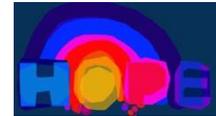




CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH BOSCOMBE
OUTREACH 10: MAY 24th 2020



Hello everyone: IT IS STILL EASTER AND THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET BETTER!!

A MESSAGE FROM FR ADRIAN:

Next Sunday, Pentecost Sunday we celebrate that Jesus, true to his promise, sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles. The coming of the Holy Spirit changed the Apostles and saw the launch of a new community, the Church. It is the birthday of the Church. We all, of course know, in these challenging times, we need the support of the Holy Spirit to keep us, hopeful, faithful, and joyful as members of the Church. The Apostles were in the Upper Room and unsure of how to carry out their mission. A great task had been entrusted to them to spread the Good News but they had neither the strength nor will to begin this mission. But after the coming of the Holy Spirit they were a changed people. They left their hiding place and set out to preach the Good News. In promising them Holy Spirit, Jesus said to them: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses.

(Acts 1:8)

We are gifted by the Holy Spirit and we are energized to witness to our faith and proclaim the Good News of God. We need God’s Spirit to empower us so we are able to take charge of our lives and be willing to change what needs to be changed in our lives. We need the power of the Spirit. Let us pray for each other. Let us pray that we trust in the power that the Spirit gives us. Let’s celebrate the birthday of the Church. Adrian Howell, SJ.

LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH: Sally Lees, Carmel Rippington, Joyce Smith, Angela Hagley, Mary Atfield, and Josephine Bua.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Leonard Simonis and Ellie Smith. Also, Fr. Charles de Pasleur SJ., Corpus Christi’s First Parish Priest .

ASCENSION TO PENTECOST

This week, we are between the feast of Ascension (last Thursday) and the feast of Pentecost (this coming Sunday). It is interesting to read again the account in Acts of the ten days between Ascension and Pentecost. We might have expected it to be a time of slightly stunned disorientation. Jesus has gone, and although he has promised this “Holy Spirit”, the Spirit hadn’t yet been given. We might have expected the disciples to have been a bit lost. But that isn’t how Luke tells it. He makes no mention of fear, unease or disbelief. The period between the Ascension and Pentecost, he relates, was not an empty time of waiting, a kind of collective holding of the breath. But rather, there is a boldness and energy about it. The inner group of disciples is recorded as “constantly devoting themselves to prayer” – not just among themselves but involving, from the start, Mary and other followers of Jesus. And Peter takes the lead, gathering the whole group of believers, and initiates a process to replace Judas. By prayer and by lot, together they choose Matthias – who had been with the disciples during the whole of Jesus’ ministry, and was therefore equipped for the task of “becoming a witness with us to the resurrection”. They were getting on with the task of being Jesus’ witnesses. The Holy Spirit was already dynamically active with them. He was preparing them by helping them to internalize the lessons of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. And so, when

the tongues of fire appeared and the Holy Spirit came upon them they were ready and sure of the task to which they were called; the mission that was entrusted to them



5 WITNESSES TO THE RESURRECTION

This “in between time”, 7th Week of Easter, is populated by an interesting group of witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection. Five Saints who lived in different times and places. Four men and one woman, including a monk, a martyr, the founder of a religious group, a bishop and a Pope.

MONDAY: Saint Bede The Venerable, who hailed from North East England, is regarded as the greatest of all the Anglo-Saxon Scholars. He wrote around 40 books covering a huge range of subjects. His writings were filled with such faith and learning that even while he was still alive, a Church council ordered them to be read publicly in the churches. He was the first man to write a history of the English People. His writings reveal how the values of Christianity were implanted and integrated within the violent warrior society that existed at that time. A unique era was coming to an end at the time of Bede’s death. He recognized the opening of a new day in the life of the Church even as it was happening. Bede also worked on a translation of the *Gospel of Saint John* into English, “to break the word to the poor and unlearned”. Bede is one of the few saints honored as such even during his lifetime. Bede died in 735 praying his favorite prayer: “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As in the beginning, so now, and forever.” **SAINT BEDE PRAY FOR US**

TUESDAY: ST PHILIP NERI, born in 1515, is the patron saint of joy and a powerful intercessor for people who have periods of feeling down. St Philip had a long history of playing jokes on people and didn’t allow anyone in his circle to take themselves too seriously. The saint’s best-known achievement is that he founded the Congregation of the Oratory. The key to his success was that he used humour in his ministry. He made others laugh, but also had a phenomenal capacity for love and was said to have had an all-consuming love of God. We might do well to pray to St Philip Neri that he inspires us with the ability to cherish others and to be filled with the joy of love. **SAINT PHILIP NERI PRAY FOR US.**

WEDNESDAY: ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, sent from Rome in 596 to bring Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons, became “Apostle to the English” and the Founder of the English Church. As the first Archbishop of Canterbury, he laboured patiently, and persevered despite many obstacles. Augustine comes across as a very human saint, like us, who had to face difficulties and setbacks and “hung in there”. The limited success Augustine achieved in England before his death in 605, would eventually bear fruit long afterwards in the conversion of England. **SAINT AUGUSTINE PRAY FOR US.**

THURSDAY: BLESSED MARGARET POLE, better known as the Countess of Salisbury, was executed in 1541 by Henry VIII. Margaret was known for her devout Roman Catholic beliefs, as was her son Reginald. When Henry broke from the Catholic church and the Pope, Reginald refused to acknowledge Henry as supreme head of the new Church of England and

fled abroad. This left Margaret in a precarious situation. The situation was not helped by the Countess of Salisbury's Plantagenet blood, which Henry VIII also saw as a threat. King Henry's wrath turned to the remaining Pole family, he stripped Margaret of her title and lands. From then on she was to be styled simply as Margaret Pole. Together with other members of the family she was arrested, falsely accused of treason, confined to the Tower for two years before being executed, a frail 67 year old lady. Until the end, Margaret claimed her innocence. **BLESSED MARGARET POLE PRAY FOR US.**

FRIDAY: SAINT POPE PAUL VI, nick-named the "Pilgrim Pope", was the first Pope to travel the world, visiting six continents. The Pope's travels gave him opportunities to see examples of social injustice with his own eyes, giving him first-hand experience of the suffering of the poor and oppressed. With his journeys he also opened many new avenues for the papacy by "speaking out, though diplomatically, on every conceivable topic". He was prophetic, and foresaw the impending environmental disaster that is facing humanity to day. He also completed and implementation of Vatican II that opened the Church to the World. **SAINT POPE PAUL PRAY FOR US.**

RE-OPENING OF CHURCHES?



Places of worship come under step three of the government's recovery, meaning they cannot open until 4 July at the earliest. But Cardinal Vincent Nichols said Catholic churches should be allowed to open for private prayer: "I'd like to see churches available for people to go and kneel and say their prayers privately", he said, "and it would mean a routine of supervision, a routine of social distancing, a routine of cleansing – and all of that we believe we can do." Catholic parish life as we knew it is not coming back any time soon. What we do know is that it will be a "cautious, gradual" return. But when it is the time, we will be ready. But for now

SOCIAL DISTANCING AND WORKING FROM HOME GO ON



ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU. On behalf of Fr Adrian and the finance committee, our appreciation to parishioners who have sent in cheques or have set up Bank Standing Orders in the last few weeks which helps the parish finance. If anyone would like to set up a Standing Order please see information on Church website or contact Aidan: cparishcentre@gmail.com or call **07775868253** who can arrange for paperwork to be forwarded. Thanks also for donations on Church website Just Given button, we have had £440 donated since we launched this facility. Every little helps

