

St Paul's Knightsbridge
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SERVICES THIS WEEK:

PENTECOST (WHIT SUNDAY)

4 June 2017

Family Mass at 09:00

Sung Eucharist at 11:00

Missa Ascendens Christus in altum - Victoria

Ascendit Deus - Phillips
Ascendens Christus in altum - Victoria
Preacher: Bishop Michael Colclough

Boniface, bishop, martyr: 5 June

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 18:00

Feria: 6 June

Mass at 08:00

Feria: 7 June

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Wednesday Evening Service at 18:45

Thomas Ken, bishop, nonjuror: 8 June

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 18:00

Mass of Requiem: 9 June

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at 18:00

Votive of the BVM: 10 June

Morning Prayer at 09:00

Mass at noon

TRINITY SUNDAY

11 June 2017

Family Mass at 09:00

Sung Eucharist at 11:00

Loquebantur variis linguis...



Loquebantur variis linguis Apostoli magnalia Dei, so runs the opening of one of the responsories traditionally sung on the Feast of Pentecost: *The apostles spoke in many languages of the great works of God*. It will be sung in Peter Phillip's wonderful setting at the 11:00am High Mass.

The story of Pentecost is one of the richest and most elegant bits of writing in the New Testament. Like any great author, St Luke finds ways of echoing in his writing familiar stories and images from elsewhere in the Scriptures: if in Exodus a great leader (Moses) ascends and returns with a gift of God though which a new covenant is entered into (the Ten Commandments), here in Acts, Jesus ascends and the gift of God from on high is now the Holy Spirit. In the same passage in Exodus, 3,000 people are slain at Sinai, here in Acts 3,000 people are 'cut to the heart' and repent.

But there are several other allusions too, one being to the wonderful story in Genesis 11 of the building of a great structure in the land of Shinar intended to reach up to the heavens – the Tower of Babel. Pieter Bruegel the Elder's famous picture captures something of the hubristic human ambition made possible by earth's one united language (which God promptly divides – hence the term to 'babble' meaning to talk but not to be understood). Falling into misunderstanding, they are unable to complete a task which requires skilled communication.

In St Luke's mind, the 'conceit' of the story of Pentecost is that through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the divided languages are made bearable because the Holy Spirit allows people of many voices to hear 'each in his own language' what is being said. *Loquebantur variis linguis Apostoli magnalia Dei*.



Note that Pentecost does not reinstate uniformity of language. It doesn't turn the clock back or 'edit out' difference. The 'babble' is not hushed. There is still difference – but it is transcended through the power of the Spirit of God and made comprehensible.

Often, in the face of difference our human instinct is to seek to drive it out and to create an artificial uniformity. Of course, unchecked this quickly morphs into tribalism and Xenophobia. Difference is challenging! But rather than fear it and eradicate it, this story seems to suggest that when confronted with it, we are to notice it and to celebrate our diversity and variety *and* to seek to understand each other across the gaps.

For many of the early Church Fathers this story was a symbol of human unification within the Church – the Church a place where different ethnicities, nationalities, races and people of many and varied ways of being could be united as differences are transcended in common worship.

In order to be true, this image of unity (and not conformity) demands a certain discipline of engagement on our part – a real openness of engagement and an end to tribalism. Not easy. But thank God we have his Holy Spirit to sustain and encourage us.

Fr Alan Gyle

TODAY AT LUNCHTIME

Please join us for the monthly Parish Lunch in the Hall at 13:00, preceded by drinks after Mass. All are welcome. Chefs du jour: Charlotte Wolseley Brinton and Mamwe Kamm.

Christian Meditation

The method involves the repetition of a single word faithfully and lovingly during the time of meditation. This is a very ancient Christian way of prayer that was recovered for modern Christians by the Benedictine monk John Main (1926 -1982).

John Main recovered this way of bringing the mind to rest in the heart through his study of the teachings of the first Christian monks, the Desert Fathers, and of John Cassian (4th century AD). It is in the same tradition as *The Cloud of Unknowing*, written in England in the 14th century. John Main's legacy inspired the formation of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM), contemplative dimension to the common life of Christians and engaging in the common ground shared with the secular world and other religions.

Please speak to Fr Louis if you would like to know more about practising this form of prayer.

Findlay Spence

Join us on the evening of the 22nd June at 7:30pm in St Paul's for a recital by Findlay Spence our cello and composition scholar, accompanied by John Sunderland and Michael Papadopoulos. Programme to include the Beethoven piano and cello sonata no 3 in A major and works by Liszt, Elgar, Chopin, Dvorak, Saint Saens and Brahms.

This is a free concert - no tickets are required - although donations will be welcome to assist with the purchase of a new cello for Findlay. More information to follow, but please put the date in your diaries now.

Salisbury Cathedral & North Wales

Final preparations are being made for the day trip to Salisbury Cathedral in Wiltshire on 24th June 2017. There will be a historical tour, a Eucharist, lunch and time for you to explore at leisure. We will be meeting at Waterloo Station at 08:30 in anticipation of the 08:50

train. We suggest you buy an open return. There is a Festal Evensong at 17:30 for those who wish to stay. Further details from Fr Louis.

The waiting list has now opened us for the Parish Pilgrimage to the **Llyn**

Peninsula in Snowdonia, North Wales from Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th September 2017. For both of these trips, please save the date – and register your interest through our website at **www.spkb.org**

Explorations: living with difference

The next Explorations trip will be to the Jewish Museum in Camden on **this Saturday** (10th June).

We will explore the story of the history and heritage of Jews in Britain through universal themes of migration, family, faith and culture in the light of contemporary events.

The Jewish Museum is based at Raymond Burton House,

129-131 Albert Street NW1 7NB and is a 3 minute walk from **Camden Tube station** on the Northern Line.

We will meet in the museum entrance at 10:00. For more information or to indicate your attendance please call or text Fr Louis on 07779 103826 and check out the museum website:

www.jewishmuseum.org.uk



Sr Theresa RIP

On Friday 9th June at 6:00pm there will be a Requiem Mass for Sr Theresa who died a short while ago. Sr Theresa was Tom Tull's great aunt and served this parish when Fr Harris was Vicar. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Alexandra Shura Holesh RIP

We learned with sadness this week of the death early on Tuesday morning in the Chelsea and Westminster of Alexandra Holesh. Her funeral will take place in St Paul's at 11am on Friday 16th June. We pray that her earthly struggles now over, she may rest in peace.



Please pray for...

We pray this week for:

Peter, deputy bishop and all who lead the Church in this diocese; for the life of families and all who are struggling to make ends meet; for friendship between different faith communities; for the General Election on Thursday.

Among the sick and those in need:

Patricia Dopheide; John Watson; Dan Gadow; John Roberts; Francis Faber; Nick Walker; Elizabeth Heim; Sue Ko; Ian Powe.

And we pray for the recently departed:

Alexandra Holesh; Mary Ann Brashler; Julian Black; Liam Dickerson; Martyn Hett.

Year's mind:

Eric Symes Abbot, priest
6/6

Patricia Farr 7/6