

7th Sunday of Eastertide

Come, Holy Spirit.

Liturgically, we are in that period between Ascension and Pentecost when the Apostles were praying together and waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit which Jesus had promised them. I suspect that they didn't really know what they were waiting for. They certainly could not have anticipated what the effect on them would be and how they would eventually see a Church develop "to the ends of the earth" proclaiming the Gospel, the Good News, of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his constituting as Lord and Saviour of us all, inviting us to share eternal life in the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That would all take a bit of getting used to. But get used to it they soon did. In most cases to the point that they willingly gave their lives in their enthusiasm to be part of the proclamation of the Gospel. We don't know what the future will look like. But we do know that we have the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the promise that the Lord Jesus will be with us always, even to the end of time. Let's re-double our prayerful activity at this time and offer ourselves to the Lord with a sincere invitation for Him to use us in whatever way he chooses for His Divine Will to be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created; and you shall renew the faith of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the gifts of the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise, and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please join in celebrating Sunday Mass. You may pray along with the Church by tuning into a live-streaming broadcast of Mass, either from Sacred Heart or hundreds of other Catholic Churches throughout the world, or you can pray in a more conventional way, or as a family or household, by downloading THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME liturgy leaflet, which contains the Sunday readings and a reflection as well as a reflection for our younger parishioners.

You can find the Lord's Day at Home resource [for Ascension Thursday here](#) and for [the Seventh Sunday in Easter here](#).

The pandemic and the lockdown affect people in different ways and to different degrees. We need to be aware of how our families, friends, neighbours and parishioners are really coping, not just how they say they are ok.

In addition to this local awareness, we also need to realise that on the whole, whatever distress or inconvenience we experience, it is nothing compared to those thousands and thousands in 'developing' countries that don't have food to keep themselves strong and don't have clean water for washing, medication to combat symptoms or the disease, or even test equipment or PPE, not to mention a total absence of ventilators. Cafod is doing what it can, but like all charities, its income has been decimated. Cafod is the official arm of the Catholic Church exercising practical charity on our behalf, from our support. Actually donating is currently more difficult than usual, but instead of setting up our own parish system of donations, can I please encourage you to make use of our Burnley neighbours just-giving page, based at St. Mary's, Christ the King and St. John the Baptist's parish of The Good Samaritan, Burnley. Please click on this link and give generously.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/good-samaritan-burnley>

Thank you and God bless you from those unable to say it for themselves.

Finally, we are hoping that there is light at the end of the tunnel and that from July we will be able to unlock the doors, at least for private prayer. In order to do this we will be looking for volunteers to staff the church, guide people to safe places, and maintain a high level of hygiene. Volunteers will need to be non-vulnerable themselves. Please give volunteering for an hour or two a week some thought and let me know if you are interested,

God bless you all and keep you safe, Fr. Peter