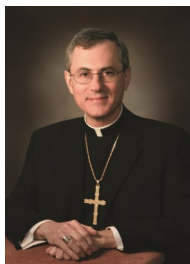


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**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**May 31, 2020**



Most Rev.  
Ronald Peter Fabbro, C.S.B.  
Bishop of London

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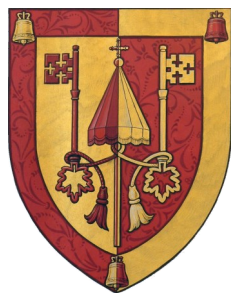
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## Jesus' Mission, The Apostles' Mission, Our Mission

“Most of us are more familiar with the account given in the Acts of the Apostles which is the First Reading of today's Mass. In this account, the apostles are all gathered in one room. What follows is a scene filled with scriptural symbols. First, there is the sound of a mighty wind from heaven filling the whole house. Then there appeared tongues of fire which rested on the head of each one present. Again we have a symbol of God's presence. The sign of this presence is their ability to speak in different languages. Immediately, the apostles go out and begin to speak to the crowds of people, speaking to them in so many languages. The meaning is clear. What the apostles are preaching is a message destined for the whole world and not just for one people. All are speaking and hearing the message with full understanding; people are being brought together in unity under God.

The Gospel today has a quite different account of the coming of the Spirit on the disciples. It is the evening of Easter Sunday and the disciples are in a room, and all of a sudden, Jesus is there in their midst. “Shalom, Peace with you” is his greeting, the normal Jewish greeting but it has a fuller significance here. Earlier, at the Last Supper, Jesus had promised that he would bring peace, a very special kind of peace, to his disciples. A peace they could not get anywhere else and a peace that no one and nothing could take away from them.

Jesus then shows them the wounds in his hands and side. There can be no doubt: it is the crucified Jesus himself, risen from the dead. As their fear changes to an unspeakable joy, Jesus again wishes them peace, and then he gives their mission: “As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.” Their mission is the same as his; they are to continue doing what he did. Then he breathes on them. Breath symbolises life. Today he breathes on his disciples and gives them a new life, making them a new creation, giving them the life of his Spirit, saying: “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Then he goes on to say, “Those whose sins you forgive are forgiven...” The disciples are being given the authority to bring people back to God, to reconcile those who have become separated from their God to renew their unity with the Beginning and the End of their lives.

This is ultimately the mission of the Church, to bring people to God. It is not primarily to make converts to Christianity or to build up the Church but to work with God in building the Kingdom. The Kingdom realised is the whole world acknowledging the lordship of God our Creator and people directing their lives to be one with him. This was the mission given by Jesus to his disciples and the same mission has been given to each one of us. So, as soon as a person becomes reconciled with God as Lord and Jesus as Saviour, that person in turn accepts the obligation to become in turn a reconciler of others.

On this feast of Pentecost, as we celebrate the formation and the mission of the whole Christian community, we also need to reflect on the particular role that God has for me, to reflect on the particular contribution that I can make to the corporate mission of the Church and of the particular group with which I am involved.”

*Excerpt from Commentaries on Daily Readings-Pentecost, Living Space;  
<https://livingspace.sacredspace.ie/ec081/>*

## Mobile Giving at St. Peter's Cathedral

### Instructions:

1. Place your device in camera mode or open the QR Code Reader.
2. Hold your device over the full QR Code.
3. Your camera will scan the QR Code.



## ***Gaudete et Exsultate* - Rejoice and Be Glad**

In March 2018, Pope Francis published his third Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate* - Rejoice and Be Glad. In this Exhortation, Pope Francis calls us to reflect on the call to holiness, and how we can respond in a practical way to that call in our world today. The heart of *Gaudete et Exsultate* is dedicated to the idea that holiness means simply and practically following Jesus. He concludes the document with the following: “It is my hope that these pages will prove helpful by enabling the whole Church to devote herself anew to promoting the desire for holiness. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us a fervent longing to be saints for God’s greater glory, and let us encourage one

another in this effort. In this way, we will share a happiness that the world will not be able to take from us.”

As we conclude the Easter Season today, our Scriptures of the great Feast of Pentecost call us to mission; the mission of Jesus, the mission of the church. This is an opportune time to take a look at ourselves, as disciples continuing to be formed to carry on the mission of the church. Attached you will find *Gaudete et Exsultate* and an accompanying *Reflection Guide* to assist you in your exploration. Explore it on your own, share with your family and friends; Rejoice and Be Glad!

### **From the Loft**

Though a silence surrounds the outside of our Cathedral, the organ pipes ring joyously inside as our organist, Dr. Ron Fox, continues to tend to our beautiful Cassavant organ as he has been for over 20 years. In a recent conversation with Ron, he said: “I practice 3-4 times each week. It is not important for the organ itself to be played. I need to play to keep up my skills and learn repertoire. It is nice to practice in complete quiet with the doors locked. I am still preparing my organ recital (20th anniversary recital postponed because of the pandemic). Probably enough repertoire for two Recitals! I do miss the community at the weekend masses. ”

As was noted in our Spring edition of Cathedral Connections, Ron carefully “superintends” the

regular maintenance of the instrument, and recommends upgrades to its components when necessary. One such necessary repair was the replacement of the leather pouches that are on each pipe that controls the airflow. Soon after the closure of the church, one division (section) of the pouches were removed to begin this work, with 3 other divisions that will still need replacement. This first set is expected to be reinstalled by the end of June.

Thank you, Ron, for your continued care of our beautiful instrument and we look forward to the day we once again hear you “from the loft” sharing your gifted musicianship in our worship.



Photo courtesy of Morris Lamont

### **Closed but Open for “Business”**

Though our church and parish offices remain closed, our Pastoral and Administrative Team continue to work to minister to and best serve our parish community. We are all working from home during this time and, as has been mentioned in previous bulletins, can always be accessed through our emails and vmails to attend to your needs. Over the next few weeks, you will hear what our various team members have been doing to continue their ministry to the parish and parish community. Brian Galea, our Business Manager, has provided this weekend a Financial update. Click [here](#) to access.



## From the Desk of the Rector

**I wish...** I have to admit to a temptation. I want to hurry through these days – to get through to the other side of the pandemic as quickly as possible. I miss my pre-COVID-19 connections and rituals. However, I'm realizing there is so much to learn on this side of things before leaving things behind. How are we being affected? What are we learning to carry us to the other side and face the future with a desire to be creative, courageous and maintain desire to learn how we can move together for the welfare of everyone?

**Many Faiths, One Voice.** Last week, I joined with other faith leaders in the City of London to take part in an Interfaith Prayer Service asking for healing, unity and hope in this time of pandemic. Mayor Ed Holder brought greetings from our city. These reflections will be broadcast on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Here is a [link](#) to the event.

**Pentecost.** This year, we celebrate Pentecost in the midst of a pandemic and understanding the gift of the Holy Spirit will be heightened like never before. When the Church began, the followers of Jesus were given the power promised to them to further the influence of God over the world that he had started. The community is reminded that each one has been given a gift as a sign of God's Spirit to be used for the benefit of the community. We have different gifts, different forms of service and different responsibilities. However, we are reminded that they come from the same Spirit given to us for the benefit of the entire community.

**Is Our Body Healthy?** In this Sunday's Second Reading, it's not insignificant that St. Paul described the Christian community like a body. A body is only healthy and efficient when each part is functioning as it should. The parts of a body are not jealous of each other. Each part has its function. The arm is not a leg. The leg is not an ear, etc. you get the picture. Each part has its own function. Could we look at our collaboration as brothers and sisters and with those with whom we work in the same way? Let's look at three ways to make collaborating easier through genuine need, respect, and sympathy:

**Need.** What if we admitted we need each other more? There can be no such thing as isolation. Sometimes I find I can become so engrossed in the work I'm doing, I can become so convinced of the supreme importance of the work to which I have given myself that I neglect or even criticize others who have chosen other work. To be healthy, we need all the work that everyone can do.

**Respect.** What if we were to respect each other more? In the body there is no relative importance. If any limb or organ ceases to function, the whole body is thrown out of whack. Whenever I begin to think totally about my own importance or effort only – the possibility of building community is squelched.

**Sympathy.** What if we sympathized with each other more? Isn't it true that if any part of the body is affected, all the others feel it? It can't help it. If I can't see beyond my own organization, department, family or parish, my own circle, I haven't grasped the unity of the bigger picture. We are all in this together.

**Stay tuned.** Pentecost is not simply "the birthday/beginning of the Church". It is more than that. It is the feast that reminds us that we are indeed people filled with God's Spirit, people with gifts that the world needs desperately: wisdom for a world searching for meaning, knowledge for a world seeking insight, healing for a world torn apart by violence, challenging/prophetic words for a world in need of direction, prayer/discernment of spirits for a world confronted by competing forces. What wonders will the spirit work in and through us as we come more to understand who we are as a parish and a church in our present age?

**Active Love.** There is no substitute for love that shows itself in action. When we respond to the call to be examples of truth, justice, love and peace, how does that invitation take shape in my everyday life?

*Fr. Jim Mockler*

**We remember in prayer** all those who are sick, including Shari Houghton, and Martha Lavrin. We also pray for those who have died, including Sr. Doreen Kraemer and Sr. Mary Winifrid Dunn of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Gina Fusco; and comfort for those who mourn.

**We pray for those serving in pastoral ministry throughout our diocese:**

Christopher Lapain, Coordinator of Youth Ministry; Deacon David Robertson; Rev. Abraham Sebastian, C.S.T.; Deacon Rudy Terpstra; Rev. Jose Lopez, F.M.M.; High School Campus Ministers; Rev. Vincent Gennardo, C.S.



The most recent COVID-19 Update (#9) from Bishop Fabbro was issued on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

To read the full update, click [here](#).

### READINGS - SUNDAY JUNE 7, 2020 SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

First Reading - Exodus 34.4b-6, 8-9

Psalm - Daniel 3.52, 53, 54, 55, 56 (R.52)

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 13.11-13

Gospel - John 3.16-18





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