



St John Southworth's RC Parish
at Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS
and St John Southworth Church, Vaughan St
Nelson

6th Sunday of Easter, 9th May 2021

Parish House: 5 Park Drive,
Nelson, BB9 0JY
Parish Priest: Rev Gerard Kelly
Tel: 01282 614859
Email: stjohnsouthworthrc@gmail.com

On Thursday 13th May, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension which opens for us our Novena of Prayer and Reconciliation. The purpose of the Novena is to bring about a personal renewal of faith in the lives of all our parishioners, in order that we each become seeds of a growing and developing parish community. Without the impetus of the Holy Spirit, we are faced with an impossible task! In union with Jesus, and in co-operation with the Holy Spirit, this task can be accomplished!

A Novena Prayer

Lord Jesus, you send your Holy Spirit to live in our hearts.

May your Breath of Life bring us forgiveness and freedom from sin.

May your Spirit of Love lead us into new depths of relationship with you and with one another.

May your Church, gifted with signs and wonders, be empowered to bring your Good News to our world.

AMEN

The first line of the prayer identifies the source of the Holy Spirit - Jesus Christ himself! In John's Gospel, the water flowing from the side of the pierced Christ on the Cross symbolises the Holy Spirit flowing from the Body which is sacrificed (Jn 19:34). A sacrifice is a gift which costs; the ultimate sacrifice is the gift which costs our own lives. The 'acceptable sacrifice' is the gift of the life of Christ to his Father, on behalf of all humanity. Just as a parent might slip a small coin into the hand of a child for the church collection, the Father slips us the sacrifice of Jesus so that we might have something of worth to offer!

The Holy Spirit flows from the heart of Christ into the hearts of those who believe in him; religious belief includes attitudes of trust, surrender, commitment and dedication; these attitudes create the channels which allow the Spirit to flow into our hearts as a living reality. The very life of Christ abides, dwells, lives within us by the power of the Holy Spirit. The effect of this presence outstrips the effect of every other possible human experience!

The second line of the prayer is derived from John's account of the appearance of the Risen Lord to the disciples gathered in the Upper Room. Jesus breathes on them as a gesture of imparting the Holy Spirit. Jesus adds to this gesture words of explanation, "Receive the Holy Spirit, for those whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven." This is the first and primary activity of the Holy Spirit—He brings about, and makes real for us, the forgiveness of Jesus which reconciles us to the Father.

The third line of the prayer identifies the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Love. This Love is a sharing in the supernatural love of God which cannot be measured in quality or quantity. This love sweeps us off our feet in that it's like the difference between walking and flying... on eagles wings! This powerful experience of love melts away resistances in our hearts which we didn't even know were there! We are taken up into a relationship with God which gives us a new realisation of the relationships we are called into with all the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

The fourth line of the prayer invite us to ponder on the God's purpose in filling us with his Holy Spirit - that we may be enabled to bring the love of God to the world. The Holy Spirit was the power at work in Christ as he brought healing to all. The Holy Spirit was the power at work in the Acts of the Apostles bringing about signs and wonders. The Holy Spirit remains as the only evangelisation power that we have as a Church! As Pope Paul VI once wrote in contemplating the message of the second Vatican Council. "The Holy Spirit is the principal agent of evangelisation"

With every blessing, Fr Gerard.

Mass Schedule for week beginning Monday 10th May, 2021

Monday 10th May	Tuesday 11th May	Wednesday 12th May	Thursday 13th May	Friday 14th May	Saturday 15th May	Sunday 16th May
For times of Masses and booking at Sacred Heart, click here.						HS 11.15am (booking)
CC 10.00am	CC 10.00am	CC 10.00am	CC 10.00am Exposition	CC 10.00am	CC No Mass	CC 9.30am (booking)

Online booking for upcoming Masses

[Sunday Morning Mass at Christ Church, 16th May, 9.30am](#) (click on link)

[Sunday Morning Mass at Holy Saviour's, 16th May, 11.15am](#) (click on link)

Times of Exposition and Reconciliation at Christ Church

Thursday 13th May: after 10.00am Mass until 12.00noon. (**Feast of the Ascension**)

Saturday 15th May: Children's Reconciliation 10.00am & 11.30am

Weekdays from Monday 17th May - Friday 21st May: every evening from 6.00pm—7.30pm

Thursday 20th May: after 10.00am Mass until 12.00noon.

Saturday 22nd May: 9.30am - 12.00noon

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This week: 9th May	Joan Penny-Heys	Margaret Needham
Next week: 16th May	Monica McArdle	Maureen Rawlinson

Church Collection

Last week's collection : £251.00
 Standing Orders: approx. £295 p/w.
 SPUC (over two weekends): £206.30
*Offertory envelopes are still at the back of church
 if you haven't yet picked up yours!*

Mass times in Nelson & Colne

6.00pm: Sacred Heart
 9.30am: Sacred Heart
 9.30am: Christ Church
 11.15am: Holy Saviour's

Monica's Children's Liturgy Video

Granny Mariah and Grandpa Jack are getting ready for Ascension Thursday.



Sacramental Programme

Meeting this Tuesday 11th May, 4.30 & 6.00pm
 First Reconciliation, Saturday 15th May, 10 & 11.30am

POUND DRAW WINNERS THIS WEEK

£10 Linda Shutt; £10 Elliot Taylor;
 £10 Thomas Hancox. £77 towards Parish Funds.
 Thank you all very much.



Book of Remembrance

May 14 Maurice Harrison
 May 15 James Rossall
 May 15 Shaun Yates
 May 20 Rev Fr Bernard Heseltine
 May 21 Leonard Redfern.



May the memory of the lives of those who have gone before us, inspire us to be a people of faith and prayer; may they rest in peace, AMEN

Mass Intentions

Miles Taylor, died recently.
 Mary & John Lavan, RIP.
 Elsie and Ernest Wareing, RIP
 Special Intention.