

REFLECTION - PENTECOST

"When the day of Pentecost had come..."

Today at Mass, particularly at as we receive Holy Communion, the power of the Holy Spirit will come down upon us; fiery tongues will not be seen, but invisible tongues of fire will not be absent. There was still another external manifestation of the Holy Spirit; the apostles and disciples were enabled to speak various languages.

After the roar of the wind many of Jerusalem's pilgrims hurried to the Cenacle. Pentecost was one of the three festivals which obliged all Jews to be present in Jerusalem. Jews from distant lands, and Jewish converts from paganism too, attended these feasts. As a result, a colourful crowd speaking a variety of languages surrounded the house. Now the apostles, who so shortly before had hid in fear behind locked doors, came forth and courageously walked among the multitude speaking to each in his native tongue. It was indeed amazing! Galileans, and multilingual?

But the malicious too were present; they had the answer. Nothing marvellous at all!

Those Galileans were simply drunk, and their drunken babble sounded like a foreign language! Peter showed no hesitation in answering the charge. None of their number, he said, were intoxicated; it was but nine o'clock in the morning, and at that hour men usually are sober. What the multitude saw was, in fact, the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy: *In those days (of the Messiah), God will pour forth His Spirit upon men and they will prophesy.* Then the apostle pointed his words more directly against the accusers: they had killed Jesus, had nailed Him to the Cross; but God had awakened Him and after His departure to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit. The pilgrims who had heard Peter give this first Pentecostal sermon *"were pierced to the heart and said: Brethren, what shall we do? But Peter said to them: Repent and be baptized; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* Three thousand responded.

One final question: why the miracle of tongues? In answer, recall the story regarding the tower of Babel. Puffed up by pride, men attempted to build a tower that would touch the heavens. To punish their sin, God confused their speech. Sin causes confusion and division. Now Christ came to gather all men into His Church and thereby to unite them to Himself. This should result in creating but one family of nations again. To this blessed state the miracle of tongues points.

Yes, even we as individuals have a gift of tongues which all men can understand. It is the gift of love infused into us by the Holy Spirit. Love unites, love is a common language, by means of love we can speak to all nations.



FORWARDINFAITH

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Arrangements for Banns, Holy Matrimony & Baptisms:

May be made by contacting Fr Ross on 01908 562148

Confessions: May be made after Masses or by appointment.

Parish Website: www.parishstonystratfordcalverton.com

To Hire the Parish Hall: phone Lesley Salter on 01908 567404



The Parish of
**STONY
STRATFORD**
with
CALVERTON

**St Mary & St Giles, Stony Stratford
with All Saints, Calverton**

THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

4th June AD 2017



Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)

INFORMATION

The Order of Mass is on the laminated card. The references to the Scripture Readings, which may be either listened to or followed in the Bibles provided, along with the Psalm and the Prayer of the Faithful are also included in this Sheet. Hymns are unannounced but are indicated on the boards towards the front of the Nave.

AA Large Print Orders of Service are available at St Mary & St Giles. Please ask a Sidesman for a copy.



A Loop System is in operation at St Mary & St Giles - please set hearing aids to the "T" position.



Access for the Disabled at St Mary & St Giles is via the path on the north side of the church. **At All Saints** it is via the South Porch.



Gluten-Free Hosts: if you are on a Gluten-Free diet and would like a Gluten-Free Host when you receive Holy Communion please mention this before Mass to one of the Sidesmen who will arrange this for you. Please make yourself known to the Parish Priest so that he is aware of your need.



Collections: for the continuing mission of Christ are taken while the altar and gifts of bread and wine are being prepared. If you are a visitor and a taxpayer and would like to make a donation please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided at the end of each row - please fill in your details. This enables us to reclaim, from the Inland Revenue, 25p for every £1 donated.



We observe a period of quiet prayer and reflection before the celebration of Mass, between the end of the Organ Voluntary and the Sacristy Bell being rung, in order that we may be better prepared to worship almighty God.

Reception of Holy Communion: All Baptised and Confirmed Christians are encouraged to receive Holy Communion. If you are unwell or uncertain about receiving the Precious Blood please do still receive the Host. Our Chalice Assistants are not authorised to permit the intincting (dipping) of the Host.



Please join us at the back of church for tea or coffee after Mass. A priest will be near the main door, shortly after the end of Mass, should you need to talk with one.

Please take this Service Sheet home with you and use as part of your devotions during the week.

At St Mary & St Giles this week:

Sidesmen	Team 1
Serving Team:	Team 4
Offertory bearers:	Geoff & Fiona Ambrose
Church Gardeners:	Team 1
Church Cleaners	Team 1

Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 113

Weekday Worshipping Numbers w/e 27th May 158

Prayer Thought:

Pentecost (Whitsunday), with Christmas and Easter, ranks among the great feasts of Christianity. It commemorates not only the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and Disciples, but also the fruits and effects of that event: the completion of the work of redemption, the fullness of grace for the Church and its children, and the gift of faith for all nations.

The Collect

O God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (SIT)

The First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

Reader at SMSG: Lesley Salter
Reader at All Saints: Diane West

(New Testament Page 100 in the Bibles) tells of the coming of the Spirit upon the disciples assembled in Jerusalem after the Ascension. This event may be called the birth of the Church.

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 104)

R/. Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are!
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. ®

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. ®

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. ®

him with a bag, CBC news agency reported.

"*Courageous martyrs*" - at the Vatican on Sunday, after praying the Regina Caeli with faithful and pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis himself described the Coptic Christians who were massacred on Friday as "courageous martyrs."

"The victims, who included children, were faithful who were traveling to a shrine to pray, and they were killed after they refused to deny their Christian faith. May the Lord receive into His peace these courageous witnesses, these martyrs, and convert the hearts of the terrorists," the Pope said.

In a poignant coincidence, President Al-Sissi of Egypt had a church built in the city of Minya to pay tribute to the 20 Egyptian Coptic Christians slain by Daesh on a Libyan beach on February 15, 2015. The victims, who were originally from the region, are also thought to have died as martyrs. Many of them pronounced the Name of Jesus before their throats were slit. They are now included in the catalog of the Coptic Saints and are remembered on February 15.

"Their only words were: 'Jesus, help me!'," Pope Francis said on February 16, 2015, one day after their death. "They were killed simply for the fact that they were Christians.... The blood of our Christian brothers and sisters is a testimony which cries out to be heard.... Their blood confesses Christ."

From the Rector: The Coptic Church has suffered virtually continuous persecution since it was founded by St Mark, the Evangelist in the First Century AD. If you want to know more about this Church and what its members have endured for centuries, then I recommend the book: "Motherland Lost: The Egyptian and Coptic Quest for Modernity" by Samuel Tadros (Hoover Institution Press) It is available in Hardback, and also, much more cheaply, in a Kindle Edition.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

8:30am Morning Prayer at St Mary & St Giles
9:30am **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**
3:00pm Concert in St Mary & St Giles
6:00pm **EVENSONG at All Saints**
Intention: Our Parish

Monday: **St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr** **Ordinary Time Resumes**

9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in the Parish Hall
8:00pm Bellringing Practice
Pray for: the Sick, Housebound & Handicapped & The Diocese of Exeter

Tuesday: **St Norbert, Bishop**

10:30am Mass + Elevenses at All Saints
6:00pm Jonathan Dunn being sworn in as Churchwarden in our Parish at St Mary's Amersham

Intention: For all in Religious Orders

Wednesday: **Ember Day**

Rector sees the Archdeacon
Ebbsfleet Council of Priests
7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles
Intention: Those who live in real poverty

Thursday: **Feria**

10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
6:00pm Millbrooke Ensemble Concert
Intention: those standing for Election today

Friday: **St Columba, Abbot (Ember Day)**

Meeting re: Noticeboards for our Churches
8:00am Mass at SMSG School (North)
7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
Intention: Those without adequate food

Saturday: **Ember Day**

7:30pm The Cryers Concert at SMSG
Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches; and those who are Homeless or Rough Sleeping

Next Sunday: THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

8:30am Morning Prayer at St Mary & St Giles
9:30am **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**
11:00am **FAMILY MASS at All Saints**
2:00pm Cream Teas and The Band at St Mary & St Giles
Intention: Our Parish

Readings next Sunday:

The Most Holy Trinity

1st Reading:	Exodus 34: 4b-6, 8-9
Psalm:	Daniel 3 (part)
2nd Reading:	2 Corinthians 13: 11-13
Gospel:	John 3: 16-18

The Memorial Registers: Fr Ross is about to update the Memorial Registers in both of our Parish Churches and would be grateful if those wishing to add new entries to the registers would complete one of the forms (available at the entrances to our churches) by NEXT SUNDAY. Please indicate on the form which Parish Church Register you would like the entry to be entered into. *Thank you.*

Christian Aid Week 2017: Thanks to all the people who took part in Christian Aid Week this year. The total so far is £469.17p with a few donations still to come. This comprised of £40 from a boot sale, £55 from a Christian Aid Brekkie, £374.17 from our regular door to door collectors and some donations from the Parish Family. A great result. *Richard Hearne*

Meeting regarding the Parish Weekend Pilgrimage to Walsingham: A meeting for all those attending the Pilgrimage to Walsingham this August will be held at St Mary & St Giles Church on Thursday 15th June at 6:30pm. This will help to arrange transport etc. If pilgrims cannot be at the meeting please let Fr Ross know of any dietary and transport requirements/offers thereof. *Thank you.*

The Coptic martyrs of Minya - poignant accounts of their final moments:

While celebrating the liturgical feast of the Lord's Ascension into heaven, as they made their way to the monastery of St. Samuel, 200 kilometres south of Cairo, dozens of Coptic pilgrims were murdered in a bloody ambush carried out by the Islamic State.

At least 29 persons were killed, and 25 wounded, as the terrorists opened fire on the pilgrims. It was the fourth attack against Christians in Egypt since December to be claimed by the ISIS, and comes in the wake of the suicide bombing on two churches in Cairo, in early April, that killed

According to several witnesses,

in the case of the Minya attack everything seems to indicate that the Egyptian Copts who were killed on Friday — many of them children — died as objective martyrs of the Faith. After robbing the pilgrims of their money, their jewels and other precious effects, witnesses say the terrorists told them to apostatise and pronounce the Islamic profession of faith: the shahada. The captives, kneeling, categorically refused. According to reports, they were immediately shot in the neck, head, throat or chest.

The French daily, the *Libération*, on Monday published the poignant account of its special envoy in the village of Nazlet, a town that is mourning seven victims:

"A dozen masked and armed men cut us off and asked us to renounce God. They were told no; there is no question about it, so the massacre began," one woman said.

Fr. Pernaba Fawzi Hanine, who serves parish priest in Nazlet, used the term "martyr" without any hesitation:

"We must be proud of our beloved dead. None of them denied God. They died as believers. They are our martyrs."

A correspondent for the French news agency, *France Presse*, reported similar testimonies in an article published last Sunday: "They drove the men off the bus, took their ID cards and the gold they had on them, including their wedding rings." Then "they asked them to pronounce the Muslim profession of faith," says Maher Tawfik, a man who came from Cairo to Bani Mazar in Minya Province to support his bereaved parish.

Fr. Rashed, like his brother priest in Nazlet, also emphasized the heroism and faithfulness of the victims:

"They asked them to deny their Christian faith, one by one, but they all refused," the priest said.

One survivor, a small boy who seemed to be about six, said his mother pushed him under her seat and covered

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Reader at SMSG: Tricia Brassington

(New Testament Page 145 in the Bibles) speaks of the gifts of the Spirit in the Church. Though varied, they all serve one end in the Church which is the one body of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful; and kindle in them the fire of your love. **Alleluia!**

The Gospel

John 20:19-23

(New Testament Page 98 in the Bibles) tells us that the risen Christ breathes the new Spirit of life into his disciples and sends them out to bring life to the world.

The Prayer of the Faithful

(Intercessor at SMSG: The Rector)

Priest: Let us invoke the Spirit, the soul's delightful guest, to fill us with the life of the risen Christ.

Intercessor: To all who wait on you in prayer . . .

V/. Come, sanctifying Spirit!

R/. **Come, Giver of Life!**

To those joined as one in the body of Christ through the waters of baptism . . .

To those who feast on the Word of Life in the Eucharistic banquet . . .

To those who seek your pardon and peace as they confess their sins . . .

To those whose faith in Christ has been sealed through confirmation . . .

To those bound together in the covenant of marriage and to those preparing for marriage . . .

To those consecrated to Christ and service to the church by ordination and religious vows . . .

To the sick, aged, and infirm who seek healing, comfort, and forgiveness... Fiddy

Abraham, Polly Barclay, Gerry Bonner, Doreen Brooks, Shirley Brown, Steve Cooper, Peggy Fisher, Russell Herbert, Jane Holman, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Gum & Eva Newnham, Rosalie Osbourne, Pete, Ron Smart, Tony Oakley, Wendy...

To all who are called to teach and proclaim the good news of salvation... Terry Crook, Larry Francis, June Jeffery... and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...4th Herbert Cook, Isaac Newton, Joan Jordan, Linda Stephenson; 5th Grace Scrutton, Montague Page, Cyril Stimson; 6th Robert Francis, Mary Eales, Nellie Jesson; 8th Susanna Hutchings, Sarah Mason; 10th Philip Coles, Ken Staines, King Henson, Eva Barrett...

To those who sit in death's shadow awaiting the dawn of eternal light, especially . . .

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Priest: Gracious God, through Christ you have poured the Spirit of love into our hearts. May the Spirit uphold us and bring our prayer to perfection before you. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

Let us walk in the Spirit. To walk in the Spirit is to walk in the light, and since the light is the light of God we can see however dimly, however vaguely - as God sees. We can see beyond the wall of our own fears and prejudices to the needs and deprivations of those who are outcasts, those who are thrown on the scrap-heap of life. We can see beyond the fragmented living of our cities and industrial wastelands to the secret desires of so many hearts for love, support and fellowship. To walk in the Spirit is to see beyond, to see the truth. And the truth will set us free.

PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

All Saints Coffee Morning: Thank you to everyone who organised, helped or supported the Coffee Morning held for All Saints Restoration Fund yesterday.. About £167.00 was raised - with monies that came in after the event. Jill Barby would be delighted to hear from those who think that it was worthwhile repeating, and from those who might be able to help. Thank you.

N.B. The Raffle that began with the coffee morning will not be drawn until after Evensong on the 4th June. Tickets may be obtained at All Saints or from Jill Barby.

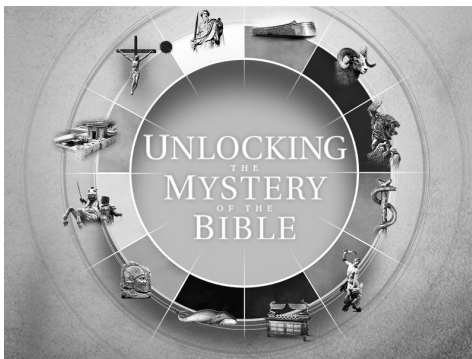
Future Fundraising Events for All Saints: Jill Barby would be delighted to hear from all those who are willing to help with future fundraising

'Chronological' Bibles: After two deliveries 30 people have bought copies of these Bibles, which is very good and shows an interest in the Scriptures amongst us. Following the most recent delivery a number of people have said that they forgot to order a copy. I am now taking orders for a third delivery. Each copy costs £14.99 - a saving of £10 on the publishers price. I shall place a FINAL ORDER on Tuesday of this week (6th June) and would be grateful if requests for a copy to be included in the next order could be placed with me by Monday 5th June. *Thank you, Fr Ross*

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible: For many of us the Scriptures can seem a mystery, and the 'Cover to Cover' edition of the Scriptures can help us make more sense of its historical timeline. Of course, even aids like this can lead to further questions and even a thirst for greater knowledge. Therefore, to encourage us all in our reading of Holy Scripture I am preparing to launch an excellent DVD based Course on the Scriptures as soon

as possible. The 8 Week Course is called 'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible' and I have posted a trailer for the Course on the Parish Facebook page. If you are a Facebook member then simply send a request to join our group: 'Parish of Stony Stratford with Calverton.'

This Autumn will see the launch of this Course. Unfortunately, current diary commitments do not allow for a sensible running of the Course without having to stop and start. As well as an evening Course, there will also be a daytime Course as well; as I am aware that not everyone is able to attend evening sessions. Each participant will have a high quality booklet, Bible Timeline and bookmark to aid us as we go through the Course.



One session of the Course will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday evenings and another at 2:00pm on Thursday afternoons - both at the Rectory. The Course will begin in the week beginning 17th September with the meetings in that and subsequent weeks being at 7:00pm on Tuesday 19th September and at 2:00pm on Thursday 21st September. The Course is eight sessions long and there will be a break of two weeks after the first four sessions. The Course will be repeated twice next year, hopefully on

different days, so as to allow as many of us as possible to participate.

The Programme is as follows:

Session 1
Tues 19th/Thurs 21st Sept
Introduction & The Bible Timeline Chart

Session 2
Tues 26th/Thurs 28th Sept
Early World

Session 3
Tues 2nd/Thurs 4th Oct
Patriarchs

Session 4
Tues 10th/Thurs 12th Oct
Egypt and Exodus, Desert Wanderings

Session 5
Tues 31st Oct/Thurs 2nd Nov
Conquest and Judges, Royal Kingdom

Session 6
Tues 7th/Thurs 9th Nov
Divided Kingdom, Exile, Return

Session 7
Tues 14th/Thurs 16th Nov
Maccabean Revolt, Messianic Fulfilment Part 1

Session 8
Tues 21st/Thurs 23rd Nov
Messianic Fulfilment Part 2, The Church

Please pray for the success of this course. A 'overview of the Course will be held in the Parish Hall before the Summer Holidays - as with the actual course on an evening and a daytime.

Ember Days: The Church of England's Liturgical Calendar sets aside the Wednesday Friday and Saturday of this week as 'Ember Days.'

Ember days (*a corruption from Latin Quatuor Tempora, four times*) are the days at the beginning of the seasons ordered by the Church as days of fast and abstinence. They were defini-

tively arranged and prescribed for the entire Church by Pope Gregory VII (1073-1085) for the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday after 13 December (S. Lucia), after Ash Wednesday, after Whitsunday, and after 14 September (Exaltation of the Cross).

The purpose of their introduction, besides the general one intended by all prayer and fasting, was to thank God for the gifts of nature, to teach men to make use of them in moderation, and to assist the needy.

This was to counter the practice of the of the heathens of Rome, who, given to agriculture, worshipped 'gods' belonging to the same class. At the beginning of the time for seeding and harvesting religious ceremonies were performed to implore the help of their deities: in June for a bountiful harvest, in September for a rich vintage, and in December for the seeding.

The Church, when converting heathen nations, has always tried to sanctify any practices which could be utilized for a good purpose.

At first the Church in Rome had fasts in June, September, and December; the exact days were not fixed but were announced by the priests. The "Liber Pontificalis" ascribes to Pope Callistus (217-222) a law ordering the fast, but probably it is older. Leo the Great (440-461) considers it an Apostolic institution. When the fourth season was added cannot be ascertained, but Gelasius (492-496) speaks of all four. This pope also permitted the conferring of priesthood and deaconship on the Saturdays of ember week--these were formerly given only at Easter. Before Gelasius the Ember Days were known only in Rome, but after his time their observance spread. They were brought into England by St. Augustine.