**St Columba’s Church**

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**31st MAY 2020 – PENTECOST SUNDAY (YEAR A)**

Today, the end of Eastertide, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit who came not just to the disciples locked away in the upper room but for all of us. In today’s Gospel, the Spirit is portrayed as the breath of the risen Jesus Christ.

**DAILY MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA’S**

You can follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live at 10am every day on YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVyZ2Xpfs0NiuU3bxAjsCQ/live>

Mass is also live streamed at the same time on Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73986660636?pwd=UkJMZHQ0S1ZYUDdOR21MVkpYZElBdz09>

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

The Gloria is said.

**1st Reading: from the Acts of the Apostles**

**2:1-11**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 103:1,24,29-31,34**

**R: Cf v.30**

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

**2nd Reading: from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13**

The Sequence may be said.

**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**

**Communion Antiphon:** They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia!

**A MESSAGE AND REFLECTION ON SUNDAY’S READINGS FROM FR ROY**

We celebrate this Sunday the feast of Pentecost. It signifies the birth of the Church.

The Holy Spirit also means the beginning of a re-creation of our individual spirits. Birth in a sense that the Church begins its missionary activities.

The Holy Spirit recreated the followers of Jesus Christ – the apostles and disciples – and empowered them to carry their mission to the rest of the world.

This recreative power of the Holy Spirit is what we need today.

Everyone is saying that life after Covid-19 will never be the same again.

We can see that the events taking place all around us are a turning point. In fact we are experiencing the recreative power of the Holy Spirit.

Recreation does not just mean a new beginning: it also implies starting a new way of life. We shall more effectively celebrate the feast of the Holy Spirit if we link our lives more intensely to the teachings of Jesus Christ. We now recognise that our life before Covid-19 effectively rendered us helpless in the face of this crisis.

The Holy Spirit that inspired the followers of Jesus Christ is the one that we should now embrace.

The Holy Spirit, as the sign of the love between the Father and the Son, recreates us in love and sets us more firmly and effectively on the path to a higher destiny.

That destiny is God’s kingdom.

The pandemic has opened our eyes to the fact that the real wealth of life is found only in God.

As recreated disciples, we have been forcibly and dramatically reminded of our mission. It is embedded in our baptismal commitment.

We all have a responsibility to share the word of God; to spread it to every corner of the world.

This does not mean that, as missionaries, we must travel the world.

What it means is that, as missionaries, we must see every moment of our lives as an opportunity to witness to the life of Christ.

This is an extremely tough challenge.

Nonetheless, as beings recreated by the Spirit, we need constantly to bear it in mind. Whatever we do in life we carry the Holy Spirit within us; urging us to embody the teachings of Jesus Christ in the way we live, especially in the most difficult circumstances of our lives. Remember: entrance to heaven involves sacrifice.

But the motivating power of the Holy Spirit within us is, at one and the same time, an anchor keeping us safe, protected from all our fears; and a driving force enabling us to conquer the obstacles in our path – thus purifying our faith.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**  Fr Edmund Hartley and Fr Francis Hartley – may they rest in peace.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND NEEDY** Deacon John Letley, Joan Cunningham, John Davis, Noreen Lawlor, Sebastian Keen, Solveya La Marina, Chris Jones, Maria Reece, Margaret Bolton, Eddie Aldridge, Ellis Warburton, Mary Marks, Margaret Edwards, Jean-Claude Anthony, Ellen Everett, Maureen Coffey, Albert Khayyat, Grant Russell, James Patrick Guckian, Elizabeth Sensano and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish SVP group (St Vincent De Paul).

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sun: Pentecost

Mon: Mary, Mother of the Church

Tues: Feria or SS Marcellinus & Peter

Wed: St Charles Lwanga & companions

Thurs: Our Lord Jesus Christ, eternal high priest

Fri: St Boniface

Sat: Feria or St Norbert or Our Lady

Sun: The Most Holy Trinity

**THE LOCKDOWN: PUTTING A STRAIN ON YOUR MARRIAGE?**

Feeling the strain, as husband and wife, of these 10 weeks of lockdown? No wonder! An online session of ‘Building A Better Marriage’ during the morning of June 6 could work wonders. It takes no more than three hours in the comfort of your own living room and there is no group sharing. Email [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk) for more details.

**DO YOU HAVE A MASS INTENTION?** If you wish to have a Mass offered for a special intention, even though St Columba’s is currently closed you can still do so. Either email details of the intention direct to Fr Roy (address above) or write out the details and post or deliver them to the presbytery. The information needed is the name of the person for whom the Mass is to be offered and whether they are deceased and if there is a specific anniversary or if it is some other special intention; also the date on or near which you would like the Mass to be celebrated; plus your own name and phone number/email address.

* It is customary to make an offering to the priest when asking for a Mass to be celebrated for a special intention.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sun 31st 10am Online: Pro Populo

Mon 1st 10am Online: Liz Oliver RIP

Tues 2nd 10am Online: Holy Souls

Wed 3rd 10am Online: Revs Edmund & Francis Hartley RIP

Thurs 4th 10am Online: Holy Souls

Fri 5th 10am Online: Holy Souls

Sat 6th 10am Online Holy Souls

Sun 7th 10am Online: Ida Staples RIP

**HOT OFF THE PRESS: WHAT’S HITTING THE HEADLINES?**

It’s just arrived: the latest issue of Pilgrim, Southwark diocese’s very own newspaper. What is hitting the headlines? See for yourself by double clicking on this link:

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**FR ROY’S EASTER OFFERING: LAST CHANCE**

Just a reminder, as we reach the end of Eastertide, that there is still time to make your Easter offering to Fr Roy. Easter Sunday is one of only two occasions in the year when the collection at Mass is your personal offering to the parish priest. As the church was closed at Easter because of the coronavirus pandemic, we didn’t have any Masses. So no collection could be taken. But there is still time to make that offering. You can do it by dropping an envelope in at the presbytery (or posting it). Alternatively a payment could be made using online banking. For that you would need the parish bank account details: the sort code is 60-50-01, the account number 79124313. Give the reference Easter Offering.

**DON’T FORGET THE FOODBANK**

Calls on the Salvation Army’s Vine Foodbank at New Addington which we at St Columba’s have regularly supported over the years have increased significantly. Can you help? Phone Lesley Holland (07906 097473) to find out what they most need and how to give.

You can donate via:

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/newaddingtonsalvationarmy> | | |   **IN NEED OF PRAYERS?**  ***If you or anyone you know is in particular need of our prayers, let Deacon Philip know so that the name(s) can be included in the sick list.***  **CELEBRATING PENTECOST SUNDAY**  The Bishops’ Conference has provided some resources for parishioners to use for the celebration of Pentecost: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/focus/> They include the text of a Pentecost Novena: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/05/Pentecost-Novena.pdf>  **POPE FRANCIS’S PRAYER INTENTIONS**  The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for the month of June are: universal. We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.  **THIS NEWSLETTER: IS IT WORTHWHILE?**  Well, is it? We need contributions – comments, suggestions, experiences, even complaints and, yes, jokes too would be welcome – to make this online newsletter work. Do you find it useful? What else might we include in it? Is it worth continuing? Contact [Deacon Philip](mailto:kyrabarone@aol.com) (address above) with your response and reaction.  **HOSPITAL VISITS IN CROYDON**  General visiting is still very restricted at Croydon University Hospital. Families are allowed only one visit for no more than 15 minutes to patients at the end of their lives. The chaplaincy team provides care 24/7 to all patients in the hospital. If you know of anyone in the hospital that you feel will benefit from a visit by a priest email [Andrew.dovey@nhs.net](mailto:Andrew.dovey@nhs.net) or phone 0208 401 3105 or 07557 014 739  **PASSING ON THE FAITH TO YOUR CHILDREN**  This short online course is for parents wishing to encourage their children in the practice of their faith. And of course families can participate from the comfort of their homes. For more details email Lisette Blanchet-Ball on [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk)  **A LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER**  Our Archbishop, John, has written to the Prime Minister asking for churches to be allowed to open for private prayer. He points out that more than 80,000 people attend church for Mass each Sunday in our diocese of Southwark. ‘As restrictions have been lifted,’ he writes, ‘there is growing frustration that churches remain closed for private, individual, visits of prayer. This comes when restrictions on access to other “non-essential” facilities are being relaxed. For Catholics, access to church buildings is spiritually essential, something recognised by other Governments internationally.’ He concludes: ‘Respectfully, I believe that it is now time for churches to be allowed to open for individual visits for private prayer. Supervision and hygiene regimes can be put in place akin to those in supermarkets and any churches that cannot implement these would remain closed.’  **COVID-19: WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE IN THE THIRD WORLD?** |  | |  | | --- | |  | |

COVID-19 has hit many of the wealthier nations, affecting both health and economy.  However, those in less fortunate circumstances and in poorer countries are facing much worse: a humanitarian disaster.

There is a risk of families facing starvation with not enough to eat or without access to clean water.  Those living with HIV or other underlying health conditions will be particularly vulnerable to coronavirus whilst another major concern is the virus reaching refugee camps where the struggle for reasonable healthcare is already a matter for concern. CAFOD, the Catholic aid agency, are therefore expanding and adapting their programme to prevent the spread and reduce the risk of coronavirus in communities. Every step taken now to get food and clean water to families will help prevent deaths and reduce suffering. Those who would like to donate to the CAFOD Coronavirus appeal can do so here: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal>?

**LISTEN TO CARDINAL NICHOLS’ BBC INTERVIEW**

Cardinal Vincent Nichols was recently interviewed on the BBC Radio 4 ‘Today’ programme, to discuss how churches can be safely re-opened for private prayer as the UK government eases its lockdown restrictions. You can hear the interview by clicking on this link:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinal-on-safely-re-opening-churches-for-private-prayer/>

**CYCLE OF PRAYER DURING ORDINARY TIME AFTER EASTER**

* For a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews.
* For those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights.
* For human life
* For seafarers
* For Europe.