



ST. BERNADETTE'S RC CHURCH TULLIBODY



Newsletter

Parish Priest: Fr. Mike Freyne MHM
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Pentecost

Sat	23 May	9.30am 5.30pm	Mass Vigil Mass
Sun	24 May	8.30am 11.30am 12.30pm to 4pm 4pm	Mass Mass ~ Children's Liturgy First Communion Kids' Retreat Closing Liturgy
Mon	25 May	9.30am 12pm	Mass Working Lunch - Falkirk
Tues	26 May	~ ~ ~ ~	No services. Away to Edinburgh
Wed	27 May	9.30am 6pm	Mass School Parent Council
Thurs	28 May	9.30am 10am	Mass Meeting CoS rep for Education
Fri	29 May	7pm	Mass
Sat	30 May	9.30am 5.30pm	Mass Vigil Mass
Sun	31 May	8.30am 11.30am	Mass Mass ~ First Communions

Prayer Requests

Those who are sick ~

Joan Jones, Msgr. Basil O'Sullivan, Natalie Otalini, Jade Dicerbo, Stuart Mason, Sean McCann, Carly Mournian, Brendan Murphy, Vincent McDaid, Peter Douglas, Mary Gordon, Mary Hughes, Peter & Margaret Stark, Sarah Jane Connelly, Duncan McGregor, Maria McIntyre, John & Trisha Smith, Drs. Diane & Mike Basquill, Maurice Di Duca, Cathy McCallum, Archie Gallaway, Cathy Fox, Jim McKay, Peter Caproni, Laura Laing, Susan Duvall, Brian Robertson, Melissa Brown, Margo Tobin, John Lawlor and Lisa Mcilwrath, Fr. Hutchinson, Margaret Smith, Kath Massanopoli, Bobby Williamson.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time ~

Jack Ray, Lawrence McArthur, William Conlan, Mel Latte, Alex Byrne, Fr. Colin Golden, Mary Galloway, Tom McMnemy, Annette Morgan, Pat Ward, Margaret Giannandrea, Canon Hugh McNally, Kate McNeil, Cathy Morrison, Lula O'Brien, David Tobin, Anne McNiven, Kathleen Clarke, Seamus McShane, Annette Morgan, Canon Michael Milton, Cathy Whalen, Maeve Bain, Helen Martin

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Met last Wednesday and although few participated we decided to go ahead with the meeting as plenty of notice had been given and the agenda sent out. We began with a Conversation in the Spirit with questions on Diocesan and parish structures in the light of our mission. A fruitful sharing followed and we are sending a very brief report to Bishop Andrew. This will become part of a Diocesan report for the Scottish Episcopate.

Deanery

Bishop Andrew is in the process of revamping and reorganising the Deaneries. In fact our Deanery is the only one that meets regularly. On the first Monday of June Fr. Mike is organising the election of a Dean. The same will be happening throughout the Diocese.

Next the bishop will send out a description of the role of the Dean. This may take on more importance from what he has communicated with the priests.

What is new is the new dean should arrange for a deanery Mass to take place and to include the installation of the new dean as part of that liturgy. The bishop will be present. This should happen in October.

Fr. Mike has been appointed again by the bishop to be one of the Consultors for the Diocese.

PENTECOST - BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH!



You are cordially invited to a birthday party!

When: Pentecost

Where: Your Parish Church

Why: To Celebrate the Church's Birthday

Are you confused by this invitation? Did you know that the feast of Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Church? It is 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.

Pentecost (Greek for *50th day*) is celebrated by Christians 50 days after Easter, and marks the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles while they were cowering and hiding behind locked doors following Jesus' resurrection. After receiving the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, the apostles immediately went out and preached Jesus' message to everyone—even those who spoke other languages.

Actually, Pentecost was originally a Jewish feast that concluded the 50 days of Passover and celebrated the end of the barley harvest, plus the beginning of the wheat harvest. The Jewish people at Pentecost also celebrate the gift of the law to Moses at Mt. Sinai.

Symbols of Pentecost

The symbols of Pentecost are wind, fire and a dove.

The first symbol—wind—is taken from the noise the apostles heard as the Spirit descended upon them (Acts 2:2).

After the wind, flames appeared and rested upon the heads of each of the apostles (Acts 2:3).

A dove serves as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. There is no mention of a dove in Acts, but we associate a dove with the Holy Spirit because of the story about Jesus' baptism:

"After Jesus was baptised, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him" (Matthew 3:16).



Celebrating Pentecost

Pentecost is probably one of the most important days on the Church calendar, but it often gets overlooked.

MONTH OF MAY - MARY'S MONTH

The practice dates back at least 700 years and is still observed around the world today. May is seen as the beginning of new life and the start of summer, which makes this a logical time for the celebrations of Mary, who brought life into the world.

In contemporary Catholic tradition, the month of May remains a deeply significant time dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, blending ancient devotion with modern, "lived" faith. While rooted in historical practices from the 13th-18th centuries, the modern view focuses on Mary as a relatable, active, and maternal figure for everyday life rather than a distant theological concept.

Key Themes of Contemporary Marian Devotion

- The "First Disciple" & Model of Trust: Pope Francis and contemporary theologians emphasise Mary not just as a figure to be worshipped, but as the "first disciple of Jesus" who shows us how to trust God, even when life is uncertain.
- A "Yes" in Challenging Times: Her *fiat* (her "yes" to God) is seen as a source of strength for believers facing personal or global difficulties. She is often portrayed as the "Virgin of Promptness" who immediately acted to help others (e.g., in the Visitation).
- Not Worship, But Veneration: Modern teachings, especially in the context of interfaith dialogue, clarify that Catholics *honor* or *venerate* Mary, not worship her. She is loved as a mother and powerful intercessor who always points to her Son, Jesus.
- Mother of the Church: As confirmed by Pope Paul VI in 1964 and emphasised by subsequent Popes, she is seen as a living maternal presence watching over the church and providing comfort in the "here and now".



Pope Leo XIV
@Pontifex

"No nation, no society, and no international order can call itself just and humane if it measures its success solely by power or prosperity while neglecting those who live at the margins. Indeed, Christ's love for the least and the forgotten compels us to reject every form of selfishness that leaves the poor and the vulnerable invisible."

Children's Liturgy
of the **Word**

The Children's Liturgy team are running the sessions during the 11.30am Mass on 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month until the School Summer Holidays:~
24th May / 14th Jun