



Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 6BD

(01865) 776903 • sacredheartchurchoxford@gmail.com • www.sacredheartoxford.com

Acting Parish Priest: Fr. Pius Duke

Email: fr.pius.duke@rcaob.org.uk

Acting Priest: Fr. Vincent Omokpakpo

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Mass Times, Intentions and Services		
Pentecost Sunday 31 st May	09:30	Mass in private for Patricia McCartney (RIP)
	18:00	Mass in Private for all lonely or isolated
Monday 01 st June	09:00	Mass in private for all Heath Workers
Tuesday 02 nd June	10:00	Mass in private for Thomas (RIP)
Wednesday 03 rd June	09:00	Mass in private for All who died from COVID 19
Thursday 04 th June	19:00	Mass in private for Maryamma (RIP)
Friday 05 th June	09:00	Mass in private for the wellbeing of our parish
Saturday 06 th June	10:00	Mass in private for People of the Parish
Sunday 07 th June	09:30	Mass in private for John PM (RIP)
	18:00	Mass in Private for all lonely or isolated

Offertory (collections): Normal weekend collections cannot be taken under current circumstances. While recognising that this is a very difficult time financially for many people, others may still wish to continue their regular Sunday donations, if they are not already using the envelopes or standing order facilities. Donations may be sent to the Parish even through standing order. We do not receive any financial support from the Diocese, and other sources of income like hall rental.

Mass Suspension Information

COVID 19: If you or someone you know in the parish is self-isolating and is in need of any support, such as help with shopping or a chat on the phone, please get in touch with the Parish Office: Email: sacredheartchurch.oxford@gmail.com Phone: 01865 776903 or 01865 762964. **Corpus Christi Parish in Headington will continue to be live streaming weekday and Sunday Mass, and more details can be found at <https://corpuschristiheadington.co.uk> <https://greyfriarsoxford.weebly.com>**

Also, you can visit the parish website: <https://sacredheartoxford.com>.

Sunday Reflection from Fr. Pius Duke

Pentecost is a feast which occupies an important and prominent position in the Church's history and liturgical calendar. This is because it serves as the bridge between Easter Season and Ordinary Time of the year. Pentecost was the second of three great Jewish Feasts; viz. the Passover, the Pentecost & the Trumpets. The word 'Pentecost' comes from a Greek word which means 'fiftieth' – the fiftieth day after the Jewish Passover. The feast originated from a very ancient thanksgiving celebration, in gratitude to God for the yearly harvest about to be reaped. Later on, another motive was added to this day's celebration with the remembrance of the covenant God made with their forebears on Mount Sinai - a covenant summed up very simply and yet very magnificently in that simple phrase: 'I am your God and you are my people.' When the Jerusalem temple was built, this festival was transformed into a pilgrimage and the Jews of the first century, including Christian Jews, celebrated the great pilgrimage feast of Pentecost. Several decades after the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God's new covenant with God's people. That is the reason for which the Acts of the Apostles in today's reading says that there were many people in Jerusalem. They came from as far away as Persia and Egypt and Rome and spoke the languages of those nations. But that day, something special happened. The mysteries prefigured in that feast are fulfilled in the pouring out of the Spirit on Mary and the Apostles. The giving of the Spirit to the new people of God crowns the mighty acts of God the Father in salvation history. Therefore, today's celebration is a reward for faithful obedience and steadfastness in prayer. As we end the Easter Season, it is also a reminder of starting something new, for Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. Jesus offers his disciples and the entire human race the gift of peace. He entrusts to them the mandate to carry out his mission, and gives them his own spirit, the Holy Spirit, to enable them to fulfil the mission and to forgive sins. This means something more than establishing the sacrament of reconciliation; Jesus is also making his Apostles participants in his victory over evil. People filled with the Spirit are new creatures, transformed, commissioned and sent by the Father to bring reconciliation and peace to the world.

Online Parish Tea Party: Our next meeting on Sunday 07th June at 3.00 pm using Zoom. Please let Chris Breward (beward@maths.ox.ac.uk) know if you like to join.

Masses will be celebrated each day privately by the parish clergy for your intentions. New Mass intention should be sent to sacredheartchurchoxford@gmail.com.

Let us pray together

As the Body of Christ, let us pray in the power of the Spirit of Pentecost:

Leader: We pray for the Church around the world: that it may become a sign of hope and a beacon of light in the darkness. **Lord in Your Mercy...**

Leader: We pray for world leaders and all public authorities; that God might grant them the wisdom, prudence and courage to act for the good of all, and in particular for the world's poorest people during this time of global pandemic. **Lord in Your Mercy...**

Leader: We pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the people of God all over the world, and in all worship traditions. For a readiness to be changed and made new; for a softening of the ground of our hearts to receive the flame of your living word. **Lord in Your Mercy...**

Leader: We pray for everyone in our global family who is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for those who live in countries where healthcare is limited and poverty brings enormous challenges. May God grant us all hope, courage and the vision to change the world for the better. **Lord in Your Mercy...**

Leader: We pray for our local community: that God might grant us peace and renew our commitment to be good neighbours; so that no one feels lonely, forgotten or unloved. **Lord in Your Mercy...**

Leader: We pray for everyone who is sick or afraid, bereaved or isolated around the world; and we pray for all who support them. May the spirit bring each of them peace and comfort, courage and perseverance. **Lord in Your Mercy...**

Leader: We pray that the Holy Spirit may raise to new life all who have died and bring hope and comfort to all who have lost a loved one. **Lord in Your Mercy...**

Leader: Blessed Virgin was with the Apostles on the day of Pentecost; let us ask her to join her prayers to ours as we pray:

O Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia.
For He, whom you did merit to bear. Alleluia.
Has risen as He said. Alleluia.
Pray for us to God. Alleluia.

Father, in grateful thanks for all your blessings in our lives, we relinquish our wills to yours and ask you to accept our prayers which we make through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.