

## Sequence Veni, Sancte Spiritus



Holy Spirit, Lord of light,  
From the clear celestial height  
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,  
Come with treasures which endure;  
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,  
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,  
Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;  
Pleasant coolness in the heat;  
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,  
Visit thou these hearts of thine,  
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,  
Nothing pure in man will stay;  
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;  
On our dryness pour thy dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore  
Thee confess and thee adore,  
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die;  
Give us life with them on high;  
Give us joys that never end.  
Amen. Alleluia.

## A Mighty Wind

The giving of the Spirit to the new people of God crowns the mighty acts of the Father in salvation history.

The Jewish feast of Pentecost called all devout Jews to Jerusalem to celebrate their birth as God's chosen people in the covenant Law given to Moses at Sinai (see Leviticus 23:15–21; Deuteronomy 16:9–11).

In today's First Reading, the mysteries prefigured in that feast are fulfilled in the pouring out of the Spirit on Mary and the Apostles (see Acts 1:14).

The Spirit seals the new law and new covenant brought by Jesus, written not on stone tablets but on the hearts of believers, as the prophets promised (see 2 Corinthians 3:2–8; Romans 8:2).

The Spirit is revealed as the life-giving breath of the Father, the Wisdom by which He made all things, as we sing in today's Psalm. In the beginning, the Spirit came as a "mighty wind" sweeping over the face of the earth (see Genesis 1:2). And in the new creation of Pentecost, the Spirit again comes as "a strong, driving wind" to renew the face of the earth.

As God fashioned the first man out of dust and filled him with His Spirit (see Genesis 2:7), in today's Gospel we see the New Adam become a life-giving Spirit, breathing new life into the Apostles (see 1 Corinthians 15:45, 47).

Like a river of living water, for all ages He will pour out His Spirit on His body, the Church, as we hear in today's Epistle (see also John 7:37–39).

We receive that Spirit in the sacraments, being made a "new creation" in Baptism (see 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15). Drinking of the one Spirit in the Eucharist (see 1 Corinthians 10:4), we are the first fruits of a new humanity—fashioned from out of every nation under heaven, with no distinctions of wealth or language or race, a people born of the Spirit.

By Scott Hahn



English Martyrs  
Vale of The White  
Horse Pastoral Area

## PARISHES OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Didcot and ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford

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## PENTECOST SUNDAY, YEAR A

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf. Ws 1:7

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

**First Reading:** Acts 2:1–11

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 30

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

**Second Reading:** Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

**Gospel Acclamation:** Cf. Jn 14:15–21

**Alleluia, alleluia!!**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

**Alleluia, alleluia!!**

**Gospel: John 20:19-23**

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Acts 2:4, 11  
They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

### SATURDAY 27th May

9:30 Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot.....**St Augustine of Canterbury**

4:30pm Adoration & Confessions will take place prior to the Vigil Mass at St John's Wallingford

5.00pm Vigil Mass St John's ...The sick on our newsletter

5.50pm Adoration before Vigil Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot...

6.30pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot....Mary Guinan...*Good Estate (A. Talbot)*

### PENTECOST SUNDAY... 28th May

9:00am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot - Parishioners

11:00noon Mass St John's Wallingford - Parishioners

### MONDAY 29th May - ORDINARY TIME RESUMES (WEEK 8)

#### TUESDAY 30th May.

12:00noon Mass St John's Wallingford...*World Peace ...Rosary for Peace*

#### WEDNESDAY 31st May - THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9:30am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot...World Peace

#### THURSDAY 1st June OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, the ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST

9:30am —Mass St John's Wallingford...Vocations

#### FRIDAY 2nd June ...Ss Marcellinus & Peter

9.30.a.m Mass at the English Martyrs, Didcot... Anne Elizabeth Johns RIP (Anne Johns)

#### SATURDAY 3rd June St Charles Lwanga & Companions

9:30 Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot.....Nora Byrne RIP (N. Beard)

4:30pm Adoration & Confessions will take place prior to the Vigil Mass at St John's Wallingford

5.00pm Vigil Mass St John's ....The Sick on our newsletter

5.50pm Adoration before Vigil Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot...

6.30pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot....Berth Williams Johns RIP (Anne Johns)

#### SUNDAY... 4th June.. THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

9:00am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot -

11:00noon Mass St John's Wallingford



In your prayers, please remember: Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, Maureen & John Logan Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Terry Appleyard, Joan Russell, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Jidechi Ejiofor, Pat McLoughlin, Margaret Healy, Barry Molloy, David Woodley, Annie Furlong, Fr Philip Harris, all the sick and housebound.



### Are You Being Called To The Diaconate?

This weekend our parish played host to individuals discerning their vocations to the sacred office of the diaconate. This event is 'Come & See' where participants seek information without committing to anything. If you missed out on this, no worries, you may want to know more or seek for information, please call Pam on 07883 059529 or email [diacolate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:diacolate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



### An Hour With The Lord, 3-4pm

Our Church, the English Martyrs Didcot will be open for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the altar, Friday 2nd June, 3-4pm

### Reading and meditation with Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face (Saint Thérèse of Lisieux)

The worldwide Carmelite Order continues to celebrate Saint Thérèse's 150th anniversary since her birth (2 January 1873) as well as the first centenary of her beatification (29 April 1923) and in 2025 the first centenary of her canonization (17 May 1925). For this occasion, a program of 8 readings and reflections for each year on the Autobiographical Manuscripts and other writings of Thérèse has been prepared. A small group met up at St John's in Wallingford to read and reflect on the 1st two of these and are meeting again for the 3rd study guide on Wednesday 21 June at 9:30 am in the hall (access from the back of the Church in Wood Street). If you would like to join them on this journey, please speak to Armelle after Mass or email her [c.armelle@btinternet.com](mailto:c.armelle@btinternet.com). Everyone is welcome.



### Learning Skills

Do you know anyone in primary school with learning or skills disability, who is dyslexic and require extra time and attention to their learning strategies and support with sounds, words and reading? Young people with multiple learning disability need support to help them with some areas of their life, such as eating, washing or personal care. But most of all friendship and a supportive environment. Please contact Janice Hassett via email.... [janicehassett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janicehassett@hotmail.co.uk) or call her on 07759911595

### Come Join Us, It is Senior's Lunch

We invite and welcome you to the next Seniors' Lunch at English Martyrs Didcot which will be on Thursday 8th June in the Tea Room at 12:00 noon. The menu and sign-up sheet are on the board outside the tearoom. Consider bringing in someone who is on his or her own. A shared meal, laughter and space is a communion with Christ and his Church.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH

Pentecost takes place today 50 days after Easter Sunday. It is the birthday of the Church. Why? It's called that because Pentecost is when the apostles went out among the people and began spreading Jesus' message, thus establishing the beginning of the Church. The apostles were gifted the Holy Spirit. It's role is to sanctify, teach and remind us. On this day we are asked to pray for the Church and her continued growth.

Therefore, remember, you are called to do the same. If you have been in this church and know less than 50 names of parishioners, you have work to do. If you have not spoken to someone new, someone you noticed, someone on his or her own alone, this is your chance. Make it a birthday, a fresh start. Let us share in the experience of the early Apostles and the early Church.



### What is the Catholic understanding of 'eternity'?



Recently, Archbishop Bernard Longley was a keynote speaker at a unique interfaith event that examined how followers of the world's major religions viewed eternity, and how a knowledge of eternity can help us to make the most of the life that we have now.

Organised by The Centre for the Art of Dying Well and the Institute for Theology and Liberal Arts at St Mary's University, the Archbishop of Birmingham gave the Christian perspective, explaining that "the starting point for understanding eternity is in our relationship with the person of Jesus Christ – God's eternal son." To Listen, click on <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/podcast/what-is-the-catholic-understanding-of-eternity/>

### Pope appeals for a renewal of our relationship with Creation

Pope Francis' message for the 2023 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation is released focusing on the theme, "Let Justice and Peace Flow", inspired by the words of the prophet Amos: "Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." For complete text click.. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-appeals-for-a-renewal-of-our-relationship-with-creation/>



### Heidi Crowter to take case against UK Govt over discriminatory abortion law to European Court of Human Rights

Heidi Crowter, who has Down's syndrome, has announced she will be taking her case against the UK Government over our current discriminatory abortion law, which allows abortion up to birth for Down's syndrome, to the European Court of Human Rights.

To find out more about Heidi's case and the discrimination babies with Down's syndrome face in the womb, visit: <https://righttolife.org.uk/HeidiCase>

### St Amand's School RE Inspection

We congratulate Mrs Ellery, the head teacher, the staff, the governors, the parents, and not least the children on the result of the recent Inspection. The school was rated 'Outstanding' for Religious Education in a process closely modelled on OFSTED Inspections. A crucial element of Catholic Life and Witness was the school's worship and its role in catechesis and evangelization. Two children were baptized on Ascension Day in the School Mass, witnessed by the Inspectors, and a member of staff and a parent will receive Christian Initiation at Pentecost. RE Inspections in Catholic Schools are regulated nationally by the Catholic Bishops. The report is available on <https://www.stamands.oxon.sch.uk/downloadfile/19596349?open=true>



### Carmelite Pilgrimage to the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham, on 24 June 2023

Anyone interested, please email Armelle: [c.armelle@btinternet.com](mailto:c.armelle@btinternet.com)

Our Church, the English Martyrs Didcot will be open daily for private prayers between 8am and 5pm.

### Parish Safeguarding Rep

Our Safety Officer for all adult and child safeguarding issues is Stefania Harford, please contact Stefania via the parish office on 01235 812338, if there is no response and in an emergency then dial 999.