



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

RE Newsletter Summer Term 2

SUMMER TERM 2



Dear Parents,

On Sunday the Church celebrated one of the most important feasts in the Church's calendar: the Feast of Pentecost. In school the children would be studying the birth of the Church and the coming of the Spirit in their respective years.

What is Pentecost?

Pentecost comes from the Greek word for 'five'. It was an old Jewish Feast, 50 days after Passover, celebrating the gathering of the Spring harvest. Pentecost for Christians occurs on the 50th day after Easter. It is the celebration of the person of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles, Mary, and the first followers of Jesus, who were gathered together in the Upper Room. Pentecost marks the conclusion of the Easter season and celebrates the birth of the Church.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Blessed Trinity. God comes to meet us in differing ways: in the form of Jesus, whom the disciples could see and touch, share a meal with, listen to. But now God comes to them in another way – not limited by space and time, but present to everyone, everywhere, always! If Jesus is the visible form of God, the Holy Spirit is the opposite. The Spirit dwells within our hearts, and operates from deep within us. So although we never see the Spirit, we do experience movements of the heart that draw us toward God. That's enough to assure us that we possess the Spirit, or even better, that the Spirit possesses us.

In his sermon on Pentecost Sunday Pope Francis stated:

'The Holy Spirit changes people's lives. Let us look at the Apostles. The Holy Spirit did not make things easier for them, he didn't work spectacular miracles, the Spirit didn't take away their difficulties and their opponents. What the Holy Spirit brings is harmony. He brings order to our frenzy. The Spirit is peace in the midst of restlessness, confidence in the midst of discouragement, joy in sadness, youth in aging, courage in the hour of trial. Amid the stormy currents of life, he lowers the anchor of hope.'

Prayer of Pope Francis to the Holy Spirit:

"Holy Spirit, harmony of God, you who turn fear into trust and self-centeredness into self-gift, come to us. Grant us the joy of the resurrection and perennially young hearts."

"Holy Spirit, our harmony, you who make of us one body, pour forth your peace upon the Church and our world. Make us artisans of concord, sowers of goodness, apostles of hope."

The Spirit bring gifts for us that we need in our lives: the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Think about which gift you may be in need of at this particular time.



The month of June is also dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus reminds us of the never ending and merciful love that Jesus has for us.

The Church's prayer cycle for the summer includes the following:

- *A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews.*
- *Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights*, especially on St John Fisher and St Thomas More (22 June)
- *Europe*, especially of the feasts of St Benedict (11 July), St Bridget of Sweden (23 July) who are Patrons of Europe
- *Human Life*, especially on Day for Life (3rd Sunday in June)
- *Seafarers*, especially on Sea Sunday (2nd Sunday in July)

Dates from the Church's calendar:

1 st June	Mary, Mother of the Church
5 th June	St. Boniface
7 th June	Trinity Sunday
9 th June	St. Columba
11 th June	St. Barnabas
13 th June	St. Anthony
14 th June	Corpus Christi
19 th June	Sacred Heart of Jesus
20 th June	Immaculate Heart of Mary
22 nd June	Ss John Fisher & Thomas More
24 th June	Nativity of John the Baptist
28 th June	Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles
3 rd July	St. Thomas, Apostle
11 th July	St. Benedict, patron of Europe
22 nd July	St. Mary Magdalene
23 rd July	St. Bridget, patron of Europe

We hope, as always, you find this newsletter interesting and informative. Please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in our prayers, especially at this time.

