









The Magazine of the Chaplaincy of Christ the Good Shepherd

Sunday 23rd May 2021



<u>PENTECOST/WHIT SUNDAY</u>

Almighty God, your prophet of old spoke of a day when you would do a new thing for your people and pour out your Spirit on all alike.

We praise you that that day dawned for your Church at Pentecost.

We praise you that we are now living in that new age of the Spirit.

May His power cleanse, quicken and inspire our lives and renew the witness of your Church in all the world, to the furtherance of your kingdom and the glory of Christ our Lord.

(Adapted from Contemporary Parish Prayers - Frank Colguhoun)



PENTECOST

St. John Chrysostom said in the fifth century about Pentecost: "Today we have arrived at the peak of all blessings, we have reached the capital of feasts, we have obtained the very fruit of the Lord's promise."

The Jews marked the fiftieth day after Passover with a feast called <u>"Feast of First Fruits"</u> (of the Wheat Harvest)or the "Feast of Weeks." It was for this reason that Jews from all over the Roman Empire had gathered in Jerusalem. That's why the followers of Jesus were still in Jerusalem.

Pentecost is often known as the "Birthday of the Church" because it was on this day that God's final covenant with humankind was complete. Through the coming of the Holy Spirit, the first Christians could look back on the events in the life of Jesus was new insight and see how they fit in with all that had been foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament. Stamped with the Spirit's approval, so to speak, they could preach confidently that "Jesus is Lord!" and that Jesus was equal with the Father, true God from true God.

WHITSUN

Why is Whitsun so called?

It is believed that the name comes from Pentecost being a day for baptisms, when participants would dress in white. 'Whitsun' is also thought to derive from the Anglo-Saxon word 'wit', meaning 'understanding', to celebrate the disciples being filled with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit

In the United States, Christians share their perspective about the meaning of Pentecost as well as how the diversity of languages and cultures can enhance their worship and fellowship with each another. Christians see Pentecost as an expansion of God's favour and care from Judaism to all peoples.





Special Prayers for today

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.

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Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord

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Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



TODAY'S LECTIONARY BIBLE READINGS

Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Psalm 104.26-36,37

Ezekiel 37.1-14

John 15.26-27; 16.4-15

Acts 2.1-21

Romans 8.22-27

CHAPLAINCY WORSHIP

today

is via ZOOM

10.30.am

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3145287597? pwd=UVJDNTVpZzJXSnFWYTk2ZFhBMW5 Zdz09

Meeting ID: 314 528 7597 Passcode: CGShepherd

UNLOCK YOUR GARDEN

(aka The Chaplaincy Flower Show)

We start our tour of the Chaplaincy in the garden of Dennis and June Caine.

Here's what THEY have written about their "lockdown" experience:

With all the restrictions imposed as a result of Covid, our only long distance travel has been a return to England in July last year to attend the funeral of June's mum. Our planned trip to Corsica and Italy was cancelled. We decided that we would spend our time (and money!) creating something which would give lasting pleasure and of course help to keep us sane and fit. There was an area of the garden which was used to burn prunings and other garden waste. There were brambles, nettles and what we call "the purple weed" - Verbena Bonariensis. As we are no longer permitted to have fires, we gave thought to what we might do with the area. We had at the time four Acers and so we decided to establish a Japanese style garden.

A lot of hard work, planning and patience which kept both the mind and the body busy and fit. Planned for growth and harmony. Isn't the result amazing!

Well, WE think so. Well done! And thank you for sharing your garden.

AND NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

If you've spent quite a bit of "lockdown" time in your garden, or in the conservatory, or on the balcony or the terrace, or in the greenhouse, then it's time to show us all the results.

We hope to be able to publish YOUR photos of YOUR flowers, lawns, shrubs, wildlife (wanted or unwanted) or even your pet hiding behind a tree (!).

All you have to do is take some photographs, write a little bit about your 'lockdown' experience and send them to our *selection committee*, known as **Valérie.**

The email address is: office.goodshepherd@sfr.fr
You can contact Valérie or the Editor, david.hawken@orange.fr if you need any help with emailing your picture(s).

This is **not** a competition - simply an opportunity to share your garden with other members of the Chaplaincy. So get out that camera, or phone, or i-pad and JUST show off a little bit!

THE GARDEN OF DENNIS & JUNE CAINE





DID YOU KNOW?

• That there's an archipelago of 74 islands off mainland North Queensland in Australia called the WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS, close to the Great Barrier Reef. In 1770, Captain James Cook travelled up the Queensland coast on a scientific expedition in his ship the Endeavour, entering the Whitsundays on 1 June. Two days later he sailed around Cape Conway and saw a wide, deep stretch of water separating the mainland from a string of islands. As 3 June was the day on which Christians celebrated the Festival of Whit Sunday that year, Cook named the passage 'Whitsunday's Passage'.

The Aboriginal inhabitants, the Ngaro, were mostly deprived of their homes in the 1880s, but some of their descendants today actively help the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing with the management and decision making of the national parks of the Whitsundays.

- That the *Whitsun (Music) Festival*, being held in *Salzburg*, Austria this weekend, has been going since 1967 with leading musicians taking part every year.
- That in <u>Irish</u> folklore and tradition, Whitsun was sometimes considered a 'contrary day'. As a result it was surrounded by a rich folklore tradition, much of it concerning 'bad luck'. For example, people or animals born on Whit Sunday were deemed to be particularly dangerous and a blow inflicted by either might never heal. Whit Sunday babies were sometimes 'buried' by passing them 'through a hole' in an earthen bank or through a 'temporary porch erected with sticks and covered overhead with sods'. Again it was thought that this would break the 'bad luck' and prevent any future violence. Water was deemed especially dangerous during this period and children were warned not to approach rivers, lakes or the sea. Fishing and bathing were forbidden for similar reasons. In contrast, holy-water blessed on Whit Sunday was thought to be particularly powerful and could 'cure' many illnesses.
- That in Poland Pentecost is called "the Green Holiday". It is a time when people
 decorate their houses with green branches to bring blessings on the home and
 the people living in it.
- That Whitsunday is linked to pagan spring rites, such as the English custom of Morris dancing and the drinking of "Whitsun Ale". Enough said!

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THE HOLY SPIRIT - Some selected verses from the Bible

OUR TEACHER

But the Helper (Comforter), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. John 14:26

HELPING US TO PRAY

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. Romans 8:26

BEARING FRUIT IN US

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

WITHIN OUR BODIES

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own. 1 Corinthians 6:19

PROMISED

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

.GIVING US HOPE

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

PRESENT IN JESUS

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:2

WE ONLY HAVE TO ASK

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13

Are we making the most of God's gift to us?

Are we allowing Him to make the most of us?



This is not quite a final notice but a REMINDER to reserve Monday afternoon, **31st May** for the **Chaplaincy Quiz**.

No prizes -just fun! Questions set by Ann White Zoom connection provided by Roy Carter



HANDS OFF

Ted and Chris Hands will soon be off, back to the UK. They have some items *for sale* which they would rather prefer not to take with them:

Mazda 2.2D Skyactive **Car** Fresh MOT (love it and will replace like with like in UK) Lunar Quaser 462 **Caravan** - French Registration + bits too many to list here Upright **Fridge/Freezer**

Hoover **Dishwashe**r

Siemens Washing Machine

Two Single **beds** (possibly some bedding if not already packed)

Ikea Storage/Wardrobe unit with sliding glazed doors and fitted with draws.

All (except washing machine) available immediately and through to 28 June

Euros or Sterling - contact Ted to discuss: ted.hands@orange.fr

Euros Pounds Bitcoins

Remember - just because we're not having "face-to-face" services at the moment does not mean that there are no Chaplaincy expenses. When we go back to buildings and when we are able to appoint a Chaplain again, WE WILL NEED MORE FUNDS.

So please send your cheques [payable to 'Chaplaincy of the Good Shepherd, Poitou-Charentes'] to Carolyn or to the 'Parish' Office.







How to eat an elephant OR Read the Chronological BIBLE in one year

We continue in Kings & Chronicles, with one more Psalm, then later in the week we start the Book of Proverbs.

TODAY (SUNDAY 23rd May):

1 Kings 7:13-51, 2 Chronicles 4:1-5, 1 Kings 8:1-21, 2 Chronicles 5:2-14

Monday 24th:

2 Chronicles 6:1-11, 1 Kings 8:22-61, 2 Chronicles 6:12 - 7:3

Tuesday 25th: (Don't panic. Use your bookmarks/fingers)

1 Kings 8:62-66, 2 Chronicles 7:4-10, Psalm 132:1-18, 1 Kings 9:1-9,

2 Chronicles 7:11-22, 1 Kings 9:10-14, 2 Chronicles 8:1-3, 1 Kings 9:24,

2 Chronicles 8:11, 1 Kings 9:25, 2 Chronicles 8:12-16, 1 Kings 9:17-19,

2 Chronicles 8:4-6, 1 Kings 9:26-28, 2 Chronicles 8:17-18, 1 Kings 10:22,

2 Chronicles 9:21

Wednesday 26th:

1 Kings 10:1-13, 2 Chronicles 9:1-12, 1 Kings 4:1-19, 1 Kings 4:29-34, Proverbs 1:1-33

Thursday 27th:

Proverbs 2:1 - 4:27

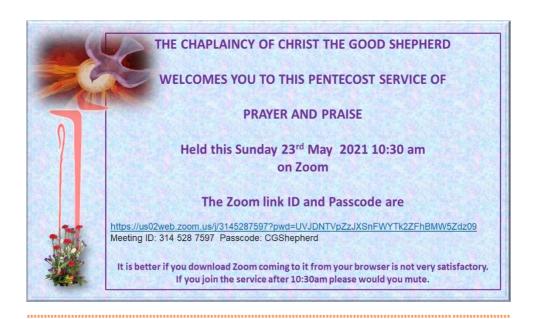
Friday 28th:

Proverbs 5:1 - 7:27

Saturday 29th:

Proverbs 8:1 - 10:32

NEXT Sunday (30th) Proverbs 11:1 - 13:24



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