



**Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston**  
**Parish of St. Joseph's Nechells**

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Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham - Registered Charity No. 234216

**PENTECOST**

**31<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

**Next Sunday is The Most Holy Trinity**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June is the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest**

**Dear Parishioners,**

First of all I need to tell you that tomorrow, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May is the feast of Dedication. In churches that are consecrated, this is kept as a Solemnity. Both St. Joseph’s and Sacred Heart Churches are consecrated and so for us tomorrow is a Solemnity. Since it falls on a Friday this year that means that tomorrow is not a day of Abstinence! Unfortunately we cannot all gather for this great occasion.

This Sunday the Easter season comes to its great climax and conclusion with the feast of Pentecost. Pentecost means 50 days after the Passover. As the death and resurrection of Jesus takes place at the Passover festival and is interpreted in the light of that festival which celebrated the children of Israel escaping from slavery in Egypt and beginning their journey towards the promised land, so the Christian feast of Pentecost is interpreted against the Jewish feast of Shavuot or Weeks. When the children of Israel escaped from Egypt they were just a run away rabble of slaves. The feast of Weeks celebrates the receiving of the Torah or Law by Moses on Mount Sinai. You remember that Moses, after crossing the Red Sea, makes straight the “Holy ground” where he had encountered God in the burning bush. There God revealed his name YHWH, the one who is, and gave Moses his commission to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. When they receive the Law from God after leaving Egypt, they cease to be a run away rabble of slaves and become a “People”, the People of God because they are united together and to God by the Law and can now function as a people.

Jeremiah had prophesied: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (Jer 31:31-33 RSV)

Ezekiel had also prophesied “ A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.” (Eze 36:26-27 RSV)

This is what we are celebrating at Pentecost as we see the Holy Spirit poured out on the disciples in the upper room at Pentecost. The disciples are being formed into the new “People of God” not by a written law, but by the Spirit sent by the Father so that the law, the Law of Love, is written in their hearts and they are given the power to keep it. The disciples, by conforming themselves to Christ by keeping the commandments he has given them, now have a new freedom, a freedom to act in accordance with the will of God, that is to be truly free people.

Pentecost is often called the “Birthday of the Church”. Now there is a new visible society founded, commissioned and empowered by God to which people belong through baptism and so become set apart to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

Give great praise to God this Sunday and look forward with fervour to the reopening of our churches.

God bless you all and fill you with his Holy Spirit. Alleluia!

Fr. Stephen Pimlott

PS The March for Life this year is cancelled because of the coronavirus, but they are having an on-line event on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June. I shall forward you details and you will be able to register for it free.

**The Kingdom Warriors** have started a skype Bible Study Group which meets on line on Mondays at 5.30 p.m. If you would like to join it, please contact Shirley on 07562754382. All are welcome.

Please pray for the souls of Fr. David Duggan, Mick O’Connor, Pat Hayes & Mary Greaney recently departed and for their relatives and friends .

**EWTN** is broadcasting what it calls EWTN essentials which is a continuous devotional broadcast with the Mass every 2 hours. Get it on the free EWTN app.

**Please Pray for the sick;** Mary Levell, Peter McKernan, William Parish, Julie Gallagher, Anne Robinson, Maura Greene, Jimmy Armstrong, Pat Davis, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, Andy Walsh, Michael Brennan, Alex McClure.

**CORONAVIRUS** For the Church’s guidelines see the Conference of Bishops website <https://www.cbcew.org.uk> or go to [gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public)

**USEFUL WEBSITES** <https://www.mcnmedia.tv>

<https://www.wordonfire.org>

<https://www.sthadscathedral.org.uk/>

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/>

<https://www.ewtn.com/radio/shows/called-to-communion>

<https://www.catholic.com/>

<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/>

**BECOMING A CATHOLIC** If you wish to become a Catholic, or know someone who wishes to become a Catholic, or perhaps are a Catholic but have little perception of what that means, please contact Fr. Stephen by phone, email or in person.

**DAILY EXPOSITION** and the English Prayer Time are suspended during the Corona virus pandemic. To check on any further details phone Sr. Meena on 0795 7342742.

**MARRIAGE MATTERS** [www.twainoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twainoneflesh.org.uk) Pentecost (Acts 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13 John 20:19-23) *The Spirit works in all sorts of different ways*

Years ago, on a Marriage Encounter weekend, we had a real experience of the Spirit working “in all sorts of different ways in different people”, not in Church documents, but in real life. We were like the disciples at Pentecost, “filled with joy when they saw the Lord”, and we heard our own native language, deep inside each of us.

**MARCH FOR LIFE** is an on-line experience this year on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Go to [marchforlife.co.uk](http://marchforlife.co.uk) and to the livestream page where you can register. It is free.