

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL GROUP OF PARISHES.

All Saints' Church, St Michan's Church St Werburgh's Church

PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Gospel

Reading:
John 20: 19-23

Dear friends,
*I want to begin by thanking all the parishioners for their understanding and tolerance during the past few months and indeed on into the summer months. A special thanks to Ross and Declan for compiling and editing our weekly YouTube services (**stmichanschurch Dublin**) which can also be downloaded from the parish facebook page (**christchurchcathedral group Dublin**) Please take note of this and I trust as many as possible will continue to join us for these services during the coming weeks. The Easter General Vestry has not yet taken place this year due to the Covid19 crisis but plans are being made for this to be held in the summer months provided HSE guidelines are followed. At this time of uncertainty in all our lives, there are those who pose the question how will I cope? I am not needed or useful to anyone: I feel good for nothing. Many are faced with pessimism and a sort of depression. Consider for a moment what God says to us at this time.*

A clergy colleague who once found himself discussing these very questions with a concerned parishioner said this: "I would take out a 10 euro note and say, if I were to give this money to you, would you find it useful?" "Oh yes" Then he scrunches it up in a knot and asks, "Would you still like to have it?" "Yes," Then he drops it on the floor and stamps on it several times. "Would you still like to have it?"

"yes." Then he says. "You have answered yes because you know that this note is still good, it is still valuable even it is filthy or stomped on. Similarly, God's evaluation of you is constant, even if you feel useless to anyone or feel stomped on. When he made you in his own image, he hung an invisible price tag around your neck. There is no euro figure on that price tag because the figures don't go high enough. God has written just one word on your price tag. That word is "priceless."

If you remove the 10 euro altogether it has no worth just like if God is removed from our lives, none of us has any inherent worth. Some people regard themselves as just plain inferior, incapable of becoming or doing anything significant, not needed or useless to anyone else. But when you place yourself in the hands of the Master, you matter. Do you matter to God? Of course, you do. He made you in his image and redeemed you on the cross. He hung a price tag around your neck and it still reads "Priceless."

*Enjoy the summer (and hopefully the good weather) God Bless,
David*

This Sunday, 31st May, is Pentecost or Whit Sunday, marking the changing of seasons, both in the church and secular calendars. Pentecost marks the conclusion of the season of Easter and the Whit weekend marks the start of summer! I think back, being teenagers, everybody loved the Whit weekend, as it marked the start of a summer of holidays, activities and fun. It stood like a doorway to untold possibilities and adventures, an exciting starting point for a journey. As young adults, I don't think any of us were too concerned as to what Pentecost and Whit Sunday meant or where they originated! However here it is! The origin of the name Pentecost comes from the Greek word for fiftieth, as Pentecost was the fiftieth day after Passover, the Jewish festival of Shavuot, with its origins as an ancient harvest festival but now celebrating the gift of the Torah on Mt. Sinai.

As Christians, Pentecost is when we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; an event that marks the effective beginning of the Christian Church. This weekend is the Church's birthday! The origin of Whit Sunday is slightly less clear, some say it lies in the white robes worn by those who were baptised on this day or else it lies in the Old Saxon word for wisdom, as the Holy Spirit bestowed wisdom on those gathered in the upper room. This latter definition is something that I regularly seek though seldom find, as you all discover to your regret in my sermons! In Medieval times, Whit Sunday marked the start of a week's festivities, with fairs and markets, when people were briefly freed from their toil in the fields of the feudal manors and were allowed to enjoy themselves. Perhaps we have lost that sense of celebration at Pentecost...

In this Sunday's readings for Pentecost, we hear that the disciples were frightened and uncertain after the crucifixion. They had witnessed Jesus' return and had seen him ascend to heaven yet now they felt alone, abandoned, leaderless, uncertain of the future. We too live in a frightening and uncertain world. It is a saddening thought that our children are growing up in a more uncertain world than we did, with recent political upheaval and now with Covid-19. It is very easy to let fear overwhelm us. We are living in uncertain times, so it easy for us to comprehend the fear of the

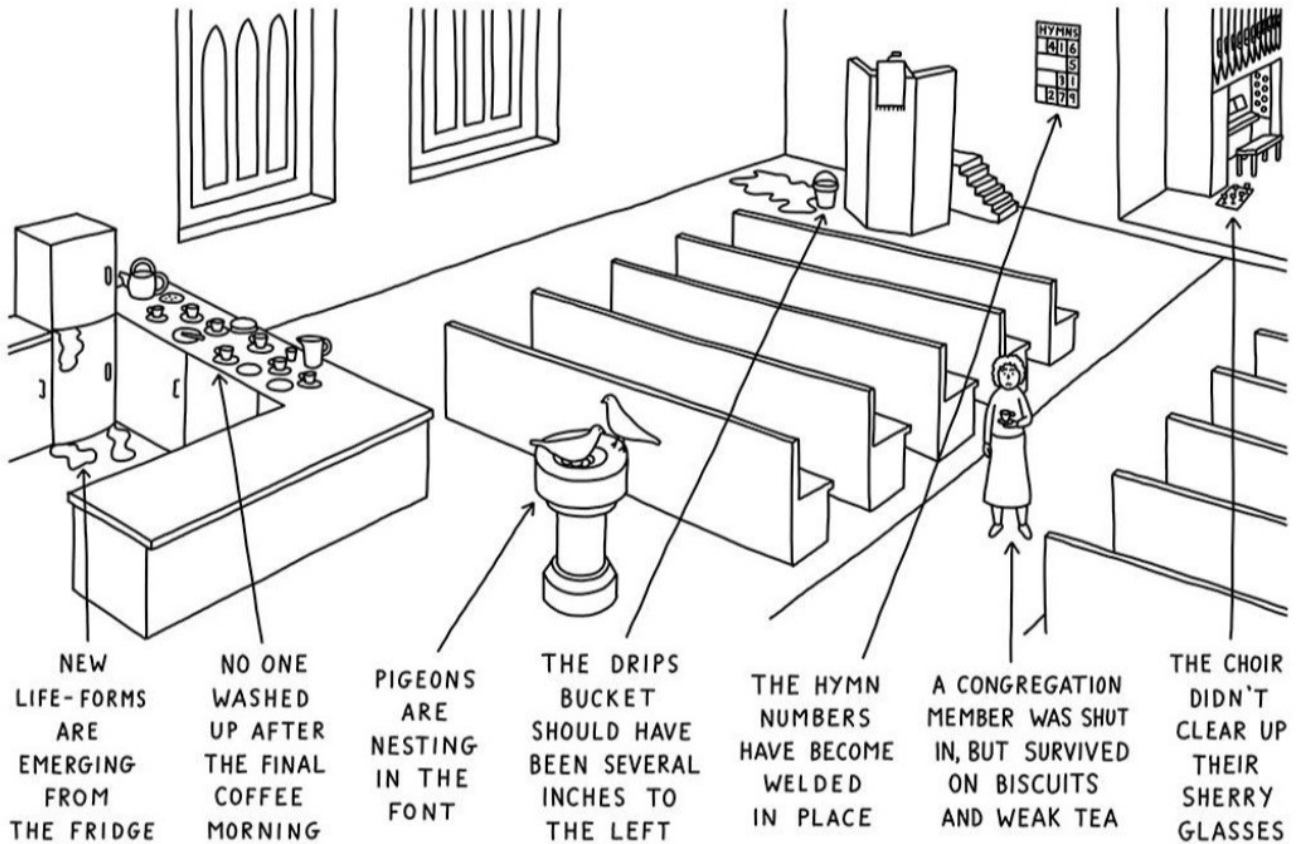
disciples, their world was thrown into turmoil, their teacher was gone. Yet when Jesus appears to them, he says to them, 'peace be with you. As the father has sent me, so I send you.' Jesus breathes upon them and says receive the Holy Spirit.' At Pentecost the Holy Spirit gives the Apostles the gift to share the Word of God amongst all the peoples of the Earth. The gifts that the Holy Spirit brings us differ from person to person. St. Paul states that there are very many "varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." We live in an uncertain and scary world but it is a world that needs the Word of God. We all have different skills and abilities that make us special, yet through the power of the Holy Spirit we can utilise those skills to make our world a better place, to heal a broken world and bring about the Kingdom of God. Let us not be afraid. As the apostles spoke to the gathered crowds outside at Pentecost, they left the fear and the locked room behind. We can do the same. Let Pentecost be for us a doorway into a new and exciting world. Let us go on that journey together, guided by the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay safe.

God bless,

Ross

DISCOVERIES

MADE UPON RETURNING TO THE CHURCH BUILDING





Community Garden

The community garden has continued blooming during the lockdown, even though parishioners, visitors and local residents are not able to enjoy it. It is inspiring to see a garden returning in the spring, the lush beauty miraculously appearing after the darkness of winter, showing that darkness does not last and new life returns. Hopefully soon we will all be able to return and enjoy it.

Many thanks to Mary Lyons and Susan Dawson for their recent kind donations of plants and materials for the garden.





St. Werburgh's Church

Following the Governments first phase of easing the Covid-19 lockdown, on May 18th, construction workers have been allowed to return to their sites, providing safe systems of work are in place and social distancing is maintained. As a result, the contractors have returned to continue the ongoing renovation works on St. Werburgh's Church.



Prayers that we can say together at home:

For the Spirit of Peace that calms our mind
and stills our life, Lord, we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Love that touches hearts
and reaches out, Lord, we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Joy that lifts our soul
and gives us faith, Lord, we give you thanks.

For the Spirit of Power, that gift of grace
for us, your people,
we give you thanks.

Amen

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit
that my thoughts may all be holy;

Act in me O Holy Spirit
that my works, too, may be holy;

Draw my heart O Holy Spirit
that I love but what is holy;

Strengthen me O Holy Spirit
to defend that is holy;

Guard me then O Holy Spirit
that I always may be holy.

St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)

The following poem (author unknown) sums up our worth in God's eyes.

The touch of the Master's Hand

I

T'was battered and scarred and the auctioneer
thought

It was scarcely worth his while

To waste his time on the old violin

But he held it up with a smile;

"What am I bidden, good people?" He cried

"Who'll start the bidding for me?"

A Dollar, a dollar! Now two only two:

Two dollars and who'll make it three?

Three dollars once; three dollars twice.

Going for three: but No?

From the room far back a gray haired man

Came forward and picked up the bow.

Then wiping the dust from the old violin

And tightening up the strings

He played a melody pure and sweet.

As sweet as an angel sings.

2

The music ceased and the auctioneer

With a voice that was quiet and low.

Said "What now am I bid for the old violin?"

And he held it up with the bow

"A thousand once, three thousand twice.

And going and gone" said he

The people cheered but some of them cried

"We don't quite understand."

"What changed its worth?" Swift came the reply

"The touch of the Master's Hand"

3

And many a man with his life out of tune;

And battered and torn with sin:

Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd

Much like the old violin:

A mess of pottage, a glass of wine, a game and he
travels on.

He's going once, he's going twice,

He's going and almost gone.

But the Master comes and the foolish crowd

Never can quite understand

The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought

By "The touch of the Master's Hand"

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Sitting on a bridge looking at the narrow view
through the 400mm zoom lens of my digital
camera, I see very little.

Across the still and silent lake I am too focused on
the lone heron standing on the island like a broken
branch from the overhanging willow tree, awaiting
the arrival of its next meal.

Nothing movesor so it seems.

I refocus the lens to take in the full picture.

Then,so much more.

Other birds, trees, shrubs, even a squirrel foraging
for nuts; all fill the viewfinder.

Now I seeeverything.

Is this me?

Am I too focused on something small, not realizing
there is so much more that I should be
experiencing?

Is this how God sees me?

Is he focused solely on me or through the view-
finder of his wide angled lens am I simply part of
the bigger picture?



Craft Corner by Aisling Sheridan

This week I've been making peg dolls for a dolls house. You can make these as simple or elaborate as you like – younger children could easily make no sew versions with just glue and felt, and for the more advanced crafters, the sky's the limit!

For the doll with the pink floral dress you will need:

1 dolly peg – you can get packs of these in Eason's, The Art & Hobby Shop & Tiger

1 plain pipe cleaner

Fabric & trimmings of your choice

Fabric glue

Needle and thread (optional)

Markers

- 1 First make your 'arms' for the doll. Spread some glue (I find Pritt Stick the best for this bit) on the 'torso' of the peg and wrap the pipe cleaner around it twice to create the arms at each side. Hold firmly until the glue sets.
- 2 Cut a square of fabric for the skirt. Make sure this is long enough to come up to under the arms. I sewed mine, first a back seam, then hem then a gathered waist, but you can easily just glue yours into the style you desire. Whichever you choose, again I find a few spots of Pritt great for securing the skirt in place on the peg.
- 3 Next make the sleeves. I used 2 rectangles of fabric, seamed as for the skirt, then gathered at the cuffs. I stitched the backs of the sleeves together across the back of the peg, but you could glue these instead.
- 4 I then cut some matching ribbon and stitched it around the shoulders in a big bow to form the bodice. I added a ribbon sash as a finishing touch on the dress.

- 5 Now it's time to get those markers out! I used black to colour in her hair and eyes and red for a button mouth. I also coloured her shoes in black but you could glue felt on if you like and you could even embellish the shoes with beads for buckles.

As you can see I also made 2 more dolls, one with a completely hand knitted outfit. This is a bit more complicated, but I'm including it for the knitters among you. For the skirt I cast on 25 stitches. For the jumper I cast on 10 stitches, knitted for about 6 rows, then cast on 4 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows, followed by casting on 3 stitches at the beginning of the 2 rows after that. Then knit for 4 rows and cast off.

Repeat for the back of the jumper.

Have fun!



Recipes sent in by Fiona Styles

Three quick and easy three ingredient recipes



Peanut butter cookies

(Makes about 18)

- 240g Peanut butter
- 200g Caster sugar (or brown sugar for a butterscotch like flavour)
- 1 egg

Mix all ingredient together well.

Roll into tablespoon size balls or use a cookie scoop and space them evenly on baking parchment.

Flatten the cookie balls.

Bake at 180 degrees for 10-15 minutes - until set around the edges

No bake apricot slice

(Makes 24 small squares)

- 400g dried apricots
- 180g desiccated coconut
- 30g coconut oil

Mix all ingredients by hand or in a food processor for 2-3 minutes. Press a small amount of the mixture between your fingers to make sure it holds together. If not, mix for a little longer.

Press firmly into a slice tin lined with baking paper. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours to firm. Slice into 24 small squares.

Quick hazelnut brownies

(Makes about 8)

- 370g chocolate hazelnut spread
- 65g plain flour
- 2 eggs

Combine all the ingredients.

Transfer to a lined square tin.

Bake at 175 for 15 minutes.