

Saints Days this Week... 2nd - 8th June

MONDAY – St Charles Lwanga & Companions. Charles and his 21 companions (the youngest was only 13) were executed for being Christian. Within a year of their deaths, the number of Catholics had quadrupled. St. Charles is the patron of Catholic Action and Black African Youth.

WEDNESDAY – St Boniface Was born in Devon in 657. As a monk and teacher, Boniface went to evangelize the Germanic peoples. Ordained bishop he was given wide-ranging commissions throughout Germany and Gaul. He founded monasteries and established dioceses, presided at synods and maintained close associations with various emperors. Boniface is remembered as a determined missionary and as a church organiser and reformer whose work shaped the future of Europe. He is honoured as Apostle of Germany.

Pentecost Prayer

All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ send your Holy Spirit upon us to be our helper and guide. Give us the spirit of wisdom, and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill us with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.

PARISH PRAYER GROUPS AND PRAYER TIMES

On Thursday Evening ~ Sr Ruth will be joining us, to help us prepare for Pentecost. She will lead us in a reflection on the 'Humanity of Jesus shared with us through the Grace of God' and help us see how can we respond to such an immense gift? - St Wilfrid's 7.00pm.

Monday Exposition & Rosary ~ St Wilfrid's, 7.30–8.30pm

St Bede's Prayer Group ~ Meets in church, Tuesday 7.30–9.00pm

Eucharistic Adoration ~ Sunday at St Wilfrid's 4.15 – 5.15pm

Exposition & Reconciliation ~ Saturday at St Wilfrid's 11.00-11.50am & on request

St Wilfrid's Church ~ Is open all day for private prayer.

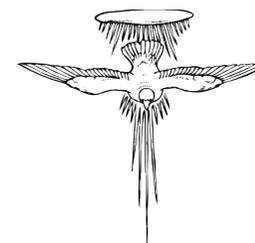
Mass Times ~ See Newsletter - www.stjohnvianney.co.uk

Preparing to hear God's word...

Next Sunday's Readings:

Pentecost

9th June 2019



Next Sunday is the great feast of Pentecost, the crowning finale of the resurrection – the out pouring of the Holy Spirit.

“When the work that the Father gave the Son to do on earth was accomplished, the Holy Spirit was sent in order that he might continually sanctify the Church, and that, consequently, those who believe might have access through Christ in the one Spirit to the Father... The Spirit dwells in the Church & in the hearts of the faithful, as in a temple. In them he prays & bears witness to their adoptive sonship. Guiding the Church in the way of all truth & unifying her in communion & in the works of ministry, he bestows upon her various gifts, and in this way directs her; & he adorns her with his fruits. By the power of the gospel he permits the Church to keep the freshness of youth. Constantly he renews her & leads her to perfect union with her spouse. For the Spirit & the Bride both say to Jesus, the Lord: 'Come!' Hence the universal Church is seen to be a people brought into unity from the unity of the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit.”

Vatican Two Constitution on the Church no 4

First Reading ~ Acts 2: 1-11 (shortened)

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 at the Spirit gave them the gift of speech...

As the name indicates, Pentecost is the feast that takes place 50 days after Easter. But Pentecost (Greek word) was also celebrated in the Old Testament, among the Jewish people. It was called the feast of Harvest or the feast of Weeks, and it celebrated the beginning of harvest, but it later came to signify the commemoration of all the covenants, beginning with Noah, to the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. By emphasizing Pentecost, Luke clearly wants to show, that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is the solemn promulgation of the New Covenant, the birth of the Church.

Psalm 103 ~ *Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.*

Second Reading ~ Romans 8: 8-17 ~ St Paul, writing to the church in Rome, reminds his hearers, that it is only thanks to the Spirit that the Risen Christ is visible in the words and actions of believers. And it is the Holy Spirit that makes us capable of pronouncing that intimate name which only a child can use to its father: 'Abba'.

The Spirit does not make everything look appealing. He does not remove evil with a magic wand. But he pours into us the vitality of life, which is not the absence of problems, but the certainty of being loved and always forgiven by Christ, who has conquered sin, conquered death and conquered fear.

Pope Francis

John 14: 15-16, 23-26

Jesus said to his disciples 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever. 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.'

Unlike the Acts of the Apostles, St John reports that it was in the 'evening of the first day of the week', the day of resurrection, that the Risen Lord appeared to his disciples and 'breathed his Spirit' on them (Jn 20). We call to mind the story of creation, how the Creator breathed life into the first man (Gen 2:7), so now the Risen Christ, breathes on his disciples, giving them the Spirit of new life.

The Spirit doesn't just reveal and teach us about God's love, but it actually draws us into the cycle of the Father's love for the Son and the Son's love for the Father. The Spirit enables the Father and the Son to come and live in us and for us to live in God.

Let us welcome the Holy Spirit and rejoice in our new life in God.

Through the Holy Spirit paradise is restored; we can ascend to heaven and regain our sonship. We can address God as our Father with confidence, we can share in the grace of Christ, we can be called children of the light and sharers in eternal glory; in a word we can become full of all manner of things in this world and in that to come.

St Basil the Great