

# SAINT PATRICK'S CHURCH

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23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2021

THE SOLEMNITY  
OF PENTECOST SUNDAY

10.30am Parish Mass

*(The People of the Parish)*

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> May - The Blessed Virgin  
Mary, Mother of the Church

Tue 25<sup>th</sup> May - St Bede the  
Venerable, Pr, Dr of the Church

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> May - St Philip Neri, Pr  
11.30am May Marian Devotions  
*(with prayer for an end to the Pandemic)*  
12 Noon Mass

Thur 27<sup>th</sup> May - Feast of Our Lord  
Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> May - Weekday in OT

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> May - St Paul VI, Pope

30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

THE SOLEMNITY  
OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

10.30am Parish Mass

*(The People of the Parish)*

## LATEST NEWS

**THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST** After Easter Sunday and Christmas, today's solemnity ranks next in importance. Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Church: The Church was made manifest to the world on the day of Pentecost by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Spirit ushers in a new era in the "dispensation of the mystery" the age of the Church, during which Christ manifests, makes present, and communicates his work of salvation through the liturgy of his Church, "until he comes." (Catechism Catholic Church, #1076). Pentecost marks the culmination of the "Week of Weeks" which is the Easter Season. We mark it liturgically, singing the Pentecost Sequence (often called the "Golden Sequence") before the Gospel and the concluding dismissal with double alleluia as this is the *last day within* the Easter Season. The Paschal Candle is now kept with honour in the baptistery so that from its flame the candles of the baptized may be lit during their baptism. At funerals, the Paschal Candle is paced near the coffin to signify that Christian death is a true Passover. Ordinary Time resumes tomorrow with Week 8 and Cycle 1 for the weekday mass readings. Daily Prayer of the Church: Psalter Week 4 and the Angelus resumes.

**A WARM WELCOME TO DEACON STEPHEN CORRIGAN**  
Deacon Stephen will preach and 'deacon' at our Pentecost Mass today. Stephen is concluding his studies at St John's Seminary, Womersley and will be ordained priest by Bishop Declan in July. We wish him every blessing as he prepares for his priestly ordination.

**THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI** falls this year on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Weather permitting, we will celebrate our 10.30am Mass in the grounds, enabling a larger gathering and singing for this lovely feast! There will be Mass with procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction followed by refreshments. There will also be recommissioning of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion at Mass to serve for the next 12 months. As an EMHC, ministers assist the clergy in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass, may expose the Blessed Sacrament for adoration and some also take communion to the sick and housebound. We thank our EMHC for their service to our community particularly those who have served during the lockdown. If you would like to continue to serve for the next year, please email Fr Michael to confirm. Thank you.





**PENTECOST PASTORAL LETTER 2021** The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have issued a joint pastoral letter for Pentecost. It is available at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pastoral-letter-environment-pentecost/> The message of the letter concerns our Christian Faith and our relationship to the environment. The Bishop's letter concludes the Laudato Si week where Pope Francis has urged us to Care for Our Common Home by Listening to the Cries of the Poor and the Cries of the Earth.

**SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL MASS** From Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June (Corpus Christi) we are celebrating the Vigil Mass of Sunday again at 5.30pm for a trial period, as people begin to return to the celebration of the Eucharist. We look forward to welcoming back all who have been unable to come to Mass during the lockdown and to seeing old friends again. Places will be available on Eventbrite as usual.

**UPDATE ON PARISH COVID GUIDELINES** As you will be aware, Monday 17 May was the next step on the Government roadmap for reducing COVID-19 restrictions. The Bishops' Conference has updated its guidelines for parishes. It is important that as the two marker dates for step 3 and step 4 are reached, the general principles of creating a safe environment in places of worship and their ancillary buildings are not abandoned and all places of worship should always consider the prevailing local conditions for the virus. The Bishops have said that hand sanitiser must still be available for those entering churches and people are encouraged to use it, and that the wearing of face coverings, even if removed by law, remains at least for now (apart for those who are exempt.) Churches should continue to be ventilated and cleaning regimes continued. Safe social distancing will still be the norm. Indoor congregational singing is still prohibited, yet the use of small cantor groups and other small choirs is permitted. Outdoors the congregation may under given circumstances be able to sing. Stewards for liturgical celebrations are only needed for Sunday worship where there may be an oversubscription of the stated capacity of the church. There still needs to be a methodology for track and trace (QR Codes or Mass Booking systems). The physical exchange of a Sign of Peace remains suspended. Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind and the minister will continue to wear a face covering, although it is permitted to announce "The Body of Christ" for each communicant. Communion is recommended to be distributed in the hand, but if people wish to receive on the tongue, then they should wait until the end of the communion line and receive then. The Bishop's point out that Communion on the tongue exposes the minister's hand to their aerosol and increases the possibility of viral infection. Single Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals are now allowed with 30 people. Home visits can now take place by Priests, Deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and other volunteers, provided the Government guidance is followed. It is recommended that one morning and one afternoon visit is made in a day. (outside hospital and hospice etc chaplaincies who have infection control in place). The use of regular freely available Covid-19 home test kits is recommended for those doing pastoral visits, to ensure they are not potential vectors of infection to those who are sick and medically vulnerable. These can be obtained through [www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site](http://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site). For full detail of the Bishop's Guidelines see <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/> We are moving forwards, but let us remain safe.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)** As we gradually make a return to the Sacraments, we may wish to celebrate this sacrament of God's mercy. Fr Michael will be available to hear confessions after each Mass or by appointment. It is good to see people returning to this beautiful sacrament God's love.

**MUSIC AT MASS / ORGANIST/ KEYBOARD PLAYER** We have been fortunate to have some lovely music at Mass during lockdown, albeit recorded, as we have not been able to sing at Mass. We thank Guy and Ewan for their help each week with this ministry. When lockdown ends, we will gradually move back to singing the Mass, assisted by a group of Cantors. We are looking for an Organist/keyboardist to play for the Sunday morning Mass (Mass settings, Responsorial Psalm, Hymns & Antiphons) Sunday stipend negotiable with the possibility of extra wedding and funeral fees. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Fr Michael.

**THURSDAY EVENINGS WITH BISHOP BARON** We will restart our catechetical film evenings featuring Bishop Robert Baron on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June, starting at 7.30am in the hall (please arrive in time to start the film at 7.30pm) Episode: The Indispensable Men: Peter, Paul, and the Missionary Adventure. It doesn't matter if you missed earlier episodes, and you're not committing yourself to the remaining six either, as each episode stands on its own. Do come along and enjoy an evening together!



**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH IN CHINA** 23<sup>rd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May: In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI designated 24<sup>th</sup> May, the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians as an annual worldwide Day of Prayer for the Church in China. This year, Cardinal Charles Bo, President of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences, has called on the faithful to extend this to a Week of Prayer for the Church and people of China. Bishop Declan Lang, Chair of the Bishops' International Affairs department, is encouraging Catholics to take up Cardinal Bo's call to prayer for China. "I hope that Catholics in England and Wales may take up Cardinal Bo's call to mark this week with prayer for the Church in China and the peoples of China, asking Our Lady of Sheshan to protect them. "This is also an important time to pray for the Chinese community in our own countries and celebrate their important contribution to our society." See [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk) for more details.

**MAY PRAYERS FOR THE END OF THE PANDEMIC** Pope Francis is inviting Catholics across the globe to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative, behind which the Pope has thrown his support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world. It takes place under the theme "The whole Church was fervently praying to God," which recalls a verse in the Acts of the Apostles. See [www.vaticannews.va](http://www.vaticannews.va) for more details. As part of this initiative will pray the rosary and other Marian devotions in St Patrick's throughout the month of May before the Wednesday at 11.30am. It was lovely to see a good gathering again last week in response to the Holy Father's call.

**ACCOMODATION NEEDED** A lady is looking for a room in a shared house with other Catholics or a single flat to rent short term as early as possible as she begins a new job with the MOD in June. References etc available. Please contact Helen on [helenspostmail@gmail.com](mailto:helenspostmail@gmail.com)

**GIFT AID** Parishioners who support the Parish through Gift Aid are reminded that the personal tax allowance has increased to £12,570 for the year 2021-2022. If you no longer pay tax, or have changed address, please advise us. We greatly value your contributions and ask any parishioner who pays tax on earnings, occupational pensions etc to consider using Gift Aid. This increases your offering by 25% at no additional cost to yourself. Parishioners might also consider giving your offering by Standing Order. Thank you for your support.

**BOOKING FOR MASS** We are thankfully seeing a gradual return to Mass now that so many have been vaccinated. Mass is celebrated on Wednesday at 12noon and Sunday at 10.30am. Please remember that booking is still required to attend Mass to ensure right numbers for social distancing. We will increase the number of masses as the number of people booking rises. The booking link is: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-patricks-catholic-church-corsham-30646123644). If book and you later find that you do not require the place, please let us know or cancel it through Eventbrite to enable another person to come to Mass. Covid regulations mean that sadly we are still not permitted to sing as a congregation. Masks are required (unless medically exempt) Communion is given in one kind. Please observe the one-way system in Church: the car park door is for ENTRANCE only and the Bath Road door for EXIT only unless you have a disability. If we all observe these regulations, we help to keep everyone safe. Thank you.

**ACT NOW AND STOP DISABILITY ABORTION UP TO BIRTH IN NORTHERN IRELAND** Earlier this year the Northern Ireland Assembly voted on the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill and it passed Second Stage by 48 votes to 12. The Northern Ireland Health Committee is now undertaking a consultation on the Bill and is seeking submissions from the public. It is important that as many people as possible submit to the consultation in support of the Bill to clearly show that there is widespread support for this important change. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool on their website that makes it simple to complete your submission. You can do so by following the link below. It only takes 30 seconds! [www.righttolife.org.uk/nidisabilityconsultation](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/nidisabilityconsultation)

**WORTH ABBEY ONLINE RETREATS** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May: The Post-Covid World: Pope Francis' vision 'Let us Dream' led by Austin Ivereigh. For further information and to book your place online: <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats>

**SUMMARY OF POPE FRANCIS GENERAL AUDIENCE** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>. May 2021 Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer, we now consider some common difficulties we encounter in our practice of prayer. The first is distraction. Prayer, like study and work, demands concentration and mental discipline. This calls for our cultivation of the virtue of vigilance, by which we focus our lives on doing the Lord's will daily in expectation of his return. A second difficulty is the experience of spiritual aridity, moments of dryness when our hearts – as the Catechism teaches – have “no taste for thoughts, memories, and feelings, even spiritual ones” (No. 2731). The spiritual masters acknowledge that the life of faith involves times of consolation but also of desolation, when we share in the Lord's sufferings. A third difficulty is acedia or sloth, a form of spiritual fatigue that leads to the deadly temptation to abandon prayer altogether. The saints faced these same difficulties in their prayer and they teach us that true progress in the spiritual life comes about through daily perseverance, like that of Job who remained constant even amid his many afflictions. As we strive to grow in our own life of prayer let us ask for the grace of perseverance, confident that our loving Father will grant us, through the Son and in the Spirit, all that we need to draw us ever closer to him.

**CANDLE OF JUSTICE** Churches Together in England are calling on people to light a candle, pray for racial justice and commit to personal action at 12noon on 25th May 2021. Visit [www.cte.org.uk](http://www.cte.org.uk) for more details.

**RUH** If you or a loved one is going into the Royal United Hospital, please let the RUH Chaplaincy know on 01225 428331 or email [ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.chaplaincy@nhs.net)

## Saint Patrick's Community at Prayer



### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

**The Sick:** Coleen Milne, Tony Tredgett, Richard Keat, James Gallagher, Karen Lucas, Sheila Taylor, Christopher Brawl, Julia Wright, Pauline Feeney, John Hunt, Margaret Brown, Lindsay Price and Christopher. Pray for all suffering with Coronavirus, all in our hospitals, nursing homes and those who care for them.

**The Holy Father's May Prayer Intention:** The world of finance: That those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

**Day of Prayer for the Church (Pentecost Sunday)**

**Week of Prayer for the Church in China**

**Diocesan Prayer Link:** Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Charlton Kings.

**Christians in Corsham Prayer Link:** Corsham Baptist Community.

## May - Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary



*Devotion to Mary is an important part of the Catholic identity. As our mother she is an example of a committed “Yes” to the will of God. Because of the devotion to her many people ask her for help in the most difficult moments of their life as any child does with his mother. The month of May is one rich in tradition and a beautiful time of the year to honour our heavenly mother.*

O Mary, recall the solemn moment when Jesus, your divine son, dying on the cross, confided us to your maternal care. You are our mother, we desire ever to remain your devout children. let us therefore feel the effects of your powerful intercession with Jesus Christ. make your name again glorious in the shrine once renowned throughout England by your visits, favours, and many miracles. Pray, O holy mother of God, for the conversion of England, restoration of the sick, consolation for the afflicted, repentance of sinners, peace to the departed. O blessed Mary, mother of God, our Lady of Walsingham, intercede for us.  
Amen.

## A Prayer of Spiritual Communion



“My Jesus, I believe that You are really present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul. As I cannot receive you sacramentally now, come at least spiritually into my heart. And, as You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Let me never be separated from You.”

## An Act of Contrition



O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you: and I detest my sins most sincerely because they displease You, my God, who are so deserving of all my love for Your infinite goodness and most amiable perfections: and I firmly purpose by Your holy grace never more to offend You, to avoid all occasions of sin and amend my life. Amen.

I further resolve and promise to go to sacramental confession as soon as practicably possible.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday  
Mass of the Day



## First reading

Acts 2:1-11

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

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.'

The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm

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

*Send forth your spirit, O Lord,  
and renew the face of the earth.  
Or Alleluia!*

Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
The earth is full of your riches.

You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!  
May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
I find my joy in the Lord.

## Second reading

1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians*

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The word of the Lord.

### **Pentecost Sequence**

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. Amen.

### **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 20:19-23

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.  
For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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