



St John Southworth's RC Parish
at Holy Saviour's Church, Vulcan St, BB9 8HE
and Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS
Nelson

Parish House: 5 Park Drive,
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**If you would like to receive this
newsletter electronically, then
please email the parish.**

The Feast of Pentecost



24th May 2026



Click on the moneybox to make a
secure online donation to the parish!

[St John Southworth's YouTube Channel](#)



Click link for live-streamed and recorded Masses.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I must say that I feel so privileged to be in a position where I can set off to visit another city with the specific and sole intention of proclaiming the Gospel in a place that I have never before visited; it feels like writing another chapter of the Acts of the Apostles! And so it was that I set off to lead a mission in the two parishes of St Joseph's and Holy Family in Aberdeen.

The invitation came to me from a priest who had once been a student of mine in seminary. I had told him that the likelihood of my finding a priest to cover for me in Nelson was rather remote, and I would probably not be able to leave my parish. However, a few weeks later, Fr Jude appeared on the scene having retired from St Albans, Blackburn. On asking him whether he would be able to cover a weekend for me, he readily agreed to my request. It seemed that the Holy Spirit was orchestrating events, and that I must now step up and step out in faith and travel to Scotland on my first ever one-man mission!

On arrival in Aberdeen, last Saturday, I was immediately whisked away to celebrate a 5.00pm vigil Mass in an outlying area called Dyce where for the last fifty years the Church of Scotland has allowed the local Catholics to hold Mass in a small hall, behind their church. After this initial experience, I was from then on caught up in a flurry of hectic activities which included Masses, Mission Services, visits to two schools, an evening meeting with the Confirmation candidates, and even a visit to meet the Bishop who warmly welcomed me to the Diocese.

The people of Aberdeen were welcoming and receptive, although their attempts at correcting my pronunciation of 'Aberdeen' were largely fruitless as I was told the first two syllables of the word are NOT pronounced in exactly the same way as the name of a well-known pop group!

As always, in the task of mission, the analogy of casting seeds holds good—we don't stay around to see the longer-term effects of our ministry. We preach about the importance of opening our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit, the joy of knowing and following Jesus, and the deep security which comes from surrendering to the loving will of the Father in all things. I did, however, receive a number of lovely cards, which I appreciated very much, expressing thanks for my visit.

On returning to Nelson, it feels a little like waking up from a fast-moving dream after having been thrown into a whole variety of different situations with people I had never before met. However, Pentecost Day has arrived and it's now time for the Holy Spirit to draw me back into the present moment where here in Nelson opportunities abound to share faith and build community which are the foundational activities inspired, encouraged, and enabled by the Holy Spirit.

May the blessings of Pentecost be ours,

Fr Gerard

Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 25th May 2026

Monday 25th May	Tuesday 26th May	Wednesday 27th May	Thursday 28th May	Friday 29th May	Saturday 30th May	TRINITY Sunday 31st May
NO MASS	MASS C.C. 10.00am	MASS H.S 7.00pm	MASS C.C. 10.00am Exposition	MASS C.C. 10.00am	NO MASS	C.C. 9.30am H.S. 11.15am

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This Sunday: 24th May	George Winkley	Sarah Ellison
Next Sunday: 31st May	Joan Penny-Heys	Monica McArdle

Children's Church: C.C. Siobhan & Margaret B **H.S** Antonio, James, Helen / Monica, Teresa, Karen

Eucharistic Ministry 4th Sunday (C.C. and H.S.)

Monica McArdle	Maureen McDermott
Marie Clark	Julie Taylor
Zechariah Javed	Suzanne Kelly
Marcin Zycinski	Ewa Zycinska
Mendoza Family	Catherine Masih

POUND DRAW

£10.00 Dominic Maher
 £10.00 Chris Dunleavy
 £10.00 Doreen Batson
 £10.00 Margaret Morgan
 £82.00 towards Parish Funds *Many Thanks*

MASS INTENTIONS

William Variyam, anniv, 24th May (1980)
 Michael Jennings, anniv, 25th May (2001)
 McGuinness Family, anniv, 26th May
 Mary Casson, anniv, 27th May (2023)
 Ena Fitzgerald

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY

On the evenings of the month of May, we will pray the Rosary at Holy Saviour's at 7.00pm.



CHURCH COLLECTION

Standing Orders: approx: £765 p/w
 17th May 2026: £285.00
 Many thanks!

First Holy Communions

Congratulations to our First Holy Communicants and their families as they celebrate their special day with the parish. Just to remind family and friends that the piety stalls for cards and gifts are open at the end of our Sunday Masses.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

May 25th James Jennings (2001)
 May 26th Mildred Watson (2007)
 May 27th Barbara Burnett (2020)
 May 28th Colin Starkie (2013)
 May 30th Claud Rushton (1974)
 May 31st Grace Langstroth (2009)



*May the souls of all the faithful departed
rest in peace!*

Bring and Buy Cake Sale this Sunday

*Cakes, tarts, biscuits and all suchlike goodies will
be gratefully received. Just leave them in the
kitchen before Mass. If you would like to make an
extra donation, just put money in one of the
brown envelopes and mark it 'coach trip'.
Many thanks!*

Men's Retreat Day, St Mary & St Michael, Settle.
 In two weeks time on **Saturday, 6th June,**
10.30am—4.00pm

Please give your name to Martin Zycinski after Sunday Mass if you would like to attend. The retreat days are so worthwhile for our personal spiritual growth, and therefore of major benefit for the health of the parish community!

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

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