

BULLETIN 12 – PENTECOST SUNDAY

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we now have the facility to live stream at The Assumption of our Lady. We are all greatly indebted to the hard work of Bob and Deacon Michael, our internet connection cables had been cut last week and chaos reigned, but smart thinking and technical knowhow pulled us through.

You can access live stream at any time day or night you will find the link on our own website www.catholicchurchoftheassumption.co.uk/ or you can go direct to www.churchservices.tv/harlow

As you know throughout this lockdown I have been celebrating Mass privately at home, as from this weekend I will celebrate the 10.00am Mass in church and you may join me through the means of live streaming. Once lockdown is over the mass schedule for weekdays will be reviewed, but until then I will celebrate mass in church on the weekdays that I am able to do so.

I am also pleased to tell you that Fr. Michael Butler seems to be making good progress, the fever has now gone, but he is still in isolation, please keep him in your prayers.

With love and prayers

Fr. John

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday 31 st	– Pentecost Sunday	- People of our Parish
Monday 1 st	– Mary, Mother of the Church	– Isabell MacDermott (RIP)
Tuesday 2 nd	– feria	– Fr. John's Intentions
Wednesday 3 rd	– St Charles Lwanga and Comps	– Nora Green (RIP)
Thursday 4 th	– Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest	– Vera White (RIP)
Friday 5 th	– St. Boniface	John & Elizabeth Hasledon RIP
Saturday 6 th	– St. Norbert	– Tess Hogan
Sunday 7 th	– Holy Trinity Sunday	– People of our Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION

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

At an ordination recently the bishop said to the young man he was ordaining, “Who do you think you are? What on earth gives you the cheek to stand before all of us and ask for the gift and the grace of ordination?” Many people in the congregation were horrified and looked shocked. Fortunately the man had been told beforehand by the bishop that this was what he was going to say, so he sat there smiling, quite calm as the bishop was seemingly belittling him.

The bishop went on to say, “I know who you are and I, and those involved with your formation, know that you have been called personally and deeply by our Lord and God. Moreover you know that, and are convinced by it.” The bishop then went on to

say, "Be not afraid." Sage advice for every one of us. Be not afraid, because you know that you have been called personally and deeply by our Lord and God. The Lord has a special mission for each of us. What is it exactly? God knows what it is. As St John Henry Newman said, "I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next." Be not afraid.

Often we seem to lose our focus on our religious and spiritual lives. It seems to us that if things are not going well for us that God has lost interest and cares little or not at all for us. Today's feast is a reminder to us of what it is all about: the Lord gives the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. It is good to notice that in today's Gospel Jesus says, "Peace be with you" twice. Is it possible or conceivable that they would not have heard this message the first time Jesus spoke, as this was the first time he appeared to them after having risen from the dead? He says it again to make sure that they will get the message and the wonderful gift of the Lord's peace.

After they know that peace is truly theirs, Jesus goes on to gift them with the Holy Spirit. He breathes on them and simply says, "Receive the Holy Spirit." This gift is given, then instructions follow; Jesus further gifts the disciples, but this time with authority. The Lord entrusts them with the power to either forgive or withhold forgiveness over sin.

While all this is going on it ought to be recognised that they are looking at the wounds in Jesus' hands and side. They are delighted to know that it is the Lord and they are sure of this because they can see his hands and his side. The man who is giving them peace, giving them the Holy Spirit, giving them authority, is Jesus who was tortured and crucified and died on the cross. This is not a fairy tale, but a real story with a powerful ending, an ending that involves all of us here today. We are Christians today because this story has been passed down through the generations, gifted by the same Spirit that the disciples received on this feast.

This birthday celebration of ours that is the Church's, is a time for us to realise that exactly the same gifts are given to us. The peace of the Lord is ours today and the Holy Spirit is poured afresh on us. Each one of us needs to know the peace of Jesus, needs to feel the consolation of Jesus and needs to know the serenity of Jesus. With this knowledge comes the ability to be able to cope with whatever life has to throw at us, knowing that we do not stand alone, but with Jesus always by our side.

The Holy Spirit is at the same time our guiding force that encourages us forward in proclaiming the risen Lord. The Holy Spirit is the power that drives away our fears and empowers us to do what we never thought we would be capable of doing. The Holy Spirit is our joy that enables us to be real people of Jesus Christ, unafraid, much like the first disciples, to go and announce the good news in all the corners of our world.

ST PAUL IN ACTS during the Easter period we have been hearing excerpts from the Acts of the Apostles at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. It is from Scriptures such as these, which point to the priorities of Christian faith lived in the world, that we can reinvigorate our faith as we go forward from Pentecost to face new problems for the world and for the Church. Fr Adrian Graffy, Scripture scholar and parish priest of Gidea Park, has prepared a new talk 'Paul in Acts' which can be accessed by going to

www.whatgoodnews.org/faith-talks