



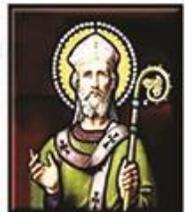
# The Sacred Heart

[www.sacredheartnorthampton.org.uk](http://www.sacredheartnorthampton.org.uk)



# Diocesan Shrine, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour & St Anselm

[www.ourladyandstanselm.org](http://www.ourladyandstanselm.org)



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Part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Northampton, Reg'd Charity No: 234091

**Parish donations:**

Account name: RCDN Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Sort code: 60-06-11

Account number: 46714596

Account name: RCDN Our Lady's Catholic Church

Parish Sort code: 60-06-11

Account number: 46714464

Payment Reference: Parish name and area.

**Giving Tuesday:**

Each Tuesday, between 10am and 4pm, you will be able to call the Finance Office at Bishop's House (01604 712065), to donate to your parish using your credit/debit card over the phone.

Although public celebrations of Mass are suspended, Mass intentions will continue to be offered at private Masses celebrated daily by Fr Jerry. This week's Intentions are listed at the top of the page. If you have a Mass intention, please email Lorraine on

[sacredheartrcchurch@btconnect.com](mailto:sacredheartrcchurch@btconnect.com)

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

## Pentecost

Saturday	For NHS staff
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Dolores Behan R.I.P.
Monday	For those children in Reception, Yr 1 and Yr 6 returning to school
Tuesday	For teachers and school staff
Wednesday	James McCormack R.I.P.
Thursday	Charles Harrison R.I.P. (Foundation Mass)
Friday	Bernard Doherty R.I.P.
Saturday	Vin and Margaret Shervin R.I.P. (Foundation Mass)
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Beryl Mary Gilchrist R.I.P. (Foundation Mass)

**Feast days and Holy days.** Monday - Mary, Mother of the Church, Wednesday - Ss Charles Lwanga and Companions, Thursday - Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, Friday - St Boniface.

**Anniversaries:** Jennifer Hignell, William Schmid, Vincent Jordan, Winifred Arnold, Patrick Smith, Phyllis Goodwin, John McGirr, Herbert Ducker, Brendan Doherty, Ethel Doyle, Tom Armstrong, Tom Smyth. **R.I.P.**

**Please pray for all our sick.**

**Pope Francis' Special Intention.** June: We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

**Next Week's Liturgy of the Word:** Acts 2:1-11, Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34 r.30, 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23.

**Pentecost.** It is one of the most important feast days of the year: it concludes the Easter season and celebrates the beginning of the Church. Sunday's First Reading, Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11, recounts what happened. At Pentecost, we celebrate the birth of the Church, the first Catholics and the first Pope. We also celebrate together the coming of the Holy Spirit, and we should come together, virtually, as a faith community to celebrate our unity and acknowledge our diversity.

The month of May ends solemnly with the celebration of Pentecost. It officially brings to an end the Eastertide (seven Easter Sundays). As we thank God for the blessings from the month of May, in terms of the Rosary devotions, novena to the Holy Spirit and the solemnity of Pentecost, we look forward into the future with Hope into the month of June with other wonderful celebrations. We anticipate the celebration of the Most Holy Trinity Sunday; Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (starting from 10 June - 18 June); Also, the month of June offers us the celebration of the solemnity of the MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS (19 June), a day for all the departed Sacred Heart fathers who started a mission in this diocese and this parish. May their souls rest in peace. We will also celebrate during the month of June the Immaculate Heart of Mary on 20 June and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist on 24 June. Finally, I also celebrate my birthday on the 14 June.

**From Fr Jerry: Pentecost Sunday.** Theme: *Receive the Holy Spirit...*

Every devoted Christian associate the Holy Spirit with the feast of Pentecost. In the Jewish tradition, while Passover is associated with their deliverance from Egypt, Pentecost is associated with the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai. This will be my background to our interesting reflection today.

This year's Pentecost Sunday offers us the story of the gospel of John. At first sight of this text is a surprising gospel for Pentecost. This, of course, indicates that the event of Pentecost came too late to be a subject of the gospels. The gospel of John speaks of the Holy Spirit within the context of the resurrection as Jesus appears to his disciples and imparts to them the gift of peace and the gift of forgiveness.

It is most likely the disciples were meeting in terror, listening fearfully for every step on the stair and for every knock at the door, lest the emissaries of the Sanhedrin should come to arrest them as they did arrest Jesus. As they sat there, Jesus was suddenly in their midst. He gave them the normal everyday eastern greeting: "Peace be to you." It means far more than: "May you be saved from trouble." It means: "May God give you every good thing." At the sight of Jesus, the disciples were filled with joy. Then Jesus gave them the commission which became the commission of the church. These are three statements:

Firstly, it means that Jesus Christ needs the Church. The Church was to be a mouth to speak for Jesus as he was now going back to his Father. The Church was to be feet to run upon his errands and hands to do his work.

Secondly, it means the Church needs Jesus. As the church prepares to take the message of Christ to the World, she needs power and authority to back his message. Without Jesus, the church has no message; without him, she has no power; without him she has nothing to enlighten her mind, to strengthen her arm, and to encourage her heart. Hence, the church will just exist as an ordinary organization.

Thirdly, it means the church is to imitate the relationship that exists between Jesus and God the Father. Since Jesus could be God's messenger only because he rendered to God that perfect obedience and love, it follows that the church is fit to be the messenger and instrument of Christ only when she perfectly loves him and perfectly obeys him. The Church must be out there to propagate the message of Christ and not her own message. The early Church in the first reading met in one room when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven. In the same room, something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire. The day of Pentecost is linked with two phenomena- the WIND and FIRE. These elements are mentioned for a particular reason.

The element of the WIND is closely associated with the creation of man. The Hebrew meaning of the word, WIND, is the same meaning of the breath that God blew into Adam in the old story of the creation of man so that man became a living being" (Gen. 2:7). According to the first reading, the WIND filled the entire room. In a certain sense, it was available to all present.

The second element is FIRE. Now FIRE is associated with the revelation of God. There are shreds of evidence of Fire in the Old Testament. Abraham had a vision in Genesis. 15:17 with the vision of the smoking brazier; Moses had an experience with the burning bush during when God called him. The catechism explains FIRE as a symbol of the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions (CCC#696). If the WIND represented the revelation to all peoples, then the FIRE represented the exclusive revelation to the people of God. At every gathering, there is bound to be a general understanding of the revelation of God for some people while for some people there will be a personal understanding of the revelation of God.

The Gospel then corroborates the first reading as regards God's plan for the re-creation of humanity. The breath he breathes on the disciples imparts to them the Holy Spirit by which God will renew his life in every living person. There is no exception. The breath of life created every person anew. Every person is renewed in the new creation by the same breath of life through the remission of sins. The promise of the Spirit is thus unreserved to a few. It is for the life of all humanity. In our profession of Faith, we confidently pray that I believe in the Holy Spirit. Do we truly believe He is the giver of Life? Do we believe that He can restore our "likeness", to its glory when we lose it through sin (CCC#705)? Do we believe that He inspired the Scriptures to be written (CCC#688)?

Today we celebrate together the coming of the Holy Spirit; we should come together, virtually, as a faith community to celebrate our unity and acknowledge our diversity.

May the Holy Spirit come to dwell in our hearts so that we can renew the face of the earth.

**Reopening of churches.** Although churches currently remain closed, it is hoped that they will be allowed to reopen after 4<sup>th</sup> July, at the earliest, although we have not been given a definitive date yet. Before that day, there will be preparations and cleaning of the church premises, however churches will be for **private prayer only**. Please be aware that **SOME** churches may re-open – **NOT** all of them. It will be dependent on a number of considerations, and these considerations are for the benefit of everyone; the health and welfare of all our parishioners is a priority. News of church openings will be communicated to parishioners as soon as possible.

**Pentecost Sunday National Rosary Rally.** 31 May, 9am-9pm. This year's National Rosary Rally is taking place throughout dioceses in England, Wales and Scotland on Pentecost Sunday, 31st May between 9:00am and 9:00pm. Pope Francis has encouraged us all to pray the rosary simply and by joining together virtually where possible. Especially at this time he invites us to pray for an end to the impact of Covid-19. Parish groups are being encouraged to join together 'virtually' with their priest and to join together online at our Cathedral in Northampton at our dedicated hour, 9am on Pentecost Sunday.

**9am** – Arundel & Brighton, Northampton and HM Forces, **10am** – Birmingham, Nottingham and Ukrainian Eparchy, **11am** – Brentwood and Plymouth, **12 noon** – Cardiff, Portsmouth and Dunkeld, **1pm** – Clifton, Salford and St Andrews and Edinburgh, **2pm** – East Anglia, Shrewsbury and Aberdeen, **3pm** – Hallam, Southwark and Glasgow, **4pm** – Hexham and Newcastle, Wrexham and Ordinariate OLW, **5pm** – Lancaster, Westminster and Argyll and the Isles, **6pm** – Leeds, Polish mission and Galloway, **7pm** – Liverpool, Middlesbrough and Motherwell, **8pm** – Menevia, Paisley and Syro Malabar Eparchy, **9pm** – The rosary rally will end with a rosary being led by Bishop John Keenan from St Mirin's Cathedral in Paisley.

**SVP Care and Call Scheme.** During this difficult time for all our parishioners and those in the community, we're here to help in whatever way we can. Many of the vulnerable members of our community have been confined to their homes for weeks and are in danger of becoming really isolated or neglected. Please text or ring our phone if we can help in any way. Sacred Heart SVP: 07504 465707 or Our Lady & St Anselm SVP: 07568 313234.

**Schools.** To begin the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions, the government has decided to allow those children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return first, after this past week's half term holiday. This is together with all those children of key workers and vulnerable children who have all continued to attend school over the past 10 weeks. This will be difficult for all schools to manage as they try to limit class sizes so that they can comply with social distancing rules whilst providing a calm and nurturing environment for the children. Please keep in your prayers all staff and children as they return to school this week, particularly those at St Gregory's. The staff have been busy preparing the school for the children's return so that it is easier for the children to adhere to the guidelines where possible.

**Daily Mass.** You can join in with Mass from your own home. Mass is live-streamed from the Cathedral and can be viewed on their website: <http://northamptoncathedral.org/live/>. There is also live-streamed Mass from Walsingham, found on their website: <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>. Daily Masses from the Pope's private chapel ceased on 18 May on the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of St John Paul II, which was also when restrictions were relaxed in Italy. Pope Francis encourages us to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, so that we can unite ourselves spiritually to Jesus as we are currently unable to physically receive the Sacred Host. See below for a prayer that you can recite.

**An act of Spiritual Communion.** My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment 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. Find a quiet time in your day, a quiet place in your house or garden and be still. Pause for a minute to undertake this act of faith, asking Jesus for His grace and strength, telling Him you wish to receive Him.

Pope Francis urges everyone to take part in the just-opened Laudato si' year and releases a special prayer to accompany the celebration:  
Loving God,  
Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained.  
Open our minds and touch our hearts,  
so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.  
Be present to those in need in these difficult times,  
especially the poorest and most vulnerable.  
Help us to show creative solidarity  
as we confront the consequences of the global pandemic.  
Make us courageous in embracing  
the changes required to seek the common good.  
Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and interdependent.  
Enable us to succeed in listening and responding  
to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.  
May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs  
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.  
We pray through Christ our Lord,  
under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,  
Amen.