

Love: the language of the Spirit

The celebration of Pentecost re-enacts the outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the lives of believers. This outpouring revives and renews everything good in us. It constantly rekindles in us the fire of love which dispels the darkness of hate.

As people of faith, we believe that this outpouring is real, but can we say that it is active in our lives? We are often quick to claim exclusive ownership of the Holy Spirit, even when there is no sign of His influence on our actions. We can't say we have the Holy Spirit within us and yet express attitudes of hatred, anger, selfishness and jealousy.

The Spirit speaks from our heart, in one language e (love) which is comprehensible to every people and nation. This language defies every disparity and unifies every diversity. It is the easiest language to speak, because you don't need words before you can be understood.

I remember my first week in Europe, when I wanted to go to a store to get groceries. I searched for the store on Google and saw that it was only a 7-minute walk from me. I followed the map and got lost on the street. I became stranded and frustrated as I decided to trace my way back to the house, only to realise that I couldn't find my way back. You could say that I had officially become a missing person. To make matters worse, I couldn't ask anyone, I didn't know a word of the language, and with the strange look on their faces when they pass by, I became frightened and confused until two young couples saw me and said "hello" with charming smiles. They literally took me by the hand to the store, helped me buy everything I needed and together we walked to my hostel. The amazing thing was that I could communicate with them, even if they didn't understand English and I didn't understand their language. Love was our language.

When love is at work, we can communicate and understand each other even if our tongues are different.

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is understanding, because the love of the Spirit makes us understand each other even in our differences. The disciples were able to express this love to unite people from different backgrounds because the Spirit speaks love.

We often treat people badly because they don't speak like us, look like us or think like us. The only way to communicate when language fails is love. When we have love, nothing looks strange in the other person. Love is the language of the spirit that brings life and freshness to the world. It revitalizes all that is good in us and makes us get the best from each other. For where there is love, there is understanding, even without language.

Anthony O'Haekwusi

All Saints Community Centre (Ferryhill)

Sunday Lunch

£8.50, £13.95 or £16.95 (3 courses).

Saturday 'Bottomless Brunch'

English breakfast with unlimited drinks!

Eggs cooked to choice.

Saint Mary,
Saint Thomas,
All Saints,
Sacred Heart,
Saint Joseph,

Aycliffe
Shildon
Ferryhill
Chilton
Coundon



*All are welcome
in all of our
churches —
no exceptions!*

Fr Anthony Cornforth, 01325 313611, 07923683046

Fr Augustine Ofoma 01740 651343, Fr Deni Mary,

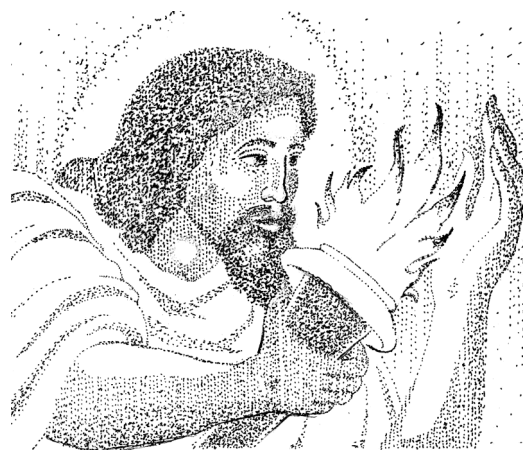
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18 / 19 May 2024: Pentecost



Authentic

Those first followers of Jesus, hiding themselves away without heart or hope weren't strong, courageous, or always faithful. Imagine the house where they'd gathered filling with the sound of a mighty wind and the sight of fire transforming those frightened and frail men and women; the Holy Spirit of Pentecost bringing new hope, heart and purpose; fear and silence being replaced by courage and conviction! Leaving their hiding place they make their way onto the streets proclaiming the good news of the resurrection. There is nothing gentle about Pentecost; the Holy Spirit is powerful, life-changing and energetic, challenging and calling us to change. As we celebrate the birth of the missionary church, we pray that each of us will be refreshed and renewed by the Spirit:

Go out without fear and proclaim this joy for all people. The Spirit wants to stay with us; he is not a passing guest paying us a courtesy visit. He is a companion for life, a stable presence. He is Spirit and desires to dwell in our spirits. He is patient and stays with us even when we fall. He remains because he truly loves us; he does not pretend to love us, and then leaves us alone when things get difficult. No. He is loyal, he is transparent, he is authentic. (Pope Francis)

Sat	16.00	Shildon	Ferdinand Bixi
Sun	09.00	Coundon	Blenkinsop and Charles families
19	10.00	Aycliffe	Ann Pooley (A)
May	10.30	Ferryhill	Chris and Paula Hutchinson
	<u>11.00</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	<u>Baptism</u> Nadia Bizukojc
	<u>13.00</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	Polish language mass
	18.00	Aycliffe	Amore family

Congratulations: children from St Mary's school (and friends) who received **communion** for the first time on Saturday.

St Mary's and St Thomas': Many thanks to everyone who came to the Parish **Open Meeting** to discuss the future organisation of St Mary's and St Thomas'. There will be a further meeting in a few weeks' time to look in more detail at our priorities over the next 5 years.

This Friday (schools) and next week-end (churches): Pope Francis' **FIRST EVER World Day for Children** .

Next Sunday, 6.45pm at St Mary's:
Talk by Eric Foster on his latest book:
Becoming St Patrick - His Mission.

Saturday 1 June, 12 noon to 4pm at 2 Upsall Drive, Darlington: Kumi Community Foundation (Uganda) **Open Day.**
Www.kumicommunityfoundation.co.uk 01325 465469

Sunday 2 June, 3pm at Ushaw: Eucharistic Procession with Adoration. <https://ushaw.org/whats-on-at-ushaw/>

Saturday 8 June, 10-30am - 4pm at Ushaw: Workshop on the **Synod on Synodality** means for us. Packed lunch, or food available to buy. <https://ushaw.org/whats-on-at-ushaw/>

Sunday 16 June: Day for Life. The theme is: The Lord is my Shepherd - Compassion and Hope at the End of Life.

Sunday 23 June: Escorted **Tour of Dublin**, Ireland and the South East, flying from Newcastle. Contact Patricia: knockpilgrimages@gmail.com 01268 762 278

Saturday 29 June, 10am onwards at the Youth Village: Significance Festival. Email Nicole at nsalkeld@ymt.org
HOLY ISLAND SVP VINNIES CAMP, Years 5-7 (inclusive). Fully inclusive for £150. This is an indoor camping experience for boys and girls in the last 2 years of primary school or first year of Secondary School, organised by the St Vincent de Paul Society. Help is available for those who cannot afford the full cost. svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island

North East Catholic History Society: see the diocesan website, or email margaret@coopuk.com

Gift aiding donations (if you are a tax payer) will increase your donation at no extra cost to yourself, as we claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated by standing order or envelope. Please think about it. Many people are new tax payers this year!

Please pray for all the sick

Mark Hugill, Lynda Whelbourn, Phyllis Musgrave, Doris Irwin, Terry Cheesmond, Savannah Philips, Christine Bainbridge Eileen Brownbridge, Claire, Benjamin, Rita Neasham. Raymond Lowey, Julie Kirkbride, Vilna Woolhead, John Regan, Elaine McCartney, John Garnham, Mary Horton, Frank Morrell, Coulson family, Coleen Ogden, Janet Holmes, Alfie Pennington, Suzanne Winship, Hannibal Gonsalves, Eleanor Goundry, Jamie Spence, Lola Rose, Anne Nicholson, Bernard Molyneux, Heather Belcher, Stephen Russ, Doreen Hennessey, Marie Nichol, Frances Bainbridge, Frank & Joan Billingham, Matthew Pape, Sharon Pape, Nadine O'Sullivan, Rose Hankey,

Masses this week

Mon	09.30	Coundon	Philip Irvine
20	09.40	Aycliffe	Rosary
May	10.00	Aycliffe	Catherine, Elizabeth and Monika (For Sanctification and Healing)
Tue	09.15	Ferryhill	No intention requested
21	09.50	Aycliffe	Divine Mercy
May	<u>10.00</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	<u>Communion service</u>
	13.00	Coundon	Exposition (also 7pm)
Wed	09.15	Ferryhill	Robinson family
22	<u>09.40</u>	<u>Shildon</u>	<u>Rosary</u>
May	10.00	Shildon	Lee, Eileen and Antony Harwood
Thu	09.30	Coundon	Joan Burgess
23	10.00	Aycliffe	Michael Lockey (RIP)
Fri	09.15	Chilton	Neil Hood
24	<u>09.30</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	<u>Exposition</u>
May	10.00	Aycliffe	Sheila Turner (nee Tray) RIP
Sat	09.30	Coundon	World Peace
25	10.00	Coundon	Exposition and Confession
May	12.00	Aycliffe	John and Terry Fitzsimmons
	16.00	Shildon	Special Intention
	<u>18.00</u>	<u>Aycliffe</u>	Polish language mass
	18.00	Chilton	No intention requested
Sun	09.00	Coundon	Jim and Imelda Crawford
26	10.00	Aycliffe	Mary and Joseph Burns
May	10.30	Ferryhill	Private Intention
	18.00	Aycliffe	Our parish family

Caoimhe (12 years old) lives with Type 1 diabetes and is making a special appeal this week-end at St Mary's for sponsorship. Her cousin Amy is running in the Edinburgh marathon next Sunday, raising money for **Type 1 Kidz**, who support children with diabetes, and their families

Rest in Peace Michael Lockey. Michael was ordained priest at St Mary's in 1979, along with Michael Marr. He worked in the Diocese for nearly 20 years before leaving to get married, continuing to be a great support to the parish of Houghton-le-Spring, where he lived.

This week-end: collection of biscuits, tomatoes, chick peas etc for **refugees**.

Weekday Mass in all churches in church until next winter.

Tuesday, 10am at St Mary's: Communion Service (for this week only)

Tuesday: St Mary's **Prayer Group** cancelled (this week only)

Thursday: St Mary's **Exposition** cancelled (this week only)