
The fruits of the Holy Spirit

As we celebrate Pentecost this Sunday, it's a good moment for us to consider how we experience in our lives the fruits of the Holy Spirit. These twelve qualities are signs of the Holy Spirit's presence and work in us. Based on Galatians



5:22-23, the fruits are: charity (love), joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity. If we can see these fruits in our daily lives, we know that the seeds of the Holy Spirit planted in us at Baptism and Confirmation are producing their harvest. If we feel we lack one or several of them, it's good for us to pray for a renewal of the Holy Spirit's gifts, so that His fruits can be found in us. Thinking about how we experience these fruits can be the basis of an examination of conscience: it helps us to see where there is room for more growth in our lives, and where we need God's forgiveness and grace. It's also worth noting that fruit always contains its own seeds: when the fruits of the Holy Spirit are at work in us, we sow seeds of deeper holiness and goodness in ourselves and others. Pentecost, for the Jewish people, is a celebration of the harvest. Today we pray that the fruits of the Holy Spirit may be the rich harvest we yield for the Lord.

Today's Readings

We begin with the dramatic account of Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles, followed by the psalm which speaks of the Spirit's life-giving role in creation. In the second reading we hear St Paul speak of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (see above), and in the Gospel the Lord speaks of the Holy Spirit as the 'Advocate', the One who is called to stand alongside us as with consolation, teaching and encouragement as we witness to Jesus in the world.

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 4; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: year 1, week 8

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)	PENTECOST SUNDAY	Valentine Menezes and deceased family members
Sunday 23 rd	9:30am*		Tom Harrison RIP
	11:30am		Ins Rachel Kinsella
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:30am	Mary, Mother of the Church	Ints Terry Sharpe
Tuesday	9:30am	St Bede	Special Intention (JM)
Wednesday	9:30am	St Philip Neri	Robert Thomson RIP
Thursday	9:30am	Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest	Fred Littlefair RIP
Friday	9:30am		Michael Falkingham RIP
Saturday	9:30am		Mary O'Gara RIP
	6pm (vigil)	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY	Pat Vanden RIP
Sunday 30 th	9:30am*		Paddy Parr RIP
	11:30am		Marie Gardner RIP
	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: Andrew Keating, Jack Clayton, Ken Hollis, Constance McCann, Margaret Cowley, Thomas Thompson, Maureen Middlemiss, Jim Murtagh, Marion Stuart, Mary Josephine O'Neil, Anna Hall, Michael Lappin, Hilda McNeela.

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: We had a wonderful celebration for Our Lady last Tuesday. If you missed the May Procession you can watch it back now on YouTube. Thanks to the children for the beautiful singing and for all the contributions they made.

COVID NHS-APP IN CHURCH: In the church entrance there are QR codes which you can scan using the NHS Covid-19 app, if you have a suitable mobile device. Scanning this removes the need for the stewards to record your details. If you cannot (or choose not to) scan the stewards will record your attendance as usual.

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: Thank you for your contributions to the collection. We will publish the totals and more details next weekend.

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.

MAY 200 CLUB WINNERS: £142 no. 121 Lynn Buckley; £85 no. 29 Paul and Jean Smallshaw; £57 no. 133 Fr Andrew. Numbers are available – contact us for details.

SCOUTS AND CUBS: Our St Clare’s groups are now meeting again, with limited numbers. We welcome them back and look forward to the return of Beavers soon.

SPUC PRO-LIFE CHAIN: Saturday 29th 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

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

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“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 4 of the government’s national roadmap (planned for 21st 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.
- CTS booklets and leaflets will be available again in the narthex.

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.
- Other parish groups should be able to resume.
- We hope to be able to hold some events to mark the 50th 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.