

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday Missal Page 322

Entrance Antiphon:

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

Psalm response:

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

SEQUENCE: *Missal Page 323*

Acclamation:

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

The Apostles Creed is on page 456. / Nicene Creed is on page 455

After the Bidding Prayers:

Mary, Mother of the Church,
you prayed with the Apostles in the Upper Room,
awaiting the fire of God's love.
Pray for us now,
that the Spirit may fill our hearts with wisdom, courage, and joy.
Lead us always to Jesus,
that we may share His love with the world.
Amen.

To conclude the Bidding Prayers:

Heavenly Father, fill us with joy and thanksgiving this Pentecost Sunday.
Let our hearts overflow with gratitude for Your love, mercy,
and presence in our lives.
May the Holy Spirit inspire praise, uplift our spirits, and deepen our faith.
Help us reflect joy to others, live in hope, and trust Your plan fully.
Let thanksgiving guide our thoughts, words, and actions.
May Your Spirit continue to empower us to rejoice always in You. Amen.

Communion Antiphon: They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

*The newsletter is also available at www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk
If you do not need to take this one home, please return it to the console at the back of
Church after Mass, so that it can be reused. Many thanks.*

If you would like to receive the Archdiocese weekly newsletter you can sign up at
<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/e-news>

Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216

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*Sonning Common, Dunsden, Peppard, Checkendon, Stoke Row,
Emmer Green and Caversham Park*



Pentecost Sunday

23/24 May 2026

The Holy Spirit is manifest, by a sound like a mighty rushing wind and by tongues of fire hovering over the disciples, according to our first reading. The wind is symbolic of a shaking up, over-turning or uprooting of things. In his book *Don't Forget the Holy Spirit*, Fr Matt Anscombe, points out that fire is such a powerful symbol of the Holy Spirit because it represents God's energy: 'It is a wildfire of pure love.'

The Holy Spirit may appear also in the form of a gentle breeze, which can just be as awakening to us as a fierce wind if we are truly listening. I walked with friends around the 3 beautiful Chiltern villages of Skirmett, Turville and Fingest the other day. The weather forecast sounded bleak that morning: cold, wet and windy. We were resigned to making the most of it. While it was windy climbing up out of Skirmett, no rain fell and the sun shone as we crossed the meadow towards Turville, heading up in the direction of the old windmill made famous in the film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. The wind had dropped to a gentle breeze and we could hear clearly the jubilant song of a skylark, high in the heavens above. For me, it felt a spiritual moment, with friends, walking in the beautiful spring sunshine listening to the cry of God's creation.

Closer views of the windmill led to chats about the film and the song that goes:

'From the ashes of disaster grow the roses of success!' It's a catchy optimistic take on trying not to be too hard on ourselves re the things we've attempted that haven't worked out the way we wanted. Maybe God's way is a different way and we have to be open to trying again perhaps with a different approach. Maybe sometimes we are being awakened to how blessed we are with all that we have in our lives.

And on this Pentecost Sunday we are blessed by experiencing more vividly the rich cultural diversity of our parish as many of us wear our traditional dress and offer bidding prayers in our native tongues (Thank you all, and Yvonne, for organizing!)

We give thanks to the Holy Spirit for awakening us and empowering us to respond to God's love for us, and we pray that through our energy, enthusiasm and courage the gifts of the Holy Spirit will come fully alive in each one of us. Amen.

JMcG

WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

If you are a visitor or new to the parish, we welcome you warmly.

The Catholic Parish of St Michael's

St Michael's Hall Hire Tel:01189723418

St Martin's Catholic Primary School

Tel: 0118 901 5544 Website: www.stmartinscaversham.co.uk

If you would like a home visit please call Deacon Brian Theobald

Tel: 07484332580 or email dcn.brian.theobald@rcaob.org.uk

Most Masses are live streamed and Mass streaming links can be found on our website.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Would existing Ministers and anyone interested in taking on the role, please make themselves available for a short time after any one of this weekend's Masses. There'll be a short reflection on this ministry and a reminder of the practical duties.

DIOCESAN PLAN - 2030

Archbishop Bernard together with his advisors are discerning what changes are required within our Archdiocese to reflect the reduced number of priests over the coming years. Canon Paul has put together a series of notes on this subject and these are available in a separate leaflet. Please ensure you take one home for perusal. More details to follow.

SYNODAL (WALKING TOGETHER) GATHERING

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE AFTER THE 10.30AM MASS

The purpose is to enable us to discern, with the help of the help Holy Spirit, how our parish should move forward. The first two gatherings were very successful and helped the PPC establish its priorities. This time the focus will be: *How can we share our faith with those outside our parish community? What is our role in the Mission of the Church?* It will be led by Canon Paul and is an opportunity for us to listen and reflect. Soup will be served - if a couple of volunteers will offer their culinary skills. To help with numbers please sign up. Volunteers are also needed, please, to take notes. Thank you.

LIFE'S STRUGGLES

Struggling with debt or getting into employment? Christians Against Poverty can help. Call Debbie Bruwer at their Henley Debt Centre (this covers Sonning Common), in confidence on 0800 328 0006.

Do remember that whatever you may be struggling with, there is nearly always some organisation offering help and support. Just ask Deacon Brian or Krissie who will almost certainly be able to point you in the right direction.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative can be contacted at: sg.stmichael.sonningcommon@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted by telephoning: 0121 230 6240 or emailing safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns

Parish Liturgies for week commencing 24th May 2026

Weekend Celebrants: *Revv Andrew Foster & Michael Doyle*

23/24 MAY

Pentecost Sunday

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Souls
Sunday	10.30am	International Mass for Pentecost
Monday	9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday	12 noon	Mass
Wednesday	-	No liturgy
Thursday	9.30am	Mass
Friday	-	No liturgy



30/31 MAY

Cels: Revv Adrew Foster & Michael Doyle

TRINITY SUNDAY

Saturday Vigil	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.00am	Holy Souls
Sunday	10.30am	Stephen Aldworth & Cotter Family, deceased R.I.P.
Confessions	Available before and after each of the weekend Masses	
Sacrament of the Sick	On request: ☎ 0118 972 3418	

Please Pray for our Sick Parishioners, family and friends; Lord, send your healing Spirit on all who are sick or distressed.

Dominic Antão; Catherine Belletty; Robert Brooks; Joe Bunton; Savanna Clark; Mary Edwards; Rogan Hodgson; Vivien Kear; Jennifer Learnmouth; Dominic Sakrouge; Peppin Sanz, Daniel Carroll; TJ. Barbara Stitt; Cian Murphy.
If circumstances change please ask for the name to be removed from the list.

For All Deceased Members of our Parish Family

We pray for all who have died, and for those whose anniversary occurs about this time:

Dan Mulrooney; Raymond Hughes; Nancy Keogh; Joan Selway; Rita Worklex;
Laddie Perl; Peggy Dodd; Patrick Keogh; Eugene Lavalette ;
Claudina Rodrigues; Andy Tait.

May the light and joy of God's peace shine upon them.