

## In Touch across North Barrow

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>. May 2020 The Feast of Pentecost

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### Worship during the day, alone or with household members

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.  
Alleluia! alleluia!

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole universe. Alleluia!  
**The Spirit of the Lord brings mighty things to pass. Alleluia!**

#### **Collect for today**

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you; with the Father,  
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Readings** : Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11  
or during the week from the daily prayer and readings.

#### **The New Testament Reading** - Acts 2 (The Voice Translation)

2:<sup>1</sup> Picture yourself among the disciples: A sound roars from the sky without warning, the roar of a violent wind, and the whole house where you are gathered reverberates with the sound.<sup>3</sup> Then a flame appears, dividing into smaller flames and spreading from one person to the next.<sup>4</sup> All the people present are filled with the Holy Spirit and begin speaking in languages they've never spoken, as the Spirit empowers them.<sup>5</sup> Because of the holy festival, there are devout Jews staying as pilgrims in Jerusalem from every nation under the sun.<sup>6</sup> They hear the sound, and a crowd gathers. They are shocked and amazed because each of them can hear the group speaking in their native languages.

*Pilgrims*: Just a minute. Aren't all of these people Galileans?<sup>8</sup> How in the world do we all hear our native languages being spoken?<sup>9</sup> Look—there are Parthians here, and Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamians, and Judeans, residents of Cappadocia, Pontus, and Asia,<sup>10</sup> Phrygians and Pamphylia, Egyptians and Libyans from Cyrene, Romans including both Jews by birth and converts,<sup>11</sup> Cretans, and Arabs. We're each, in our own languages, hearing these people talk about God's powerful deeds.

<sup>12</sup> Their amazement becomes confusion as they wonder,

*Pilgrims*: What does this mean?

*Skeptics*:<sup>13</sup> It doesn't mean anything. They're all drunk on some fresh wine!

<sup>14</sup> As the twelve stood together, Peter shouted to the crowd,

*Peter*: Men of Judea and all who are staying here in Jerusalem, listen. I want you to understand:<sup>15</sup> these people aren't drunk as you may think. Look, it's only nine o'clock in the morning!<sup>16</sup> No, this isn't drunkenness; this is the fulfilment of the prophecy of Joel.<sup>17</sup> Hear what God says! In the last days, I will offer My Spirit to humanity as a libation. Your children will boldly speak the word of the Lord. Young warriors will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Yes, in those days I shall offer My Spirit to all servants, both male and female, and they will boldly speak My word.<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be liberated into God's freedom and peace.

## **Prayers**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
we thank you that you have brought us safely  
to the beginning of this day.  
Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger;  
order us in all our doings and guide us to do always  
what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Faithful God,  
who fulfilled the promises of Easter  
by sending us your Holy Spirit  
and opening to every race and nation  
the way of life eternal:  
open our lips by your Spirit,  
that every tongue may tell of your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Conclusion**

We are raised to new life with Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **The Rainbow of Hope.**

One of the refreshing things about lock-down is the stillness. Our senses are no longer dulled by the background of traffic noise. Birdsong is loud and lovely, and over the past few days the smell of the sea has wafted into the vicarage garden when the tide has been low. There is a freshness in the air that will hopefully linger long after we find ourselves in the 'new normal'. While it may be a long and often frustrating wait, hope in these strange times has been symbolised by the rainbow. The rainbow is a sign of hope and renewal, but all too often the church get stuck in the upper -room, without really realising that the waiting is over and the promise of Pentecost is with us now. We act as if Pentecost is a bit like finding the end of the rainbow - a promise that always outside of our grasp.

**Touching the rainbow.** The disciples had already touched the rainbow with Jesus, sent out with the power to heal and to set free. They had been

touched and used by the Spirit to proclaim God's presence and love, but it was only transient. Here one moment and gone the next. As St. John reflects in today's Gospel, "as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified". We all can have those moments of close encounter with God, but all too soon they are gone like a fleeting shadow. All people can touch the rainbow, because the Spirit of God is the spirit of mission reaching out to draw all people to Jesus. community of faith and love. Touching the rainbow is not enough to follow Christ.

**Living the rainbow.** The disciples were together, and Jesus came and stood in the midst of them and said '*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.*' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, '*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.*' Their minds were opened to understand the scriptures, to be filled with the Spirit and taught to understand the calling they had been given. They were enabled to begin to live the rainbow, but in the upper room, out of the world's gaze. It's a reminder that the presence of the Spirit can still be passive, still be hidden away. A private gift that defines the community of Christ, a presence that can be tamed and chained through ignorance and fear. Are we content to simply live the rainbow in a way that the world around will never see?

**Being the rainbow.** Pentecost brought the Spirit-filled faith of Jesus Christ into the open. Pentecost is anything but hidden, anything but half-hearted. Being the rainbow and living the promise means that we too are called to live our faith openly, gifted and empowered by the Spirit. It's a messy calling. It invites ridicule, from a sceptical society. As one commentator has remarked, "One of the lessons of Pentecost is that when "God happens," it is something astonishing, just like Pentecost itself. If we want to see some genuine "Acts of God" in our midst, we need to be prepared for some amazement, some confusion, some ridicule." Being the rainbow moves us out of the church and into the market place. Away from private faith and into public declaration.

So this Pentecost, even in the confines of lock-down, let us ask God to remove the limits to the life of the Spirit within us. Let us allow Him to enable us to be the rainbow of promise, and willingly, joyfully jump into the living water of the Spirit, as we offer a message of hope to a fearful and frustrated world.

With love and prayers,

*Fr. Jack.*

**Psalm 104:26-36 & 37b**

26 O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

27 There is the sea, spread far and wide,  
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.

28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan  
which you have made to play in the deep.

29 All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.

30 When you give it them, they gather it;  
you open your hand and they are filled with good.

31 When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away  
their breath, they die and return again to the dust.

32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth.

33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works;

34 He looks on the earth and it trembles;  
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will make music to my God while I have my being.

36 So shall my song please him  
while I rejoice in the Lord.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.

<b>SUNDAY</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>Reflections during the week using Lectio Divina</b> <i>Use the verse, or verses, for each day following the pattern on the previous page. Each colour corresponds to a day of the week. Write any reflections, or ways in which you feel God is speaking to you in the boxes above</i>

## NEWS AND NOTES

**From Bishop James. Pentecost reflection.** Bishop Emma is producing a filmed sermon based around Acts 2 which will be made available on the Diocesan YouTube channel on Thursday 28th May. Both Bishop Emma and I shall be live on Facebook at 7pm on the evening of Pentecost (Sunday 31st May) to reflect on how everyone is coping through the pandemic and to pray for our county, our country and the world.

**Support HUB** 9am - 5pm Mon to Fri. Call 01229 444407.

**Hospital Chaplaincy Hearts:** Deacon Debbie, the chaplain at FGH, would like to thank everyone who has contributed hearts to be distributed to patients and their families – we've had a fantastic response. She says they have been much appreciated and she is considering continuing the practice after lock-down, but at the moment she has sufficient supplies. I'll let you know when more are needed.

**Resources : The Sunday Worship** video is available on the St. James facebook page from Sunday morning.

**Radio and TV :** Radio Cumbria Morning Service at 8.00am  
CandoFM (106.3) Faith in Furness at 10.30am  
BBC Morning Worship at 10.15 on BBC1

For those who are online, the Church of England website has daily and Sunday resources to watch, download and join in with.

The website is : [churchofengland.org](http://churchofengland.org)

**Elaine White. R.I.P.** Do hold the White family in your prayers, Elaine's funeral was held on Friday and we look forward to celebrating her life and faith with a memorial service at St. Francis once we are able to gather freely again.

**Daily Hope Prayer Line** - 0800 804 8044 - A Church of England resource with hymns, prayers and reflections for especially for those who are not connected to the internet.

## DAILY PRAYER and BIBLE READINGS

**SUNDAY** *We give thanks that* through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit we can know God's love, presence and peace. Alleluia!

**MONDAY** 2 Peter 1:2-7, Mark 12:1-12  
*(S. Justin, martyr) Pray for* Archbishop Justin and all who work at Lambeth Palace.

**TUESDAY** 2 Peter 3:11-end, Mark 12:13-17  
*Pray for* all struggling with their mental health through the pressures and fearfulness of lock-down.

**WEDNESDAY** 2 Timothy 1:1-12, Mark 12:18-27  
*(The Martyrs of Uganda) Pray for* the witness of the church across Africa, and for those supporting Health Care.

**THURSDAY** 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Mark 12:28-34  
*Pray for all* involved with the Track and Trace system, and all involved in Covid-19 research.

**FRIDAY** 2 Timothy 3:10-end, Mark 12:35-37  
*(S. Boniface) Pray for* the Christian church in Germany, and for European leaders paving the path out of lock-down.

**SATURDAY** 2 Timothy 4:1-8, Mark 12:28-end  
*Pray for* Debbie and the Hospital chaplaincy team supporting staff, patients and families during the pandemic.

**If you have prayer requests / thanksgivings,  
then please let Fr. Jack know either by email or 'phone.**

**NEXT SUNDAY  
THE MOST HOLY AND UNDIVIDED TRINITY**

Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-31, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20