



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Solemnity of Pentecost

23rd May, 2021

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Sunday, 23 rd May Solemnity of Pentecost <i>Day of Prayer for the Church</i>	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Herminia Madeira Cosme Ximenes and Adeline Fatima Lemos</i>
Monday, 24 th May <i>Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church</i>	9.15 am	<i>Rita, Osvaldo, Brigida da Silva and Venacio da Costa</i>
Tuesday, 25 th May <i>Memorial of St. Bede the Venerable, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Wednesday, 26 th May <i>Memorial of St. Philip Neri, Priest</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Thursday, 27 th May <i>Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest</i>	<i>6.00 pm Exposition & Benediction 7.00 pm Mass</i>	<i>Jesmi Peiris</i>
Friday, 28 th May <i>Feria</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Saturday, 29 th May <i>Solemnity of the Dedication of the Church</i>	No Public Mass Today	
Sunday, 30 th May Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity	9.00 am 6.00 pm	<i>Antonio Luis Mota Martinho Madeira & Alcina Brites</i>
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 6.00 – 6.45 pm		

Welcome to Sacred Heart Church for Mass today.

Today is Pentecost Sunday. The Easter Season, which began on Easter Sunday, ends this evening.
Thank you to everyone who has helped to make it a special time in the life of our parish.

Tomorrow we return to Ordinary Time and the cycle of weekday readings resumes at the 8th Week in Year 1. The Sunday readings will be for Year B. If you pray the Divine Office we begin tomorrow with Psalter Week 4.

If you have recently moved into this parish, or if you are returning after lockdown, please come and say hello to me. Thank you.

Please pray for those we know who are sick, including **Jesmi Peiris, Domenico Mirto and Regina Soares**. If you are ill and you would like to ask for prayers on this newsletter, let me know (in writing, please). Thank you.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Patrick Griffiths, Ivor Bridgewater** and all who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr. Wilfrid Moore, Canon John Hughes, Frs. Thomas Foynes, Thomas Bagnall, Michael McKenna, Patrick Taylor, John Kearns, James Ward, Dermot Corcoran, Deacon William Parker and also Benjamin Curtis, Sarah Curtis, the Mahoney Family and Joseph Cleary. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Mass at Home. You are welcome to Sacred Heart for Mass, but if you wish to join us for Mass from your home, we can Zoom the Mass to you (please email me for a link). Alternatively, you could watch the Mass on Saturday, 5.30 pm, and/or Sunday, 11.00 am from Our Lady's where we are now live and can be viewed at <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

Here is a prayer, **an Act of Spiritual Communion**, which you can say as you watch a Livestream Mass:

"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You."

Taking the next step with care. This is a very exciting time. One of the Psalms speaks about the Lord as a warrior awaking as if from sleep and stretching, ready for action. It feels that the Church is also once again starting to awaken and stretch. Things are starting to happen and it is lovely to see parishioners coming back to Mass. It is important that we all continue to observe restrictions in church. These restrictions include: sanitising your hands as you enter and leave the church, leaving contact details as you enter, wearing a face covering whilst in the building, and maintaining physical distance from other people. It is also very important that we co-operate with the stewards in being seated safely. Thank you.

First Holy Communions. Some of our children are in the process of preparing to receive their First Holy Communion at the evening Mass next Sunday and the Sunday after. Please pray for them and their families, and for their teachers. Parents, if your child is still waiting to make his or her first Holy Communion and is not at either St. John Fisher School or Our Lady's School, please have a chat with me.

Baptism. Thanks be to God that from last Monday the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism has been allowed to resume, with up to 30 people permitted to attend. Please pray for all the parents who are preparing for their child's baptism in the coming weeks. If you have been waiting to have your child baptised, please come and see me.

May Prayer Initiative. In response to the Holy Father's heartfelt wish, the month of May is being dedicated to a "marathon" of prayer, to ask for the end of the Coronavirus pandemic. Pope Francis wishes to involve Shrines around the world in this initiative, so that they may become vehicles of the prayer of the entire Church. With the people at the shrines we are asked to pray the Holy Rosary each day of the month for a daily prayer intention. A list of each day's shrine and prayer intention is printed in the booklets that are available in the church. The Vatican website will broadcast the prayer said each day in each of the thirty Shrines at 5:00 pm, BST.

The month of June is dedicated in a special way to the veneration of the Sacred Heart. Not just on one day – the liturgical feast, which generally falls in June – but every day. In this parish of the Sacred Heart get ready for some serious praying!

Zooming Mass. Because Cathy is away this Sunday the 9.00 Mass won't be available on Zoom this week. Sorry. Normal service will resume as soon as possible.

Commemorative Candles. The large candles in front of the Tabernacle, the Sacred Heart statue and Our Lady's statue burn night and day. These lights indicate the presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle and also give honour to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady. They also show our desire to remain present to the Lord in prayer, even though we have to leave church and go about our daily business. If you would like one of the week-long candles to burn for a particular intention or in memory of a loved one, please add the intention to the list at the back of church and enclose your intention in an envelope, with an offering of £5, and give it to me after Mass or leave it in the collection basket.

Two new feast days. The Church doesn't often add new celebrations to its pretty full liturgical calendar, but in 2015 two new ones were introduced:

1. Each year, on the Monday after Pentecost we will mark the "Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church," and
2. On the Thursday after Pentecost we will honour Our Lord Jesus Christ, The Eternal High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Tailpiece: Donna was once given a teddy bear as a gift. Unfortunately, one of its eyes was looking West while the other was looking East. She looked at it gravely for a moment and then announced that she would call it "Gladly". "Why?" asked her mother, puzzled. "Because of the hymn," Donna explained. "You know, Mummy. The one that starts, 'Gladly, my cross-eyed bear'."

May God bless you and all those you love.
Fr. Harry