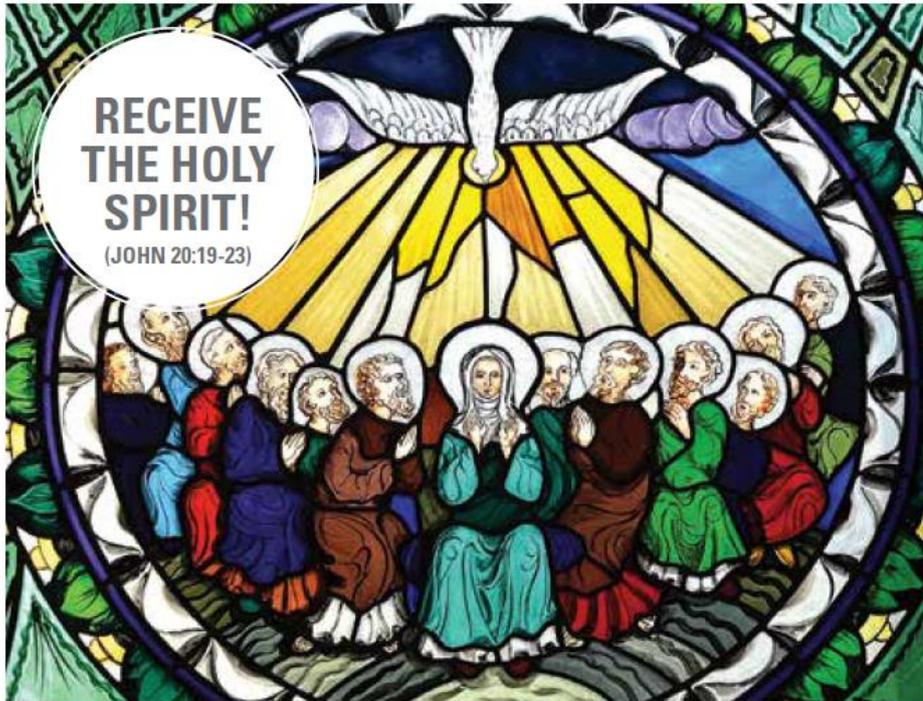


Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 1



**RECEIVE
THE HOLY
SPIRIT!**

(JOHN 20:19-23)

We hear today of the appearance of the risen Jesus to his disciples who are locked away in fear of the Jewish authorities. Although they have heard from Mary Magdalene about her experiencing the risen Lord, their faith is not yet complete: it is still tempered by anxiety and apprehension about their future.

Thomas, as we discover later, is not present at this event. Jesus' word to them is "Peace be with you." This is more than a simple greeting: it is the fulfilment of his promise about bestowing on them the gift of a peace the world cannot give and that they will have peace in him. The disciples are filled with joy, a sign that their faith is now complete: they have experienced the risen Jesus for themselves, an essential element in the narratives which establish authentic witnesses to the resurrection, which no one saw occur.

However, this peace and joy is not something to be kept within the circle of present disciples. Up to this point, they have had no share or part in the mission of Jesus. In the Fourth Gospel, Jesus does not give them any role in preaching or healing: for example, at the feeding of the crowds, it is Jesus who performs all the action, distributing the bread to those present. Now the disciples become apostles: they are to continue Jesus' presence and mission now that he is no longer with them physically, and for that task he breathes on them the Holy Spirit. ■

LEARN

Pentecost was one of the Jewish pilgrimage feasts celebrated in Jerusalem. It was originally a harvest festival, offering the first-fruits of the barley crop.

In Jewish practice, it became associated with God's self-revealing at Sinai during the Exodus and the giving of the Law.

The bishop's liturgical greeting "Peace be with you" comes from our Gospel extract today.

SAY

Come, Holy Spirit: transform me and the face of the earth.

REFLECT

With the feast of Pentecost, the Easter mystery reaches its fulfilment in Jesus' giving of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. We might remember that the Holy Spirit is at work in guiding the Church, the people of God today. One of the gifts of the Spirit is fortitude, perhaps better rendered as courage. Although we may pray that the leaders of the Church and we ourselves may be open to the promptings of the Spirit, it is not always evident that we are willing to listen when the Spirit seems to be nudging the Church in a direction away from the tried and familiar practices which we are used to.

The biblical Spirit is often portrayed as a power, as energy which drives and strengthens God's agents. It is not something safe or tame, which is why we may be afraid of where the Spirit may be leading us. The answers and practices of yesterday may have suited the questions and situation of the Church then; but the Church is the people of God: it is not the hierarchy; nor is it simply a human institution. It is, rather, a living organism, the body of Christ and its (or rather our) life-principle is the Holy Spirit. On this feast of Pentecost, we think how a small, frightened group of disciples was transformed into a courageous band of apostles who believed that they had a message for anyone who would accept it. We are that group today: we have been given the Holy Spirit. ■

DO

When you turn on a light, notice how the bulb or strip is transformed from something quite mundane into a source of light and heat. If you really allowed the Holy Spirit to influence you, you also could be transformed: would you be prepared to let that happen?



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast
sanctify your whole Church in every people
and nation,
pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit
across the face of the earth
and, with the divine grace that was at work
when the Gospel was first proclaimed,
fill now once more the hearts of believers.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
When Pentecost day came round, the apostles 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.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 103

Response:

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

or

Alleluia!

1. 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. (R.)
2. 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. (R.)
3. 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. (R.)

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.

Thanks be to God.

The sequence Veni Sancte Spiritus (Holy Spirit, Lord of Light) may be said or sung.

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.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that, as promised by your Son,
the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly
the hidden mystery of this sacrifice
and graciously lead us into all truth.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church,
safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given,
that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her
may retain all its force
and that this spiritual food
may gain her abundance of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon

1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 9am-12pm Monday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
We live stream most services (the 10.15am Mass on the first Sunday of every month is not live streamed).
Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office is closed until further notice. More information as we get it.

ROSARY RELAY RALLY: Pope Francis is encouraging Catholics to pray the Rosary in their family homes during the month of May, especially when the Pandemic is making us aware of the value of our families and making it possible for us to pray together in lockdown at home. He encourages simple Rosaries and joining online Rosary initiatives to pray to Our Lady for deliverance from Covid-19 and he has composed two prayers for this intention. These can be accessed on our website news page. The **Pentecost Sunday National Rosary Rally**, will run from 9.00am to 9.00pm across Scotland, England and Wales. **Our Diocese has been asked to pray a Rosary Hour at 12 noon this Sunday**, and you are invited to do this with others in our parish. Just email contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk to get the joining in link.

RCIA: The RCIA in Abingdon is there to help those adults who are thinking of becoming a Catholic or who are baptised Catholics but who have missed Holy Communion or Confirmation. There is an online meeting on **Monday 21st June at 7pm**, when you can have an informal discussion and find out more about how we welcome people into the Catholic Church. Please contact pehanley@hotmail.com for further details and the meeting link.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND: The local chairman of *The Friends of the Holy Land (FHL)* organisation says that, due to Covid-19, the usual fund raising events cannot take place. Meanwhile, the impact of the virus on Christians in the Holy Land is devastating as so many rely on the income from pilgrimages and tourists. The Charity has launched the FHL Pentecost Challenge to raise funds before Pentecost on 31 May. Three long standing supporters have pledged to match fund the first £100,000, so every £1 you donate will have the impact of £2. If you would like to donate, please do so using this link: <https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/pentecost-challenge>. Please be generous.

PENTECOST – 9th week of Ordinary Time **All these Masses are live streamed only**

Sunday 31 May (Pentecost Sunday)

10.15am Mass (James John Ryce, RIP)

Monday 1 June (The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church)

9am Mass (Pat Cox, RIP)

Tuesday 2 June

NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/thames-isis-pastoral-area for other masses

Weds 3 June (St Charles Lwanga & Companions)

7pm Mass (Vincent Collins, RIP)

Thursday 4 June (Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest)

9.30am Mass (Julia Rind, RIP)

Friday 5 June (St Boniface)

7pm Mass (Ann Goodwill, RIP)

Saturday 6 June

9am Mass (Celia Parker, Intentions)

FOODBANKS: The Foodbank at Northcourt Road is open on Tuesday and Friday Mornings. Donations can be brought there between 9.30 and 1.00 pm, and parcels can be collected between 11.00 and 1.00 pm. On Wednesday the South Abingdon Foodbank is open between 1.00 and 2.30 at Preston Road Community Centre.

You can either drop donations off at Northcourt Road **or** contact us to pick them up from your doorstep by emailing: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk

ABINGDON COMMUNITY FRIDGE: The Health & Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, is open each weekday 10.30 - 11.30 am. It distributes surplus food from supermarkets.

THE PRAYER AND LISTENING SERVICE:

Sometimes it is difficult to pray when we are exhausted or in stressful situations or by ourselves. The diocese is offering a service where people fill in a short form on the diocese website requesting a phone call, of 10-15 minutes usually. Additionally, we are asking key workers if they would like to give us their name and work place and we will pray for them by name each day. Please go to the home page of the diocese website and under "Coronavirus" you can click on a box called "Prayer Support".

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER DURING MASS:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

BIBLE ALIVE: The **June** edition of this useful booklet that can help you to focus on the daily Mass readings, is now available. Obviously, you are unable to collect a copy from the church for now, but if you would like a copy put through your letterbox - or know somebody who would - please email your name and address to: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk - or if you have no access to email, leave a message on the parish office phone.

WORKING AND PRAYING TOGETHER:

- **Praying the Rosary** together will **continue every day during the month of June, at 8pm**. For information on how you can join in, whenever you can and would like to, please email: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
- **Mothers' Prayers** continues through video conferencing or social networking. Email clare@claresimpson.com if you would like to join in. For **Mothers' Prayers in Spanish** on Mondays at 11.30am, please email mamakolb@gmail.com
- There is a page on our website for this year of **"The God Who Speaks"**. From there you are able to access ten **Sycamore** videos made by Fr Stephen Wang. **Sycamore** is an informal course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. It gives you space to explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. The page can be found in the 'What's On' section.
- The friendly **Cake and Conversation** group for those whose first language is not English has been continuing to meet via Zoom each Wednesday while the Parish Centre is closed. If you would like further information about the group please phone Anne on 525997, Angela on 532296 or email abingdoncakeandconversation@gmail.com

LENTEN PROJECTS: The PPC have made the decision to postpone all Lenten projects fundraising until next year, when we will support the same projects that were named for this year.

Parish Events for the Week

NO EVENTS IN THE PARISH CENTRE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Future Diary Dates

No events at the moment.

Youth Events

YOUTH GROUPS

The Saturday youth groups will stop meeting for now. We will let you know when they resume through our parish newsletter.

*Reminders of future events are always included in the parish weekly newsletter and the full programme can be viewed in the youth section on our parish website at: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/events
More info: bhabayeb@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk*

LENTEN FUNDRAISING DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- All events are postponed.

WE PRAY FOR:

The repose of the souls of:

- Ron Moss
- Rosemary Payne
- James Ryce
- Raimondo Raimondi
- Richard Claridge
- Michael & Mary Haughton



We also pray for the families of the recently deceased

NO INTERNET? CAN'T ACCESS LIVE STREAM MASS?

St Mary's Cathedral in Middlesbrough have a 'Dial-a-Mass' system. When someone phones the number, they hear a brief message welcoming them and then a recording of the Sunday Mass said by the Bishop of Middlesbrough in his cathedral then begins. The Knights of St Columba Council 29 is funding the service, which the diocese believes is the first in England that doesn't require special access codes.

If you know of anyone who could benefit from this service, please pass on the number to them: **01642 130120**. Please let them know that call charges are at local rates - or 'free' if included in the person's allocated minutes. Also, the Mass can be listened to at any time and day **from midday on Sundays**, but it is always the same Sunday Mass for that week.

If you are aware of anyone who cannot access the Internet, please let us know so that the parish can find an alternative way to get information to them. You can do this by leaving a message on the parish office phone number.