



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 1 June 2025 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Readings: Year C

Dear Friends of Holy Trinity

This last week I was privileged to spend time in one of the great London churches, St Patrick's, Soho, the first dedicated to Ireland's patron saint since the troubles of the Sixteenth and following centuries. It is a stunningly beautiful place of prayer, worship and outreach to the homeless and it was a privilege to "man the shop" while the parish priest took a short break.

St Patrick's is a reminder of less happy times when Christians in this country were set against each other and Catholics in particular were persecuted, hunted down and sometimes executed in the most horrible manner. In fact it was an Irishman, St Oliver Plunkett who was the last to be martyred in this country, in 1681, after a show trial. 2025 is the 400th anniversary of his birth and the 50th anniversary of his canonisation.

Mercifully, we live in happier times, at least in these islands. 60 years ago the great Second Vatican Council was nearing its conclusion. One of its lofty objectives was to break down the barriers between Christians and begin to heal old wounds. The Decree on Ecumenism...Unitatis Redintegratio begins: "The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council. Christ the Lord founded One Church and One Church only." This wonderful document sets out the positive approach to dialogue, then almost completely non-existent, between the Catholic Church and the other Christian bodies which had separated in those troubled years that saw the disintegration of the Body of Christ among bitterness and recrimination. Since then much progress has been made and Christians can discuss their differences with respect and sympathy. Local initiatives like Churches Together in Charlbury/Chipping Norton see believers meeting regularly. Why all this effort? In today's Gospel Jesus tells His disciples that the Unity of Love between the Father and the Son is to be shared with them..."that they may all be one...that the world may believe You have sent me." So Christian unity is not an option, it is an imperative, as this state demonstrates the Divine Love that is the only real hope for the world, so often enmeshed in strife and discord.

Next Sunday we arrive at Pentecost, the end of Eastertide. May we all pray this next week for the Holy Spirit to fill us and become a living part of our daily lives.

Next weekend our daughter's wedding ("La Fiesta") is taking place in Oxford/Charlbury, having begun in Scotland and ending eventually in Spain, so I am grateful again to Frs Martin and Paul for stepping into the breach. Between pilgrimage, hospital and Fiesta this has been an unusually un-routine phase and I am looking forward to settling back into the normal patterns of life. It always gives me pleasure to say at the end of Mass: 'Masses as usual'.

God bless everyone and a big thank you for all your prayers and messages of support. Things seem good. Fr Clive

Parish Notices

Weekday Masses – Holy Trinity 9:15am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (5 June is a School Mass and we will be anticipating Pentecost with the children – all welcome)

Rosary for Peace 9:15am

St Teresa's – 9:15am Wednesday and Friday

Do continue to pray for the Soul of Bishop Mark As you know his funeral is on Thursday 5 June and our coach will be leaving for Belmont Abbey at 9am PROMPT.

Sunday 22 June is First Communion for our Holy Trinity children. It has been an excellent year at both churches and a great amount of effort put into preparing them by Mary and Nareen. In June we also have baptisms and weddings so it promises to be busy and happy!

Many thanks again to Benjamin and Declan for the Film Club's showing of "Karol: the man who became Pope" Part 2 on this last Wednesday. The next date and film to be announced.

Pope Leo's intention for June 2025 is that the world might grow in compassion: Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes. In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

