



REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested this weekend for the souls of the following whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Christina Heneghan; Kay O'Mahony; May, Mikey and Enda Hogan;
Dolores Sidwell; Harry O'Leary; Joseph & Jane Linnane;
Rosaleen Murphy;

MAY THEIR SOULS AND THE SOULS OF ALL THE FAITHFUL
DEPARTED THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD REST IN PEACE.
AMEN.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS

The amounts collected last weekend are:

DATE	GREEN BASKET	Share
16 th May 2021	€1,280	€785

The green basket is the collection for the support of the priests of the Diocese.

The white basket is the collection for Share, which meets the needs both of poorer parishes and of central agencies of the Diocese.

We thank you for your contributions to the Church collections and for your continuing support of all the collections.

A Prayer for Pentecost from the Irish Tradition

An spioraid naomh a bhraonadh
orm anuas as na Flaithis,
do mo chúnaigh is do mo mhaitheas,
chun m'urnaí a chur l'gceangal
ag cathaoir Rí na nDúl

The Holy Spirit falling like dew
falling upon me from the heavens
to help me and to prosper me,
to give my prayer binding force
at the throne of the King of Creation

WEEKLY **BULLETIN**



St. Mary's, Star of the Sea, Sandymount

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Sunday 23rd May 2021

Pentecost

This Sunday is the Great Feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and the Church was born. As we mark the birthday of the Church we pray especially for Pope Francis and the bishops of the world that they, together, may lead the Church in all nations in a way that is guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

The Feast of Pentecost, also known in Jewish culture as the Feast of Weeks, was celebrated seven weeks or 50 days after Passover. It was a pilgrimage Feast when devout Jews came to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate an agricultural festival of thanksgiving in May or June. It also coincided with, and allowed them recall, the giving of the covenant to Israel at Mount Sinai (and with it the 10 commandments) some six weeks into the escape from Egypt of Moses and his people. So the original Pentecost celebrated the Old Covenant of God and his people at Sinai.

For Christians this Feast was transformed by the gift of the Holy Spirit, fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus when a multinational crowd had gathered in Jerusalem for the Festival.

That first Pentecost after Jesus' death and resurrection was an extraordinary day in Jerusalem. The apostles were energised to reach out to people of many nationalities with the message of Jesus, the Saviour of all the nations. Reaction to the Spirit filled disciples speaking in tongues-ecstatic behaviour that looked like drunkenness to observers-prompted Peter's first sermon. He interpreted what was happening as a fulfilment of the signs of the last days as foretold by the prophet Joel. We're told that 3,000 were converted to Christ that day and the listing of the nationalities involved stretched from the

eastern part of the Roman Empire, Parthians, Medes and Elamites, all the way to Rome itself. The scene anticipates what was to become a reality. The broad reach of evangelisation has begun and will embrace all the nations. Even the Gentiles will become God's own people. It's a Pentecost far more momentous and wider reaching than the first Pentecost at Sinai.

'It is good that I go,' Jesus had said, 'because if I do not go, I cannot send the Holy Spirit to you.'

'What the Spirit brings is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Trustfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.' (2nd Reading today from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Galatia).

In the first Reading today we recall the events of Pentecost Day in Jerusalem, where 'there were devout men living from every nation under heaven.' One of the lovely features of parish life in Dublin today is the number of our fellow parishioners who have come to us from all around the world. We rejoice in their company and in the variety of culture and language across which the Spirit invites our unity and our united praise of God.

A Commentary on Today's Gospel: John 15: 26-27; 16:12-15

The role of the Spirit is to hold together and defend the Father, Jesus, and the disciples. His defence takes the form of testifying to the truth. This 'truth' is more than a correct account of Jesus' life by those who had been with him from the beginning. It is, rather, the understanding and relating of the truth about Jesus' relationship to the Father, to the disciples, to all who seek salvation and to the world.

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

He's conscious that the disciples have enough on their plate at present and he spares them 'knowledge' for the moment. So, the witnessing of the Spirit will unfold in time. It is a very person-centred approach in gifting them with the Spirit, who will guide them into the complete truth. It is a developmental pathway ahead.

I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit comes, he will lead you to the complete truth.

Nor will the Spirit work independently. He will tell them the 'things that are to come', things intimately to do with Jesus. The 'things that are to come' will glorify Jesus because they will be an ongoing understanding of his 'work'. The Spirit and Jesus work together in such a way that the two are one.

He will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learned 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.

At the same time, Jesus and the Father are one because whatever Jesus has, has come from the Father. As he said to Thomas, 'whoever has seen me, has seen the Father'.

Everything the Father has is mine;

That is why I said :

All he tells you

Will be taken from what is mine.

So, the coming of the Spirit is also the coming of Jesus and of the Father to us.

When is Confirmation Day this year?

The gift of the Spirit we celebrate in Confirmation. It is our Pentecost Day, a day of personal and communal welcome of the Spirit in our lives. With 81 young people looking forward to Confirmation Day in our parish, we hope it won't be too long before we can celebrate with them. The government haven't yet given permission for Confirmation or First Communion to be celebrated. At the end of this coming week the level of restrictions for June are to be announced. It may well be Autumn or late Summer before permission is given to celebrate Confirmation and later, First Communion. That's all we can say for the moment.

A great achievement at Star of the Sea School

Tomorrow will be a day of celebration at Star of the Sea School when our school opens a new ASD unit and welcomes new students. An incredible amount of work has been done by our principal, Mr Walshe, and the Board of Management to enable this to happen. It has taken place during what has been an already stressful time for schools during the Covid crisis. With a desire to integrate the new unit appropriately and without disruption to valued achievements in educational provision at the school, Mr Walshe and the Board have also submitted building plans to the Department for an appropriate development of the school that will facilitate that. The plans have been approved by the Diocese and we await a favourable outcome from the Department of Education. The parents of the parish are justly proud of our school. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr Walshe and to Ciarán O Murchú, who chaired our Board of Management until November last and to Sóna Mac Cinna who became our new chairperson and to all the board members. As volunteers on our behalf they have worked incredibly hard to achieve this milestone in the school's history and provision.

A unit for girls will also open later this year at Scoil Mhuire and the principal, Mr Cleary, along with the school board members, chaired by Josephine Henry, are working hard to meet all that's required to do so successfully. Our sincere thanks to everyone involved in these developments. We should be very proud of the achievements of our two parish schools. We are blessed to have two such excellent schools in our parish.