

# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE

*Corpus Christi • Our Lady of Lourdes • St Joseph's*

*THIS WEEK*  
**8th Week of Ordinary Time**

**SUNDAY 31st MAY 2020**

*Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday*

### **Collect**

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers.

**1st Reading** Acts 2:1-11

**Psalm** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

**2nd Reading** St. Paul Corinthians 1 12:3-7.12-13

**Gospel Verse** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love.

**Gospel** John 20:19-23

### **Giving**

To donate to any of our parishes, please visit



### **Gift of the Holy Spirit**

#### **Canon Tom Gunning**

We hear of two accounts of the descent of the Holy Spirit in our readings for Pentecost.

In John's Gospel Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples on Easter Sunday evening. We are reminded of how God breathed life into Adam in the book of Genesis. This is a new creation. The Church is formed by the gift of the Holy Spirit and the disciples are sent out to bring forgiveness, the forgiveness of Jesus.

In the Acts of the Apostles the Holy Spirit comes down on all in the Upper Room 50 days after Easter. The Holy Spirit comes on them with the power of a great wind and tongues of fire appear over the heads of the disciples. They are changed or transformed into a fearless group who proclaim the great deeds of God. They have been given the gift of speech. They can make themselves understood by people of all nations. So, the effects of the confusion and scattering of the people of the earth which happened at the Tower of Babel are now reversed. The Holy Spirit brings unity and communion. Today we celebrate the birth of the Church and the continuation of Jesus' saving work through us, his disciples. We acknowledge that we too are called and sent out. We too have received the Holy Spirit. We too announce Jesus' forgiveness and we call all people to be one in the Lord.



**cliftondiocese.com**  
*diocesan news and events*

Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St Joseph's parishes are all part of Clifton Diocese. We pray for Bishop Declan Lang, and all the priests, deacons, parishes, and people of our diocese.

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**PARISH PRIEST: CANON TOM GUNNING**

Corpus Christi Presbytery, 14 Ellenborough Park South, BS23 1XW // 01934 621929 // tom.gunning@cliftondiocese.com

### **CORPUS CHRISTI (CC)**

Ellenborough Park South, BS23 1XW  
wsm.corpuschristi@cliftondiocese.com  
01934 621929

Administrator: Tracey Nelson  
Parish Office CLOSED – Contact by email

### **OUR LADY OF LOURDES (LOL)**

Baytree Road, Milton, BS22 8HQ  
wsm.ourladyoflourdes@cliftondiocese.com  
01934 627137

Administrator: Maricris Magbanua  
Parish Office CLOSED – contact by email

### **ST JOSEPH'S (ST J's)**

Camp Road, BS23 2EN  
wsm.stjoseph@cliftondiocese.com  
01934 629865

Administrator: Deacon Tom Moffatt

## NOTICE BOARD

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS** Mass is now being offered online via Zoom. For the link to join us, please subscribe to our email list via the website. Mass is at 9am each day apart from Wednesdays, which is 6.30pm.

9am Sunday 31st - People of the Parish  
9am Monday 1st - Edward and Elsie May R.I.P (Anniv)  
9am Tuesday 2nd - Mary Porter R.I.P  
6.30pm Wednesday 3rd - Deceased members of the Westwood Family  
9am Thursday 4th - Norman and Elizabeth Gillett R.I.P  
9am Friday 5th - Patrick (Pat) Rogers R.I.P. (Anniv)  
9am Saturday 6th - Canon William O'Callaghan R.I.P

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Marjorie Thomson who is very poorly in Weston General Hospital with the Coronavirus. For Adam Walker who is ill at this present time and also for Susan Slattery who is in Weston Hospital recovering after breaking her hip. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

**THE DIVINE MERCY CANDLE** is being kept alight at Our Lady of Lourdes, this week for the Eradication of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

### HELPING THE VULNERABLE

**CAFOD** thanks everyone who has donated to their Coronavirus appeal. At least one parishioner was put off by the request for personal data requested (unfortunately some criminals have used the crisis to operate some cruel scams). Firstly, of course, I would like to reassure people that CAFOD donations are processed via a secure web site and confidentiality is protected. However for those who are still concerned, you can of course pop a cheque in an envelope addressed to:

Coronavirus Appeal  
CAFOD Head Office  
Romero House  
55 Westminster Bridge Road  
London SE1 7JB

Because of the situation, the office is currently closed so online giving is still the fastest way of making your contribution count.

Thanks to those people who took away CAFOD money boxes to fill through Lent. Please bring them back (hopefully well filled by now) when the church re-opens.

### MESSAGE FROM BISHOP DECLAN

Following the disappointing announcement that potentially our churches will not re-open until 4 July 2020, the Bishops' Conference is actively engaging with the Government to try and agree that churches can be opened as soon as possible for private prayer. However, we will need to guarantee that we will fully observe public health guidelines. Detailed plans of how this can be achieved are being prepared and full guidance and procedures will be provided once a decision on the way forward has been agreed.

Meanwhile I hope you are continuing to keep safe and well.

With my best wishes and prayers - Bishop Declan

## REFLECTION FROM CLIFTON DIOCESE PENTECOST SUNDAY

Today is the joyful celebration of Pentecost. Our Gospel speaks of the disciples locked away behind closed doors afraid of the Jewish authorities. Jesus comes and stands amongst them and offers them peace. Twice he says to them, 'Peace be with you.' His presence and his offering brings the disciples great joy and confidence. It is a confidence that sends them out into the world once more. This is the peace we are offered. It is not a simple handshake, it is an offering of deep inner peace which reassures us that with Jesus we are safe, we can feel confident that all will be well. As Christians we have been given many gifts. If we have a role to play in the world it is to share this gift of peace, the peace that leads to freedom and hope and a belief in all things that are good.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

With all the uncertainty surrounding lockdown of schools and Churches, the original planned date of June for FHC will obviously now not be realised. The restart of the programme will depend on how schools and Churches will manage the number of people at any-one gathering. The outcome of this may impact class sizes and prolong the completion of the preparation programme and indeed the masses themselves. I am sure that everyone will agree that the safety of all those involved is paramount and to that end we will be guided by the school and the Church regarding the format of the programme going forward.

In the meantime, please keep an eye on the newsletter for further updates as they happen and above all, stay safe.  
The Catechist Team.

### PANDEMIC PATRONS: ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

St Catherine of Siena, whose feast day was on the 19th April, was born during a time of plague in Italy, in 1347, as the 24<sup>th</sup> of 25 children, she grew into a deeply contemplative relationship of love with Christ, which empowered her extraordinary activities, from caring for the victims of the pandemic, to brokering peace between warring city states. She was also instrumental in healing a great schism in the papacy, so that the Pope himself celebrated her funeral when she died, aged 33.

She was the first lay person, and (along with St Teresa of Avila) the first woman, to be declared a Doctor of the Church, and is a patron saint of illness, Italy, and nurses (in her spare time from being co-patroness of Europe along with Bridget of Sweden, and Edith Stein). So let's ask her prayers for us for all those suffering from the pandemic today – remembering especially her native land of Italy – and all those who care for them, whether professionally or at home. St Catherine, pray for us.