

Weekly Newsletter

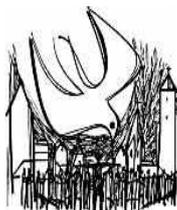
Sunday 31st May 2020

Pentecost Sunday (A) Psalter Week 1

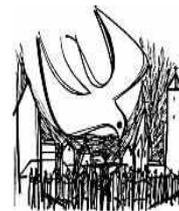
The Parish of the Holy Trinity,
Stroud Green



with
Holy Innocents, Hornsey



Seeking to know and serve God and our local community



Working with the Spirit

For the earliest Christians, the Spirit sent by Jesus was a vital source of energy and missionary spirit. They never forgot his first coming. Beforehand, they were timid and afraid, like children huddling in an attic. When the Spirit came over them in a rush of wind, fire and speech, they were transformed suddenly and mysteriously into eloquent evangelists. Some bystanders were less poetic in their reaction and sneered, "They're drunk" (Acts 2:13). In a sense they were right, for 'drunk' they were, intoxicated with the Spirit of Christ's love and eagerness to proclaim his message.

The Spirit was breathing among them, and from now on the prayer "Jesus is Lord" would be their motto. They stayed spiritually 'drunk' in this sense, never to be soberly timid again. For as long as they lived, the Spirit coursed in their bloodstream. Every decision they made was Spirit-guided: the choice of seven deacons; the admitting of Gentiles to the Church; the sending of Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journeys. Nor was the influence of the Spirit confined to the apostles. It was felt at the ordinary level too, at the grassroots. People recognised gifts of the Spirit, given for service in the Church. There were unusual gifts like healing or prophecy, and ordinary gifts too, all designed to meet the needs of an infant Church and to build up the community: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self control."

Whenever we exercise the gifts God has given us for the benefit of others we honour the Spirit. When we stick by a friend in need, or console the bereaved, support the old or encourage the young, we are being led by the Spirit. When we resist temptation, we honour the Spirit. When we respond to our better impulses, the Spirit is working in us. The Spirit of God is the rising sap moving all that is best in us. It is through our better instincts that the Spirit works. Our part is to work with him to reach our fullest selves.

Tuesday Easter Group at 8.00 pm

This Tuesday we will use Zoom to finish our look at the Acts of the Apostles. Using an extract from Acts chapter 21 to the end we will look at the final events of St. Paul's life and mission. You may want to read this section of Acts before the meeting to get a sense of the context of what we will be discussing.

Life in lockdown

This week sees the end of the Tuesday evening Acts study groups. These will be followed by a short series in which we invite parishioners to share informally about what they have been doing since the lockdown. If you have taken up or restarted a hobby, read some interesting books, watched some good films or done anything new or different, and would be prepared to talk about what you have been doing, please let Fr. Patrick know.

Sunday and weekday Masses

Technology permitting, our regular Sunday 11.30 am and Tuesday 7.30 pm Masses are now streamed from the church itself via Zoom. You will need to email Fr. Patrick for a Zoom meeting ID and password if you do not already have it.

No internet? - Daily Hope Telephone Service

Music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services are offered at the end of a telephone line. The line is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044.