

## Veni, Sancte Spiritus

The hymn *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* (Come, Holy Spirit) is an appropriate prayer for these final days before the great feast of Pentecost next Sunday. The text includes beautiful images which teach us of the Holy Spirit's action in our lives: "Thou of all consolers best, Thou, the soul's delightful guest, dost refreshing peace bestow." It reminds us that the Holy Spirit is necessary for us to live good lives: "If Thou take Thy grace away, nothing pure in man will stay; all his good is turned to ill." It speaks of the healing and cleansing action of God's Spirit: "Heal our wounds, our strength renew; on our dryness pour Thy dew; wash the stains of guilt away." The hymn also uses everyday images to remind us of the soothing and transforming power of the Holy Spirit: "Thou in toil art comfort sweet; pleasant coolness in the heat; solace in the midst of woe"; "Bend the stubborn heart and will; melt the frozen, warm the chill; guide the steps that go astray." The full hymn can easily be found online by searching "Veni Sancte Spiritus" or in many prayer books, or missals, in the texts for Pentecost Sunday. It's well worth praying and reflecting on in these days when we await the renewed coming of the Holy Spirit.



## Today's Readings

On Friday we celebrated the feast of St Matthias, the Apostle who was chosen to replace Judas in the group of the Twelve. We hear the story in the first reading at Mass today. These events took place between the Ascension and Pentecost – precisely where we find ourselves now – and show us how the Church was preparing for her mission to go out and preach after the Holy Spirit came. In the second reading we continue St John's teaching on how we can live in God by loving one another, since God is love. In the Gospel, Jesus prays for us, that we may united, consecrated in truth, persevere in faith and be protected from the evil one.

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**Presbytery:** Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HH

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## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Office: Psalter week 3; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: of Eastertide**

Morning Mass is livestreamed each day and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>	Kamla Gill RIP
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am*		Private Intention (PM)
	11:30am		Ints Veronica Anderton
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:30am		Ints Michael Standen
Tuesday	9:30am		Hannah Beardshaw RIP
Wednesday	9:30am		Brian Dagger RIP
Thursday	9:30am		George Oldcorn RIP
Friday	9:30am		Thanksgiving
Saturday	9:30am	<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>	Eamon Lynch RIP
	6pm (vigil)		Valentine Menezes and deceased family
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30am*		Tom Harrison RIP
	11:30am		Ins Rachel Kinsella
	6pm	People of the Parish	

**\* These Masses can only be attended by those who have booked in advance.**

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for **Josephine Brenda Cornah** and all who have died recently.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Saturdays 11am-12noon and by appointment.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Monday-Friday 5pm-6pm, Saturday 11am-12noon, Sunday 3-4pm.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Rosalia Zimny, Jean McCombe, Florence Swift, Martin Elliott, Mary Bernie, Mark Hutchinson, Kathleen Painter, Irene McEvoy.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY:** Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

**MAY PROCESSION:** All the children in our primary school will be taking part in the May Procession this Tuesday (18<sup>th</sup>) at 2pm. Unfortunately families and parishioners will not be able to attend in person, but the procession will be streamed live on the parish YouTube channel.

**COMING FOR PRIVATE PRAYER?** If you are coming to pray privately in church, please pick up a “This space has been used” sheet at the entrance and leave it in your place when we leave. This enables us to clean spaces in between visitors.

**COVID CRISIS IN INDIA:** Contributions for the collection may be made this weekend in marked envelopes. Among the charities working to relieve suffering in India is ACN – find out more about their work and about challenges face by Christians in the country: [click here](#).

**ATTENDING MASSES:** It is no longer necessary to book for the Saturday or Sunday evening Masses or for 11:30am on Sundays. Booking remains necessary for the 9:30am Mass on Sunday morning – please contact us if you would like to attend this. All other services can now be attended without the need to book.

**ST CLARE’S PRE-SCHOOL:** Following the consultation period we are delighted to be going ahead with our pre-school. There is a possibility of a job and should you be interested then please contact Mrs Charnley at school for more information.

**SEEKERS AND SENT GROUPS:** Our youth groups for school years 4-6 (Seekers) and Years 10-11 (Sent) have started again, but numbers are limited due to Covid restrictions. Please contact us (or Ruth or Joe directly) if you’d like to attend.

**SCOUTS AND CUBS:** our St Clare’s groups resume meeting this week, with limited numbers. We welcome them back and look forward to the return of Beavers soon.

**LAY CHAPLAIN JOB VACANCY** at Corpus Christi Catholic High School, beginning from September. Application deadline 17<sup>th</sup> May. See poster or visit school website.

**SPUC PRO-LIFE CHAIN:** Saturday 29 May 11am–1pm. Please join us for this annual silent act of witness to remember the millions of unborn babies lost to abortion. Meet on London Road, Preston – just north of Ribble bridge. Stay for all or part of the time; bring a chair if required. For info tel. 01772 723094.

**PRO-LIFE NEWS:** You can keep up to date with all the latest stories on the sanctity of life by visiting [www.righttolife.org.uk/news](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/news)

**CTFB EVENING STROLL:** Wednesday 9th June, meet at The Sherwood 7pm for a 7:15pm set-off into Masonwood. More details: Margaret Thompson 719317.

**FULWOOD FARMERS’ MARKET** with Fairtrade, Saturday 22nd May 9.30am-1pm at Fulwood Methodist Church. All welcome.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION** this weekend for Catholic Media.

## **“Unlocking” the Parish: our plan**

The plan below gives some sense of how the parish may move towards normality in the coming months. The plan is subject to national restrictions and guidance we receive from the government and from our bishops.

### **At Step 3 of the government’s national roadmap (17<sup>th</sup> May):**

- Baptisms will resume.

### **At Step 4 of the government’s national roadmap (planned for 21<sup>st</sup> June):**

- Car park restrictions will come back into force, freeing up space for the parish and for church/school events.
- Restrictions regarding face coverings, singing at Mass, social distancing etc. will be reviewed in line with latest guidance from the government and from the Bishops’ Conference.

### **Before the autumn (dates to be confirmed):**

- Weekday Masses will revert to the old Mass times. The 11:30am Mass on Sundays will continue until social distancing is no longer required.
- An outdoor parish social event is planned.
- First Holy Communion for the 2019-2020 group will take place.
- Booking requirement for all events will be lifted, if social distancing rules are relaxed by the government and we are confident that it’s safe.
- Visits to housebound parishioners and care homes may be possible.
- The church will reopen all day for private prayer, if rules permit.

### **From September**

- Children’s liturgy and all our youth groups should resume.
- A normal year of sacramental preparation is planned, including for children whose confessions, first Communion and Confirmation have been delayed.
- A full programme of parish social life will take place, if permitted.
- We hope to be able to hold some events to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish and school, in November 2021.
- We hope that the parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land planned for late October may be able to go ahead, if the pandemic and the security situation allow. Work is ongoing to assess this.

We plan to continue to livestream Mass each day, for the benefit of those who are housebound; everyone who can is strongly encouraged to attend Mass and rebuild our community. We will also continue with some other online output to assist with catechesis, evangelisation and outreach work in the parish.