candlemas in February to Holy Week we chant Ave Regina Caelorum. How sad it would be to lose these prayers to our Mother. I commend you to Hail Holy Queen at bedtime every day.