



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION,
FOSTER AVENUE, BEESTON,
NOTTINGHAM, NG9 1AE
and
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH,
TAMWORTH ROAD,
LONG EATON, NG10 1DH



Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees Company No. 7151646 Charity No. 1134449

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Christopher A Thomas, Presbytery, 25 Foster Avenue, Beeston, NG9 1AE

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DIOCESAN CO - ORDINATOR: – **Appointment Pending** – ☎: 0115 953 9850

TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: PENTECOST SUNDAY: B

Eighth Week of Ordinary Time: 23rd – 29th May 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week IV)

Saturday 22nd May:	<i>Easter Feria</i>	<i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i> Isobel Alana Barnes, Marica Borsos, Jessie Breame, Margaret Brown, Fr John Cairns, Pat Constable, Francesca Lina Craparotta, Jim & Margaret Dougan, Fr Theodore Gomes, Ann Harrison, Fr Peter Harvey, Andrea Hoffman, Farzin Kazem, Breeda Keaney, Anne – Marie Reid, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning, John Wilcox and Bob Wilson.
Mass;	<i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
Sunday 23rd May:	<i>Pentecost Sunday (Solemnity)</i>	HOSPITALS A number of priests are still trying to maintain an 'on – call' rota for City and QMC. This is strictly calls for Anointing of the Sick when someone is nearing the end of their life. The hospital will not call us out for a request for prayers or when someone has already died – these will be dealt with by a member of the Chaplaincy Team who may or may not be a Catholic minister. Holy Communion is not being taken into hospital by Eucharistic Ministers. Families should not contact a priest directly to visit their loved one in hospital – all requests need to go through the Ward and Chaplaincy Department. QMC 0115 924 9924 ext. 63799 or City 0115 969 1169.
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>In Thanksgiving (6th Wedding Anniversary Joe & Izzy Hopkins)</i>	
Monday 24th May:	<i>Mary, Mother of the Church (memoria)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Phyllis Bennett RIP (Birthday) (Karen)</i>	
Tuesday 25th May:	<i>St Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor of the Church (memoria)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);	<i>Intentions of Dennis Woods</i>	
Wednesday 26th May:	<i>St Philip Neri, Priest (memoria)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Marianne Walton RIP (Lowe)</i>	
Thursday 27th May:	<i>Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest (Feast)</i>	
Mass;	<i>Private Intention</i>	
Friday 28th May:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Health & Well - Being of Family (Stephens)</i>	
Saturday 29th May:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	<i>Holy Souls</i>	
Sunday 30th May:	<i>The Most Holy Trinity (Solemnity)</i>	
10:00 am: Mass;	<i>Norma Brennan RIP (1st Anniversary) (Joe)</i>	
UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!		
<i>The Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Assumption and the Parish Hall at St Francis of Assisi are closed to members of the public, until further notice. If you urgently wish to contact Fr Christopher please telephone 0115 922 8145 (at any reasonable time).</i>		
<i>For enquiries or to book a Mass Intention, please see me after the one of the Scheduled Public Masses or contact me by telephone. Mass Stipends and Parish Collection Envelopes can be posted or given at a later date.</i>		

Items for the newsletter can be given to Fr Christopher or e – mailed to frcathomas@live.com by WEDNESDAY of each week for inclusion in the next issue.

POOR CLARES: The Sisters send their sincere thanks to parishioners for the food and donations they received from our Parish, your continued support is very much appreciated by them and they pray for you all every day. The next visit will be **NEXT Monday, 31st May 2021** and any donations can either be left in the box in the Church or given to me. Many thanks again for your kindness and support. – *Diane Wilson*.

WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES: New envelopes are now available from the back of Church. If you haven't already done so, please collect your box of envelopes, which begin from the first weekend in June. If you don't have a set of envelopes and would like a set or, alternatively, you would like to set up a direct debit for your weekly offering, please either call (07850 978788) or e-mail: marie_calladine@hotmail.co.uk. If you are a UK tax payer we could also claim tax back on your donation after completion of a Gift Declaration Form. Thank you – *Marie Calladine*.

PARISH FINANCES: A number of people have asked about the state of Parish Finances and the impact of caused by the Pandemic. Thanks to all who have switched to Standing Order payments the average weekly income to the Parish is about £ 400.00 and Offerings brought to Church average about £ 500.00 per month since January (although this has included multiple Collection Envelopes amassed over a period of time. Currently donations to the boiler replacement fund total £ 4250. 00 and I so am very grateful to you all for your continued generosity as the weather for busking at the moment is not favourable!!

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS: Obviously due to the Coronavirus Pandemic we have been unable to Celebrate some of the important Sacraments in the life of the Church over the past year. Specifically, Baptisms, First Confessions and First Holy Communion and Marriage. I am hoping that Baptisms can begin again after all the restrictions are finally lifted by the Government on **21st June 2021**. Any families wishing to have their child(ren) Baptised are asked contact me as soon as possible to arrange a date for after the 21st June. Similarly, with First Confessions and First Holy Communion, it is hoped that we can complete the programme that was begun in 2020 and that the Celebration of the First Holy Communion Mass can be held some time at the beginning of the New School Year in either September or October 2021. Any children who would have ordinarily made their First Holy Communion in 2021 (School Year 3) will now begin preparations in 2022 and we will have two Schools Years' Celebrations at the same time. Any couples who intend to marry in 2021 are also asked to contact me as soon as possible to confirm dates and make arrangements for the Marriage Preparation Course. **PLEASE NOTE: I WOULD PREFER IT IF PEOPLE WOULD CONTACT ME BY TELEPHONE AND NOT BY E – MAIL.**

CELEBRATION OF MASS: *The public Celebration of Mass will continue as before for the time being.* Despite the country moving into Step 3 (17th May) of the Government Covid – 19 Response Roadmap published in February 2021, very little has changed with regard to Places of Worship. At the moment, the regulation on social distancing still requires that a reduced capacity exists in all churches. The Roadmap states that new sectors which will reopen on 17th May are “Some large events, including conferences, theatre and concert performances and sports events. Controlled indoor events of up to 1,000 people or 50% of a venue's capacity.” This only applies to single one – off events, moderated by the Local Authority and not to regular worship in churches. We have been reminded of the need to follow the guidelines that we have in place and to remember to use the hand sanitisers, wear face coverings and maintain the 2 metre social distancing rule.

Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind and priests will continue to wear a face covering, although it is now permitted to announce “The Body of Christ” for each communicant. Communion is to be distributed in the hand.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: The use of confessional boxes has been prohibited because of the risks of virus transmission. One of the most important aspects for the use of the confessional is the ventilation of the space between penitents. If anyone would like to go to Confession please speak to me and arrangements can be made.

Home Visits: Any Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who wish to take Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound are asked to speak to me regarding the guidelines and regulations for this.

Mass Booking: Please remember that you will still need to book to come to Masses using the Diocesan booking system. Details of how to book for Mass can be found on the Diocesan Website by following the link: <https://massbooking.uk/> where you will first need to Sign Up (if you haven't already done so) in order to book for Mass. This is a pre – booking system and is the only way of regulating those who come to Church. **PLEASE NOTE: that you can only book on the Mass Booking System up to 7 days ahead, so some of the Masses will not be visible yet.** The latest time to book for a Mass will be **TWO HOURS** before. **PLEASE NOTE: If there are only two people coming from the same household please book TWO SEATS and not a whole pew as this will allow more people to attend Mass.** If you do not have access to or are unable to use a computer you may book for Mass, by telephone, by calling Marie Calladine for The Assumption (Tel: 07850 978788), or at Long Eaton by calling Christina Boott on 07875 625974; but I would ask that you only use this option if you are unable to book online. Mass will be available at The Assumption, Beeston on **Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays** and **Fridays** and, at St Francis, Long Eaton on **Tuesdays**, all at **10:00 am**. The Sunday obligation continues to be suspended, so if you are unsure about coming along, do not feel under any obligation to do so; and if you or someone in your household, displays symptoms of Covid19, then please do stay at home.

THE WORD AND THE COMMON GOOD: You are invited to join Catholics from around the Diocese of Nottingham for an interactive online course over six Monday evenings in June and July. As life starts afresh after lockdown, it is a rare opportunity to sow seeds of the Gospel.

- Discover how Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching can help us seize this moment and build a society that reflects God's Kingdom
- Build bridges following a year of social distancing and foster a new 'culture of encounter'
- Form new friendships, renew old ones and help to build our Parish Communities for mission.

The sessions begin on **Monday 7th June 2021 at 7:00 pm** for six weeks. To find out more ,including details of an Open Evening, visit: <https://togetherforthecommongood.co.uk/training/here-now-us-people>.



Pentecost Sunday: B.

(READINGS: Acts 2¹⁻¹¹; Psalm 103^{1, 24, 29-31, 34}; 1 Corinthians 12^{3-7, 12-13} and; John 20¹⁹⁻²³)

Today the Easter Season reaches its climax – an end but a fresh beginning as well. The whole story of the Incarnation of the Word – His birth in a manger, His Baptism, the things He said, did and suffered, His Cross, Descent to the dead, Resurrection and Ascension. Today at Pentecost we see what it was all for: the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. With the physical departure of Jesus at the Ascension and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Our Blessed Lady and the Apostles at the first Pentecost, the mission of the Church begins. So we proclaim Pentecost Sunday to be the birthday of the Church.

And what does *that* mean? To understand, we have to go back to basics. Our Creator is concerned for our dignity and our salvation. God created us as free spirits. It was because we enjoyed the dignity of freedom that He permitted evil. So, if we choose to commit evil, we should be allowed to. We did and so, we were. But in that same moment when God gave us free will and allowed to commit evil, He also willed for us a way of salvation that would fit into our humanity, that would be in accord with our nature as social beings who belong to a single family, the family of man. This is what we see happening in the Incarnation and the Way of Salvation opened out by it.

It was because God respected our nature as inter – acting, inter – dependent beings, joined in the single spiritual community that is humanity, that God permitted the sin of one man – the sin of Adam – to affect all other people. And by a brilliant master – stroke, God used those very same features of our human nature to restore our nature – and more than restore it, to bring it through complete fulfilment to super – fulfilment, to the life of glory.

This is what we see happening at Pentecost. The life of the Holy Spirit who, stage by stage, had filled the humanity of Christ in all its powers, from the Annunciation through the Baptism to the Resurrection; was at Pentecost extended to Our Lord's disciples, His Church, which from now on was to be His Mystical Body. It is a Body where all the members are joined to their Head and animated (if they allow it) by the Holy Spirit and take up all kinds of tasks, roles and missions that complement each other.

And then we come to the really amazing part. The same act which makes us sons and daughters of God – the pouring out of the sanctifying Holy Spirit who forgives, reconciles, restores and makes us surpass our original humanity, this act which covered us in a robe of righteousness and made us beloved children of the Father: this very same act and no other did all of that by making us members of a single, visible, social community which any sociologist could study – The Catholic Church.

And so, on this Pentecost Sunday that we can read into the Pentecost event the qualities of the Church that were there at its birth and, that are still with us today. At the first Pentecost Our Lady and the Apostles were united in prayer. They had in fact been united in prayer for nine days. Since Jesus had Ascended back into heaven. On the very first day of the Church they were united in prayer. And so, the Church is at Her very best when She is united in prayer. Almost two thousand years after the first Pentecost the Church is still united in prayer. The Church, tiny as it was, was united in prayer at the first Pentecost. And the Church is united in prayer still, today. For the Church is at its best when it is united in prayer, especially at Mass. So that is the first characteristic we can see of the Church in the Pentecost event.

The second is that the Church receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. At the first Pentecost the Church was raised up and strengthened and animated and formed and empowered by the gift of the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, God the Holy Spirit. And so is the Church today. Not in the earth – quaking, fire breathing, wind blowing way that the Holy Spirit came at the first Pentecost, as described in the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Not in that way. But the Holy Spirit comes to us in Baptism, in Reconciliation, in the Eucharist, in Confirmation, in Marriage, in Holy Orders and in the Anointing of the Sick, the Holy Spirit is unconstrained as Pentecost continues in the life of the Church. Like the Apostles and Our Blessed Mother at the first Pentecost in Jerusalem so do we still as a Church, find ourselves open to, longing for, waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit, that continues to come to us.

Thirdly, at the first Pentecost, everybody in Jerusalem, in the temple square, was able to hear God's Holy Word, miraculously in his or her own language. Is that any different today? If you think about it, God's people, will hear God's Word and pray to the Lord in English, Italian, Latin, Polish, Lithuanian, Ukrainian and more. Every Sunday throughout England and Wales Mass is offered in at least two dozen different languages. Throughout the Universal Church, Mass today is celebrated in a different corner of the world that we have probably never even heard of. As Pentecost continues God's Word is proclaimed and God Himself is proclaimed in every language known to man. The Church is Catholic, the Church is Universal, the Church is heard and understood in every language – that is Pentecost.

And finally, a fourth characteristic that we see at the first Pentecost and we continue to see today: on the first Pentecost the Church began Her primary task. It was not some strategic plan or political policy. It was given Her by Jesus Her founder, the task of teaching, "Go teach all nations..." says the Our Lord as He ascends into heaven. And no sooner had the Holy Spirit come to rest on them, than they bounded out of that locked room and began to teach. People today question the relevance of our Catholic Church and the validity of the teaching authority of the Church and the Pope. Why do we do what we do? The Church was born on Pentecost with that mandate of the Our Lord Himself, "Go teach all nations..." ringing in their ears, with the Apostles bounding out of the upper room to teach and to preach to the whole world. There is no shutting us up. The Holy Spirit drives us on to teach as Jesus did, to proclaim His Word to all nations.

When it comes right down to it, in essence we are pretty much the same, the Church, as we were at that first Pentecost. United in prayer, filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit, able to be understood in every language and commissioned to teach all the nations. For us Pentecost is our birthday. But for us in the Church, really every moment is Pentecost and it makes the Church an extraordinary thing. This is the Church, on the Rock St Peter and the Apostles, so as to be the sign of unity and the means of unity for the whole human race. Why is this – the Church – the sign and means of uniting the whole human race and not, say the United Nations? The answer is given by today's Solemnity. This sign and means for unity was set up by God in the same action whereby He poured out the whole fruitfulness of His Son's Incarnation onto the world: the Spirit of love, who in eternity joins the Father and the Son. That is why the global future is not a world government nor even submission to a better ecology, but the reign of charity, the love of God and neighbour through Jesus Christ Our Lord.