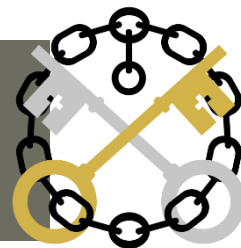


ST PETER IN CHAINS



Solemnity of Pentecost (A)

31st May 2020

Parish Liturgy



SUNDAY MASS

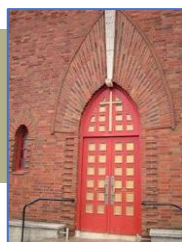
Suspended until further notice.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

By request.

Public Mass, Public Liturgy, Sacraments and Parish gatherings in the Diocese of Galloway have been suspended until further notice.

Contact Details



PARISH ADDRESS

Father Duncan McVicar
St Peter's Presbytery
1 South Crescent Road
Ardrossan, KA22 8DU
duncan.mcvicar@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

PARISH WEBSITE

www.saintpeterinchains.net
www.saintpeterinchains.co.uk

PARISH OFFICE

01294 464063
ardrossan@gallowaydiocese.org.uk

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

07722 246169
[if necessary, leave a message and your contact details]

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WEEKLY BULLETIN

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SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST (A)

Introduction

We arrive at the fiftieth day! Today is the climax of the Easter Season, when we remember that moment when the Holy Spirit descended on Mary and the disciples gathered in prayer. The work of Jesus on earth is accomplished – now it is the turn of the Church to continue his presence and his mission. We pray today that the Holy Spirit will inspire all of us in the Church.

Scripture Reading Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, they 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.'

Reflection

Today is the birthday of the Church – that body of people of every race and nation, spread out through time, who seek to continue the Mission of Jesus, proclaiming faith in God and a way of life that leads to his Kingdom. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that enables us to do this, that allows us to pray, that ensures the continuing presence of Jesus in Holy Communion, that ensures we remain true to His teachings as the centuries unfold. In the reading above, we hear of the miracle of Pentecost, also referred to in the Preface of Mass today: the Spirit "brought together the many languages of the earth in profession of the one faith." What is the language of the Church? Some would say Latin, while others would go back further and say Greek or Aramaic! But the language of the Church must be love: a love which breaks down barriers and unites all people in God's Kingdom. Let us pray that the Spirit may blow like a rushing wind through our world today, to fill us with the language of love in all that we say and do.



Close of the Month of May We will close the special month of May with the Solemnity of Pentecost. We entrust the needs of the Church and our personal petitions to Mary, the Mother of God.

National Rosary Rally is taking place on Pentecost Sunday *from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm*. The Diocese of Galloway has been asked to pray the rosary from 4.00 pm till 5.00 pm. This will be broadcast on Facebook.

Solemnity of Pentecost (A) 2020

May/June 2020	St Peter-in-Chains, Ardrossan <i>Father Duncan McVicar</i>	Thought for the Day <i>(Taken from 'The Holy Spirit' by Matthew Kelly.)</i>
Sunday 31 st May	<p>Solemnity of Pentecost (A) - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish Have you ever noticed the difference between a person who is inspired and one who is not? Sometimes when you watch two teams compete in sports, you can tell one team is inspired and the other isn't. Inspiration makes a huge difference. For twenty years I have been working with people of all ages and from all walks of life, and one thing that I have noticed over and over again is that people don't do anything until they are inspired, but once they are inspired there is almost nothing they cannot do. The disciples are a perfect example. Before Pentecost they were full of fear. After Pentecost they were full of courage. What changed? They got inspired. They got filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus didn't leave us to face the world alone. He promised he would be with us and that he would send the Holy Spirit to guide, inspire, and encourage us. Jesus made that promise not just to the disciples; it was a promise he made to you.</p>	
Monday 1 st June	<p>Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish and Cathie McClintock (RD) In the Scriptures God is revealed as the Father who creates us (Genesis 1), his Son who redeems us (Matthew 1), and the Holy Spirit who inspires us (Acts 1). The whole history we find in the Bible is the story of God's ongoing concern for the human family, and for each of us individually as his children. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity. He is the one whom Jesus promised the Father would send to guide and encourage us. How often in your life do you need guidance and encouragement? Whether you are aware of it or not, you need these things every day, and the Holy Spirit is within you to provide them.</p>	
Tuesday 2 nd June	<p>9th Week of the Year (A) - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish and Michael Collins (A) Are you ready to have that power unleashed in your life? What will unleashing the Holy Spirit in your life mean to you? The Holy Spirit will help you find and understand truth, and you will never have more happiness in your life than you have truth. The more truth you allow into your heart, mind, and soul, the happier you will be. But if you allow the truth to be crowded out with lies and deceit, you will find yourself miserable. The Holy Spirit wants to help you build a throne for truth in your heart.</p>	
Wednesday 3 rd June	<p>Memorial of St Charles Lwanga & Companions - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass for the Parish, and Theresa McGarvey (BC) The Spirit of God is within you. This is good news. It means that you have a power within you that you have not even begun to comprehend. The Holy Spirit will give you the courage to face difficult situations. The Holy Spirit means that you are never alone. He is always with you, ready to guide you, encourage you, comfort you, and challenge you. The Holy Spirit is a true friend who always wants what is best for you. Think about Peter, who denied Jesus three times before his death out of selfish fear. But after Pentecost he literally risked his life just to let people know about Jesus. The Holy Spirit doesn't change us into someone else; he just brings the best and the most out of us. The Holy Spirit will help you know and do God's will.</p>	
Thursday 4 th June	<p>9th Week of the Year (A) - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the parish and Joseph Gibb (RD) The Holy Spirit will allow you to maintain joy even in the midst of suffering. Suffering is an inevitable part of life. It is easy to be joyful when things are going well, but the Holy Spirit brings us joy in times of suffering, and that is a thing of beauty. Saint Paul is a perfect example here. Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon are called the "prison" epistles because they were written during Paul's first imprisonment, mentioned in Acts 28. Throughout these writings he talks about his joy and all the things he rejoices about. When you think about the fact that he was in prison for being Christian and you consider the filthy conditions of prisons at the time, you have to ask yourself: What did he have to be joyful about? He was joyful even in the midst of suffering because he was filled with the Holy Spirit. All this is what the Holy Spirit wants to do for you.</p>	
Friday 5 th June	<p>Memorial of St Boniface - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish and Mrs Gallagher (RD) So, what are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit? 1. wisdom: The ability to discern what is true, right, and lasting. Wisdom enables us to see life from God's perspective. It helps you to establish the right priorities in your life, and leads you to think and act in mature ways. 2. understanding: Allows you to look beyond the shallowness of the world and see the lasting truth in every situation, by recognising how God is working in our lives. 3. counsel: The right judgment that allows us to see what is right and what is wrong, and the prudence to act accordingly. 4. fortitude: The courage and strength of will to do what you know you should, even if that means personal loss or suffering. 5. knowledge: The ability to see things from a supernatural viewpoint. In particular, to know what God is asking of you. 6. piety: A loyalty to God that manifests as generous love and affectionate obedience. This is the gift that allows you to love and worship God as he deserves to be loved and worshipped. 7. fear of the lord (reverence): Helps us to grasp God's greatness and our dependence on him. As a result, we are filled with enormous respect for God and we dread above all offending him or being separated from him.</p>	
Saturday 6 th June	<p>Our Lady's Day - Father Duncan will celebrate the Mass privately for the Parish, and Nan Donohoe (BC) You have another decision to make. Are you going to welcome the Holy Spirit into your life or ignore and reject him? If you are going to welcome the Holy Spirit, then prepare yourself to receive him. If you had an important visitor coming to your home, you would tidy up and make special preparations. The consequences of embracing the Holy Spirit are peace, joy, order, and purpose.</p>	

A Simple Explanation of the Mass - Part I

Every Parish is suffering under a "Eucharistic Fast" for many weeks because of the pandemic. Perhaps this is a good time to grow in our understanding and love of the Mass. Every Sunday, we will take a look at one aspect of the Mass to enrich our appreciation of its essential significance in the life of our Parish. "Do this in memory of me." In his Book, "The hope of the Liturgy", Don Gregory Dix, in reflecting on these words of Jesus, writes: "Was ever another command so obeyed? For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable human circumstance, for every conceivable human need from infancy and before it to extreme old age and after it, from the pinnacle of earthly greatness to the refuge of fugitives in the caves and dens of the earth. Men have found no better thing than this to do for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church... for the famine of whole provinces or for the soul of a dead lover... And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unfailingly, across all the parishes of Christendom, priest and people continue to work together in order to carry out this command, 'Do this in memory of me.'" We can see how important and central the Mass has been to Catholic life down through the ages - "until he comes again" [1 Corinthians 11:26]. The Mass is the centre of the whole of Christian life for the Church both universal and local as well as for each of the faithful individually, for in it is found the high point of the action by which God sanctifies the world in Christ. Through the liturgy, our Redeemer continues the work of our redemption in, with and through his Church. The Second Vatican Council defined the Mass as the centre of the Christian community, the source and summit of the Christian life. The Mass is at the heart of our faith and life. We should not be taking part in the Mass as strangers or silent spectators, but through a proper appreciation of the rites and prayers, we should participate knowingly, devoutly, and actively. As we look at the Mass each Sunday in our Bulletin, it may be inspiring to know the following two realities: In modern day Iraq, Catholic families risk their lives to attend Mass on Sundays. In an interview, one young adult said, "Half of my family goes to one Mass and half to another Mass." When asked why, the young man answered, "In this way, if the church is blown up by a terrorist bomb, at least half of my family will survive." And other example: In many poor countries, Catholics will walk one or two hours each way to attend Mass. Such is their dedication to the Eucharist. In contrast to the above commitment to the Eucharist, millions of Catholics who live in nice homes close to a church and drive nice cars, find it too much of a "sacrifice" or too much of an inconvenience to come to Mass on Sunday. All of us should often pray that the Holy Spirit would open our minds and our hearts to the tremendous gift God is offering us when we choose to actively participate in the Mass. **Good Practice Suggestion:** Try to get to Church ten or more minutes before Mass begins, and remain at Mass until the end of the final hymn.

Most Holy Trinity - Next Sunday

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. One of the shortest Christian prayers is the Sign of the Cross. Sixteen words. (In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.) It's not just the way we begin and end prayer; it is a prayer unto itself. And it contains one of the most sublime mysteries of our faith: the Trinity. The Trinity is three Persons in one God. We don't worship three different gods, but one single being who is threefold and yet remains one. Confusing? It should be a little confusing if we really think about it. But to get us started, think about water. Water can take different forms: liquid, ice, or steam. It is still H₂O; it is just taking different forms. Now, God does not change from one form to another at different times; God is always three and always one. Still confused? That's OK. You see, you cannot come to the conclusion of the Trinity by reason alone. It would not matter how much you thought about it; you would never arrive at the Trinity through reason alone. And science cannot prove or disprove the Trinity. We know about the Trinity through Revelation. If God had not chosen to reveal himself to us we would not know about the Trinity. This is one of the beautiful mysteries of our faith. You cannot know everything through reason and science, some things we only know because God has revealed them to us. And if there were no mystery there would be no need for faith, because without mystery religion would be simply an intellectual pursuit . . . and it is so much more than that.

And finally... some Humour...

After the Baptism of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you."

A primary school teacher asked her class, "What was Jesus' Mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary." The teacher then asked, "Who knows what Jesus' stepfather's name was?" A little boy said, "Verge." Confused, the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?" The boy said, "Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n' Mary."

Mustard Seeds

✠ Spirit of Life

The kingdom of God is not a concept, a doctrine, or a programme subject to free interpretation, but it is before all else a person with the face and name of Jesus of Nazareth, the image of the invisible God. Unfortunately, it is God Himself who is excluded from the horizon of so many persons, and when the discourse on God does not meet with indifference, closure or rejection, it is nevertheless relegated to the subjective realm, reduced to an intimate and private event, marginalised from the public conscience. The heart of the crisis that wounds Europe passes through this abandonment, this lack of openness to the Transcendent. It is a spiritual and moral crisis: man pretends to have an identity fulfilled simply in himself. In this context, how can we correspond to the responsibility which has been entrusted to us by the Lord? How can we sow with trust the Word of God, so that every man can find the truth about himself, his own authenticity and hope? Our situation requires a renewed impulse, which will point to what is essential of the faith and of Christian life. At a time in which God has become for many the great unknown and Jesus simply a great personality of the past, there will be no new thrust of the missionary action without the renewal of the quality of our faith and our prayer; we will not be able to give adequate answers without a new reception of the gift of Grace; we will not know how to win men over to the Gospel if we ourselves do not first have a profound experience of God. It is always important for us to remember that the first condition to speak about God is to speak with God, to become increasingly men and women of God, nourished by an intense life of prayer and moulded by his Grace. We want to rediscover and receive again this precious gift that is faith. The old and new mission that is before us is that of introducing men and women of our time to the relationship with God, to help them to open their mind and heart to that God who seeks them and wants to be close to them, to lead them to understand that to do his will is not a limitation of liberty, but it is to be truly free, to realise the true good of life. God is the guarantor, not the counter-current of our happiness, and where the Gospel enters - and hence the friendship of Christ - man experiences his being the object of a love that purifies, warms and renews, and renders us capable of loving and serving man with divine love. The New Evangelization needs adults who are mature in the faith and witnesses of humanity. The Church has to form adult persons in the faith because those who have encountered Jesus Christ, and that he has become the fundamental reference of their life; persons who know Him because they love Him and they love Him because they have known Him; persons capable of giving solid and credible reasons of life.

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