

St. Nicholas News Francis St. Parish

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Feast of the Pentecost – 19 May 2024

JUBILEE YEAR—2025



Pope Francis called Christians to be builders of hope after presiding at the ceremony to officially proclaim the Jubilee of 2025. “Christian hope gives us the courage to build a fraternal and peaceful world when it seems barely worth the effort,” Pope

Francis said as he encouraged the faithful to rejoice in the gift of the resurrection and “see the promise of good at times when evil seems to prevail.” The theme chosen for the Jubilee year that kicks off on 24 December 2024 with the Opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica is “Pilgrims of Hope”. “Brothers and sisters,” the Pope said, “Jesus destroyed our death, that we might receive life, forever,” and explained that “it is this hope, based on Christ who died and rose again, that we wish to celebrate, ponder and proclaim to the whole world in the coming Jubilee.” This hope, he explained, “has nothing to do with mere human optimism or the ephemeral expectation of some earthly benefit.” It is “a gift daily bestowed upon us until the time when we will be one in the embrace of His love.” Reflecting on the concept and reality of Christian hope that is “unperishable” and “unfading”, the Pope said it sustains us in the journey of our lives, even during the darkest and most difficult moments and times. It opens our eyes to future possibilities, he continued and makes us see the promise of good at times when evil seems to prevail. Pope Francis went on to encourage Christians, as they prepare for the celebration of the Jubilee, to lift up their hearts to Christ, and become “singers of hope in a world marked by too much despair.” Hope, he remarked, is needed by the society in which we live, “often caught up only in the present and incapable of looking to the future;” it is needed by our age, “caught up in an individualism that is frequently and content merely to scrape along from day to day.” Hope - he continued - “is needed by God’s creation, gravely damaged and disfigured by human selfishness,” and it is needed by peoples and nations who look to the future with anxiety and fear. “As injustice and arrogance persist, the poor are discarded, wars sow seeds of death, the least of our brothers and sisters remain at the bottom of the pile, and the dream of a fraternal world seems an illusion.” Hope, he said, brings courage, comfort, closeness and care. Hope, the Pope said, is needed by our young people, by the elderly, by the sick and by those who suffer in body and spirit. “Hope is needed by the Church,” the Pope added, so she never forgets, that “as the Bride of Christ, she is loved with an eternal and faithful love, called to hold high the light of the Gospel, and sent forth to bring to all the fire that Jesus definitively brought to the world.” In times of darkness, the Pope remarked, even when we feel overwhelmed by despair and unknowingly yearn for the presence of God, we are reminded of the words of theologian Fr. Romano Guardini who wrote that once darkness has lifted and people ask God: “Lord, where were you? they will once more hear his answer: ‘Closer to you than ever before!’” “Brothers and sisters,” he concluded, “May the Lord, risen from the dead and ascended into heaven, grant us the grace to rediscover hope, to proclaim hope and to build hope.

Courtesy Linda Bordoni - Vatican News

Ecumenical Bible Week

Starts this Sunday 19 May. The theme this year is inspired by the times in which we live (a “troubled world”). We hope to bring a variety of faith perspectives from the Scriptures (“peace and justice”) to bear on our current experience. See <https://www.bibleweek.ie/>

Aware

If you or those with whom you work wish to connect with people in relation to your mental wellbeing, consider using Aware’s phone-in and Zoom support and self-care groups, support line or support mail. For more information, visit www.aware.ie

Remembered this Weekend

Maura Stimpson (R Deceased)
Marie Lawlor (Month’s Mind)
Margaret Byrne (Month’s Mind)
Teresa Leonard (10th A)
Patrick Rattigan (19th A)
Mona Keogh (10th A)
Brendan Byrne (B Rem)
Harry Harkness (26th A)
May Byrne (27th A)
Ellie & John Reilly
Dorrington Family
Hannah Powell (R Dec)
Marie Hughes (R Dec)

Irish DS Futsal Team

Josh Hennessy of Park Terrace is the current captain of the Ireland International Down Syndrome Futsal team. Irish DS futsal team is playing the USA DS futsal team and having a futsal camp out in Gormanstown sports centre from 20th to 24th May. You can imagine the excitement in the Hennessy household. We wish them the very best of luck!



FEAST OF PENTECOST

Penitential Rite

As we begin our celebration, rejoicing in the love of Father, Son and Spirit, let us remember God's creative love.

By your Spirit you grant us compassion Lord have mercy

Through your Spirit you create the Body of Christ.
Christ have mercy

In your Spirit you free our imagination. Lord have mercy

May our great and gracious Lord, who has sent us his Spirit, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting.
Amen

Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

Galatians 5:16-22

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires. Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia

John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness. And you too will be witnesses, because you have been with me from the outset. 'I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come. He will glorify me, since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: All he tells you will be taken from what is mine.'

Prayer of the Faithful

God our Father and Mother, you gave us your Son Jesus, through the Loving Power of the Holy Spirit. May we be one, as you are, with your Son and the Holy Spirit.
Lord hear us

For our parish, that God's Spirit will guide and inspire each of us to contribute according to our gifts.
Lord hear us.

We pray for a new spirit of adventure in the leadership of the Irish Church; one that is creative, imaginative and inclusive, one that looks for opportunity rather than languishes in crisis. Lord hear us.

For those suffering because of violence: that we may find ways to care for the earth and all its peoples with justice and love. Lord hear us.

For all who have died, especially those who have died needlessly through violence and war, that their deaths may not be in vain. Lord hear us.

For all who need our prayer and support, we pray in silence.....Lord hear us

Reflection

The Spirit of God is a transforming Spirit. Disturbing us from what is familiar and comfortable; enticing us beyond the borders of sameness and the dreariness of mindless repetition. The first disciples were shaken by his very presence and then armed with new weapons more powerful than any that had ever been seen before: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Humility, Self-control. These were truly weapons of mass destruction; destroying our selfishness, our hardness of heart, our desire for power, our impatience with the weak and the poor, our inability to appreciate creation. The Spirit burns up everything that dehumanises people, everything that disfigures the beauty of the soul, everything that treats creation with disregard. And when the flames have died down there is the gentle whisper of a creative breeze; breathing into us the joy of a new and profoundly wonderful vision of ourselves and our world. This is the vision not of the dream-world, but of the real world, as our Creative and Loving God always intended it to be. And finally.....there is the realization that the God who makes everything possible, lives not in some distant land, but within my own heart.