

Parish Newsletter

PENTECOST SUNDAY | 9 JUNE 2019
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And so we have made it to Pentecost through this tender time of 50 days listening as a Church to what the Lord asks of us. A priest friend jokes that when he says 'We'll do that after Easter', he means actually after Pentecost and not to blame him, blame the Liturgical Calendar.

Good things do take time and so does the journey to that elusive quality 'peace', the first greeting of the Risen Christ. Holy Week 2019 saw the terrible shooting of Journalist Lyra McKee in Derry and of hundreds in Sri Lanka in serial suicide bomb blasts in churches and hotels. We are as somebody put it after the death of Lyra McKee, Easter people living in a Good Friday world. She herself put it that they were the children of the Good Friday agreement spared from the horror of war but somehow never tasted its fruit. I don't know if Lyra read Tolkien but in the *Return of the King*, you will find this line... 'Though the fruit of the Tree comes seldom to ripeness, yet the life within may then lie sleeping through many long years, and none can foretell the time in which it will awake.' Pentecost Sunday is surely a day to reset our goals, to trim the sails and head in a surer course.

Flashbacks are usually signs of a trauma being revisited. But in the Gospel of today, we have a flashback to the Easter day 50 days previous. Jesus reveals Himself to the disciples, who fear for their lives and are in



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hiding. His greeting is of peace and commission – 'so I send you.'

We've had much focus on Political leaders of our time with political turmoil. Doesn't it always seem that adverse times mean leaders like Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill get remembered? But there are other remarkable figures, take Ramsay MacDonald for instance. Given he was born the illegitimate son of a Scottish farm girl, few would have predicted he would become the first Labour Prime Minister of Britain in 1924 and 1929-35. MacDonald had high idealistic hope for a lasting peace among nations. His foreign minister didn't share his hopes and reminded him that just wishing for peace does not bring it about. 'True enough,' MacDonald answered, 'but

neither does the mere wish for food satisfy one's hunger. Nevertheless, it can get you started toward a restaurant.' We are so hungry for peace, personally and globally. Let us start that journey.

– Tom Cox

This is important: to get to know people, listen, expand the circle of ideas. The world is crisscrossed by roads that come closer together and move apart, but the important thing is that they lead towards the Good.

– Pope Francis

Reflection

Feel the fear and paralysis of the disciples and then the peace and joy Jesus brings.

Lesson

The sending of the Holy Spirit is the completion of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, pour out your Spirit as a divine power to create new life, forgiving sin and cleansing from evil.



THIS WEEK (10-16 JUNE)

- 10 Mon** The BVM, Mother of the Church
- 11 Tue** ST BARNABAS, APOSTLE
- 12 Wed** St John of Sahagun, priest
- 13 Thur** St Anthony of Padua, priest and doctor
- 14 Fri** St Mark of Lucera, bishop
- 15 Sat** St Vitus, martyr
- 16 Sun** THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS



Proverbs 8:22-31
Psalm 8:4-9
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15