



The Parish of Christ the King Southport

PART OF THE WORLDWIDE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH DENOMINATION



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Dear Friends,

As we begin to draw close to the end of Paschal time, the high point of the Church's year; our attention should begin to focus on the Ascension of the Lord and Pentecost.



The whole of the Easter period through to the time when the Holy Spirit descended on the Disciples, should have a profound significance for our identity as Catholic Christians. So just for a moment, let us think about the Ascension message as recorded in the Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Driving along the motorway the other day, I saw in the distance flashing blue and amber lights. They were there at the scene of an accident.

Unfortunately, the emergency services were attending to the casualties who had been involved in a road traffic accident.

I later heard on a news bulletin, that one person had actually lost their life at the scene. Now, when death occurs, or when we lose someone suddenly, we can often go into a state of shock and grief, sometimes, even feeling that life is no longer worth living!

In all the Gospel readings for the Ascension of the Lord we hear that Jesus was taken up into heaven; and there to take his place at the right hand of God.

Most of the disciples gave up everything they had in order to follow Jesus.

"Well, there's a thought for us all"

I wonder if you can recall the account of the time when Jesus called Phillip and Nathaniel from the town of Bethsaida. Phillip had no doubt that Jesus was the one whom Moses wrote about in the Law, and so he followed Jesus without question.

Then there is perhaps the more well-known story in Saint Matthew's Gospel about the time that Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee. As he walked

along, he came across two brothers who were fishermen, Simon (*called Peter*) and his brother Andrew, they were both busy catching fish. Jesus said: 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' At once they left their nets and followed Jesus without hesitation.

Having such deep devotion to someone, you would have thought that when Jesus told his friends that he was going to return to his Father in Heaven, they would have been beside themselves with grief. But not a bit of it, for we are told that the disciples went out and preached everywhere, knowing that the Lord was working with them.

What they saw and witnessed that day must have been so amazing, so divine, that it made them react in a completely opposite way to what we would expect them to have done.

They shed no tears; there was no wailing or sobbing: all they wanted to do was to follow the Master's command to go and make disciples of all the nations. The knowledge that Jesus would be with them was strength enough to overcome the normal human reactions on losing someone very close whom they loved.

Like those casualties on the motorway, most of us are extremely sad when we lose a member of our family, a husband, a wife or a friend; but that is because in our human frailty and the fact that we have probably lost sight of the real meaning of the Ascension, and the fundamental Easter message.

Let me finish with some words, first written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788); which puts the real meaning of the Ascension into some sort of perspective for me: -

***"Hail the day that sees him rise,
Glorious to his native skies;
Christ, awhile to mortals given,
Enters now the highest heaven!"***

***There the glorious triumph waits;
Lift your heads, eternal gates!
Christ has vanquished death and sin;
Take the King of glory in."***

So dear friends, if we believe what happened to Jesus on Ascension Day to be true, like the disciples, we should rejoice and be glad; for we have been given the promise that one day, you and I will be granted the grace to be united with our loved ones and see Our Blessed Lord face to face. **Amen.**



HOME COMMUNION & ANOINTING OF THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Please contact Bishop Geoffrey if you need a home visit.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Sheila Hogarth | Ruth Barr | Lesley Fudge | Thelma Thompson | Clarice Shaw | Sally Hayes | Bishop Gerard & Pam Crane | Brian & Brigitte Duffett | Eileen Duffy | Geoff Lamb | Bev Chester | Shelley Coulter | Thelma Dunkley | Sylvia Holgate | James Hardman | Alex Wiseman | John Illingworth | Harry Seymour | Lawrence & Penny Bell-wright OSR | Joyce Kelford | John Beesley | Pauline Bayley | Michael Rogers | Carol (Caz) Arnold | The Park Family (Mary, Matthew, Charlotte & Edward) | Julie Corner | Elaine & Phillip Coope | Ray & Jean Wilde | Deacon Adrien Sulo | David Bainbridge | John & Gwen Simons | Maureen Fitzgerald | Stanley Lewis | Gordon McFarlane | Norma Cropper | Bridget (Bridy) McConnell | Fr Baltasar, priest (Spain) | Lorna Meredith | Stuart & June Price | Pauline Weatherall | Gordon Buchanan | Isobel & Grahame Smith | Dawn Adair | Martin Sparkes | Annis Buchanan | John Jackson | Max & Christine Kitchen | Farrar Campbell | Graham | John & Anya Sharpe | Valerie Hogarth | Hannah Lewis-Salmon | Stanley Wesley | Angela Basak | Christine Smith | Tracey Solley | Katie Coope | Tom Clayton ||

CARTOON CORNER:

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS AFFECTS SUNDAY MORNING



HOLY MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Takes place at the Oratory of Christ the King, Southport on **SUNDAY 26TH APRIL & SUNDAY 31ST MAY (Sacred Trinity)**

AUNTY FANNY'S RECIPIES –

12 Fruit Salad (for the 12 Fruits of the Spirit)

INGREDIENTS

- 12 different fruits! Just choose your favourites.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Chop the fruit into bite-sized pieces
2. Mix together in a bowl
3. Add a dressing, such as Poppyseed dressing, if desired.

PENTECOST IS ONE OF THE GREAT FESTIVALS OF THE CHURCH.



In modern popular culture it isn't nearly as well known as Christmas or Easter, but for Christians it's profoundly significant. It marks the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and their transformation from frightened and confused people to men who would face martyrdom for what they believed.

1. Pentecost means '50'.

Pentecost is from the Greek word 'Pentekostos', which means 'fifty'. It's the 50th day after the Sabbath of Passover week and in Judaism is called the Feast of Weeks (Leviticus 23:16).

2. Pentecost is one of the great festivals of the Church. In modern popular culture it isn't nearly as well known as Christmas or Easter, but for Christians it's profoundly significant. It marks the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and their transformation from frightened and confused people to men who would face martyrdom for what they believed.

2. It's traditionally celebrated as Whitsun.

A representation of Pentecost by Soichi Watanabe. The word Pentecost has become more common in the UK, but traditionally the Church celebrated it as Whitsun – 'White Sunday'. It's believed that this is because it was a day for baptisms and those being baptised would wear white. Another explanation is that it derives from the Anglo-Saxon word 'wit', which we still use for verbal cleverness, but which meant 'understanding' – Pentecost was when God poured out the wisdom of the Spirit.

3. There's debate about speaking in tongues.

Saint Luke tells the story in Acts 2:1-13. Some scholars think he was referring to an experience of 'glossalalia' or speaking in tongues, an ecstatic outpouring of praise in an unknown language. Others point out that what the disciples said seems to have been understood by their hearers.

4. Pentecost is the fulfilment of two promises.

One promise is in the Old Testament – Joel 2:28, which says "I will pour out my Spirit on all people", and one in the New, where Jesus says he will send another Counsellor, the Spirit of truth (St. John 16: 5-15).

5. Modern day Pentecostals emphasise the gifts of the Spirit.

Pentecostals are so called because of the emphasis they place on the gifts of the Spirit, particularly speaking in tongues. They stress the possibility of a direct personal experience of God, like the first disciples, which – just as it was then – is often manifested in dramatic ways. Modern Pentecostals trace their origins to the Azusa Street Revival in 1906 Los Angeles.

6. There was wind...

Saint Luke tells of three distinct experiences. A violent wind filled the house: breath or wind is a symbol of the Spirit of God. Ezekiel 37 tells the story of the prophet's vision of a valley of dry bones which come together: when the 'breath' of God enters them, they come to life and stand on their feet. The Pentecost wind represents the power of God to bring life to the 'dry bones' of faith.

7. ...and tongues of fire...

Tongues of fire separate and come to rest on each of them. Jesus told his disciples, "You are the light of the world" (St. Matthew 5:14). In Saint John 8:12 he says, "I am the light of the world." The picture in Acts seems to be of a single flame that separates and symbolically rests on each of them; the disciples will do what Jesus did.

8. ...and other languages.

The nature of the original experience has been queried, but in Saint Luke's telling of it the point is that it breaks down barriers between people. The story links back to one of the earliest of the Old Testament stories, in Genesis 11, when the people begin to build the huge Tower of Babel. God confuses their language so they can no longer understand each other. At Pentecost, this Babel confusion is reversed.

9. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church.

It marks the beginning of Christianity as a purposeful movement and a new community. When Saint Peter preached immediately afterwards, around 3,000 people believed and were baptised.

Luke 24:51 – "While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." This emphasizes the blessing and departure of Jesus as He ascends.


Mark 16:19 – "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven, and he sat at the right hand of God." This verse underscores His exaltation and authority.

CHRISTIAN WORD SEARCH

L	O	V	E	H	O	P	E	E	C
V	S	S	M	H	P	M	E	S	H
Z	Q	F	E	A	M	E	N	Y	U
E	A	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	R
G	Y	R	Q	P	P	U	A	L	C
G	D	J	G	R	A	C	E	L	H
G	N	E	W	A	P	E	A	C	E
Y	M	S	J	Y	E	E	D	C	I
G	A	U	U	E	S	X	N	T	F
V	J	S	L	R	B	I	B	L	E

WORD LIST

AMEN	HOPE
BIBLE	JESUS
CHURCH	LOVE
FORGIVE	PEACE
GRACE	PRAYER



Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY


Pentecost marks the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, empowering them for their mission, as described in the Acts of the Holy Apostles.

Acts 2: 1-4 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

BIBLE TEACHING ON UNTRUSTWORTHINESS



The Bible teaches that being untrustworthy involves behaviors and attitudes that undermine honesty, integrity, and faithfulness. It emphasizes the importance of being reliable, dependable, and true to one's word. The Bible encourages believers to be wise in their relationships, ensuring they surround themselves with those who uphold integrity and dependability. It warns against associating with dishonest or deceptive characters, as they can lead to negative outcomes. The Bible calls for a life of integrity, reflecting God's own faithfulness and truth.



Thank you for funding
life saving research

Dear Rev G Robinson,

Thank you - your donations are helping us to fund life saving science.

Thanks to your support over the past year we have been able to fund groundbreaking research, made amazing discoveries and supported millions of people affected by heart and circulatory diseases.

We can't do this without you.

Thank you, we are so grateful for your support.

Together, we will beat heartbreak forever.

Yours sincerely,

Justyna Lawson

Retail Gift Aid Manager

KEY BIBLE VERSES ON THE ASCENSION

Acts 1:9 – "After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight." This verse highlights the visible and miraculous nature of Jesus' ascension.