

FEAST OF PENTECOST, YEAR A

# Weekly Bulletin

Year 25, No. 09 SUNDAY, 31ST MAY, 2020

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## CHRIST THE KING CHURCH THEME FOR THE YEAR

**LET US REJOICE, FOR NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD - cf Is 61.2**

### OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays

8:00am-4:00pm

Saturdays

8:00am-12:00pm

Sundays

Closed

## SUPPORT TO NEEDY PARISHIONERS

The Parish has made a special provision to support needy persons or families, in these difficult times.

Parishioners who genuinely need some support should contact their societal head or

call 024 428 4669 / 030 277 5645

## PRAYER FOR AN END TO CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Almighty and merciful Father, who shows your love to all creation, we come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world.

Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found.

We pray for the relevant Governments and Health Authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



The  
**SPRIT**  
of  
**PENTECOST**

## FEAST OF PENTECOST, YEAR A

### COMMENTARY ON READINGS

**First Reading:** Today we celebrate the great day of Pentecost when Christ filled the Church with the power of His Spirit and sent her out into the world to bring his peace, joy and forgiveness to all mankind. **(Acts 2:1-11)**

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 104)

**“Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.”**

Bless the LORD, O my soul!  
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!  
How manifold are your works, O Lord!  
the earth is full of your creatures; **Res**

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD be glad in his works!  
Pleasing to him be my theme;  
I will be glad in the LORD. **Res**

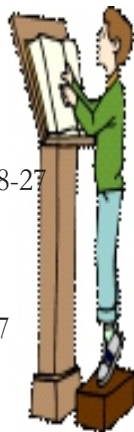
If you take away their breath, they perish  
and return to their dust.  
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth. **Res**

**Second Reading:** The Holy Spirit grants each member of the Christian community, a charism - a special gift - that is offered for the growth and common good of the Church. **(Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13)**

**Gospel :** On Easter Day, the Risen Lord breathed His Spirit upon the apostles, instituted the Sacrament of Penance and gave them power to forgive or retain sins. **(John 20:19-23)**

### WEEKDAY READINGS & MEMORIALS 7TH WEEK OF EASTER, YEAR A

Monday	St. Justin 2 Pt 1:2-7/Ps 91/Mk 12:1-12
Tuesday	Ss. Marcellinus /Peter 2 Pt 3:12-15a. 17-18/Ps 90/ Mk 12:13-17
Wednesday	St. Charles Lwanga & co., 2 Tm 1:1-3. 6-12/Ps 123/Mk 12:18-27
Thursday	St. Francis Caracciolo 2 Tm 2:8-15/Ps 25/Mk 12:28-34
Friday	St. Boniface 2 Tm 3:10-17/Ps 119/Mk 12:35-37
Saturday	St. Norbert 2 Tm 4:1-8/Ps 71/Mk 12:38-44



### NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS FEAST OF HOLY TRINITY

Ex 34:4b-6. 8-9/Dn 3 /2 Cor 13:11-13/Jn 3:16-18

## REFLECTION

The Season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the Feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is enough that we know that after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world.

We already heard today's Gospel proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter this year (Lectionary Cycle A). That Gospel passage, however, also included the description of Jesus' appearance to Thomas. In that context, we were led to reflect on belief and unbelief.

In the context of the Feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam at the time of Creation. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be translated as "breath."

This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiving of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

### FAMILY CONNECTION

Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. The Gospel for Pentecost reminds us that the Church begins with the command to forgive. Within the family, the domestic Church, we learn how to forgive and how to accept forgiveness. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to do both. Today is a fitting time to share a family celebration of reconciliation.

As you gather together as a family, sit quietly for a few minutes, inviting everyone to reflect upon their need to forgive and to receive forgiveness. If there is a situation or an issue within the family that needs attention, spend some time reflecting on how your family might address it. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:19-23.

Talk together about how Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us in the work of forgiveness and to bring us peace. Pray together today's Psalm or the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking that the Holy Spirit help your family. Share with one another a Sign of Peace.

# SAINT OF THE WEEK

Joan was born in 1412. Her hometown was Domremy, a little village in France. Jacques d'Arc, her father, was a hardworking farmer. Her mother was gentle and loving. She taught Joan many practical things so that Joan could later say, "I can sew and spin as well as any woman." Joan loved to pray, especially at the shrines of our Blessed Mother. But this honest little peasant girl was to become a heroine..

One day while Joan was watching her sheep, St. Michael the Archangel, the patron of her country, told her, "Daughter of God, go save France!" For three years she heard the voices of saints calling her to action. When she was sixteen, she began her mission. At that time, there was a war going on between France and England. It was called the Hundred Years' War. England had won so much French land that the king of England called himself the king of France, too. The real French king was weak and selfish. He thought that the French armies would never be able to save the country.

After being examined by many priests and experts to make sure that she really was seeing visions of the saints and really had been given a special mission to carry out, Joan received permission to lead an army into the French city of Orleans, which the English had almost captured. In her white, shining armor, this young teenager rode with her banner flying above her. On it were the names of JESUS and MARY. Joan was wounded by an arrow in the great battle of Orleans, but she kept on urging the men in her army to victory. At last they won! Then Joan and her army went on to win more and more battles. The English armies had to retreat.

After the victories, Joan's time of suffering began. She was captured and sold to the British. The ungrateful French king did not even try to save her. She was put in



## ST. JOAN OF ARC

prison and falsely charged with witchcraft and heresy (denying or doubting a truth of the Catholic faith). After an unfair trial Joan was burned at the stake on May 29, 1431. Joan was not even twenty, yet she went bravely to her death. The last word on her lips was "Jesus." Four hundred and eighty-nine years later, on May 16, 1920, Pope Benedict XV proclaimed Joan a saint.

St. Joan was asked by God to accomplish a very difficult, nearly impossible task. She trusted God and did what he asked. When we have to do something hard, we can ask St. Joan to help us.

## CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES



## WEAR A NOSE MASK

**NOSE MASK ON SALE  
AT OLAFAS (HDR CONVENT)**

**CALL: 020 244 6242**

**#STAY HOME | #STAY SAFE**



# THE TUESDAY TEACHING

## THE CHURCH AND THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY



continuing from last week...

### THE PROPERTIES OF SACRAMENTAL MARRIAGE

Sacramental marriage draws its basic characteristics

from the covenant relationship between God and his people. These are unity, fidelity, indissolubility and openness to procreation.

#### Unity

Unity means that the marriage is possible only between one man and one woman. “God made them male and female, and for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and unite with his wife and the two will become one”. (Mk 10: 6-8)

#### Fidelity

Fidelity requires from each partner a full commitment to the other, and prevents him/her from having love affairs with another person. (adultery)

#### Indissolubility

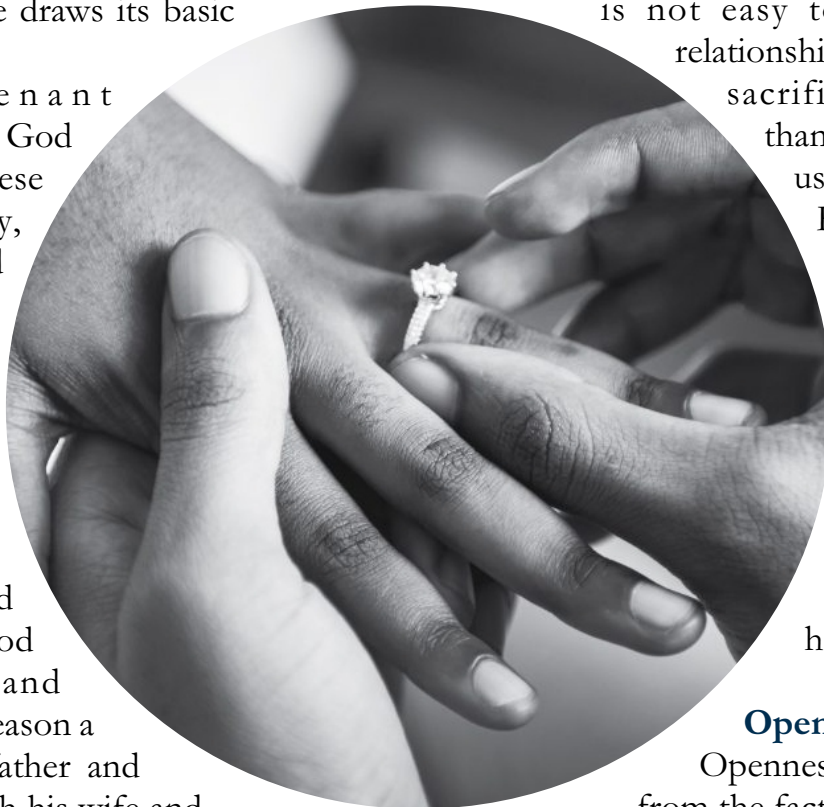
Indissolubility implies that a true marriage cannot be broken as long as both partners are alive.

God understands that it is not easy to live holy lives, it is not easy to sustain a lifelong relationship. All these things take sacrifice and effort. But,

thankfully, He never leaves us to our own resources.

He gives us the Graces throughout our entire married lives to carry whatever crosses He sends our way. He never asks us to do the impossible.

(adultery)”man must not separate what God has joined together”



#### Openness to Creation

Openness to procreation flows from the fact that marriage makes a couple participate in God’s creative love, which is life-giving. Therefore, a couple that refuses to have any children would be closing itself to involvement in this procreative aspect of God’s love.

### CHURCH PROCEDURES FOR MARRIAGE

Before a marriage takes place, the church requires that certain procedures be observed.

- 1.Pre-nuptial enquiry
- 2.Instructions on the nature and obligations of the sacrament
- 3.Publication of banns
- 4.Dispensation from impediments, if needed.

We are not called to love until the love dies, we are not called to stay together until the children are grown, we are not called to stick around only until the sex gets boring or our individuality is repressed: we are called to be a living witness of the love of Christ for His Church and the unbreakable bond between them.

God understands that it is not easy to live holy lives, it is not easy to sustain a lifelong relationship. All these things take sacrifice and effort. But, thankfully, He never leaves us to our own resources. He gives us the Graces throughout our entire married lives to carry whatever crosses He sends our way. He never asks us to do the impossible.

That is a privilege that comes about through the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, as a special privilege for having accepted God's call to live

the married life. That mere fact alone is enough to show you how different Sacramental marriage is from any other form of relationship.

## CONCLUSION

Well, hopefully by now, I've completely sold you on Marriage and all of you who think that that is your Vocation are going to set about finding a partner with great zeal! But, where do you look? How do you find someone?!

If your life is Christ-centred and faith filled, you should be out there looking for someone else who is Christ-centred and faith filled, someone who will understand your faith, who will understand why you love God so much because they do too, someone who you're not going to have to fight with to remain faithful to the teachings of the Church and bring your children up in the Faith.

So, go find them, get married, "be fruitful and multiply" and hopefully, one day, we'll be singing together in the Heavenly Choir rubbing shoulders with all God's other married Saints!



## Christ the King Catholic Church, Accra **BOOKSHOP**

### OPENING SCHEDULE

**MON. - FRI.**  
**8.00AM - 5.00PM**

**SUN.**  
**8.00AM - 2.00PM**

**SAT.**  
**8.00AM - 12.00PM**  
(Closes at 6.00pm on 1st Saturdays)

### CHRIST THE KING BOOKSHOP IS OPENED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Visit the bookshop for all your Religious books, Sacramentals, gift cards and many other items .

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Call : 0302775645 for further information.