

St Mary the Virgin
EWELL PARISH CHURCH
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WEEKLY NOTES

27 May 2007

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

WHITSUNDAY

HOLY SPIRIT IN HOLY CHURCH The last day of Eastertide

The liturgical colours of the year generally help us to capture something of the underlying spirit of the season. In the main 'western' scheme of liturgical colours (which we follow here) today it is red, a colour not often seen on Sundays*. The fairly obvious devotional reason for Pentecost being red is that red is the colour of fire. However, red is also the colour of blood, and is significantly the colour for Good Friday and also for the festivals of martyrs. The whiteness and brilliancy of Easter is ushered in only after the red blood of Christ on Good Friday; and Eastertide goes out again in red, as the resurrection life of Christ leads to the warming glow of the Church living out the new resurrection life in the power of the Spirit, symbolised on this day by what seemed to be 'tongues of fire' resting upon the Spirit-filled apostles. In between, all has been white, the Eastertide colour of joy and gladness, that totality of the colours of the spectrum. The last book of the Bible speaks of the 'red whitener', when the saints who have passed through the great ordeal have 'washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.' For the rest of Eastertide the white remains as a proclamation of the brightness of that eternal Easter; but for the sake of us in the Church Militant the white gives way at the end of Eastertide to the one red Sunday of Easter. It is a striking reminder to us all that the fire of love and the blood of sacrifice are the two hallmarks of the Christian faith. Devotionally we have had six months of specifically Christo-centric concentration, following Our Lord from crib to glory†. After today we settle down to 'ordinary time' in the liturgical calendar, and go into green, before it all starts up again in Advent.

* Having said that, we use red (and not green) at the monthly 1100 Sung Eucharist on the Sundays after Trinity, when we follow the old English colour sequence, which is significantly different from the more usual 'western' use. A list of both colour sequences is on one of the boards in the Welcome Area.

†The next two Sundays (Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi) are not part of this pattern. Although these days are 'white', the surrounding weekdays are green.

Our prayers today. As we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of God, we pray on 'the birthday of the Church' for this church and parish, and in the worldwide Church for the Church in the Philippines. In the Diocese we pray for the life and witness of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit on its Feast of Title, and for the Dean, the Very Reverend Victor Stock. In our parish prayer we pray for a readiness to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all our visions, hopes and plans, and in our regular prayer for the people of Mount Pleasant.

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

Order 1: page 167.

Other Pentecost texts: page 320

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day: page 405

Eucharistic Prayer B: page 188

0930 PROCESSION AND SUNG EUCHARIST *Common Worship rite*

There is a separate leaflet for the service today, though the Readings are as usual on a separate paper. No other books are needed. See also below.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Leighton* in D.

At the Offertory, *in place of the printed hymn:*

Hymn: We have a gospel to proclaim. (*On the back page*)
Then all sit for the Offertory Anthem:
Come, Holy Ghost, the Maker, come. *Thorpe Davie.*
(Verses from *Veni Creator*)

Come, Holy Ghost, the Maker; come, Thou art that comfort from above,
Take in the souls of thine thy place; The highest doth by gift impart;
Thou, whom our hearts had being from, Thou spring of life, a fire of love,
O fill them with thy heavenly grace. And the anointing Spirit art.

Then all stand for the Eucharistic Prayer.

Note: The 0930 Sung Eucharist today has a separate service-paper, mainly because there are some features particular to today which make it a bit different from usual, and a full print-out is obviously a help. We did the same at Easter. The sharp-eyed may realise that this is actually the same as of last year's text, but that does not mean that it will always be the same text on this Sunday. It has to be slightly adjusted this year, in fact, because the last hymn moves to a position at the Offertory, and its place is taken by the fine new hymn by Eve Myatt-Price, which is on the back of the readings paper. With more information about services being stored all the time on the computer, we may well see some more of this sort of thing. I am very conscious of the fact that *Common Worship*, even more so than the *Alternative Service Book* before it, is very much a Directory of worship, and it is seldom possible to have more than the odd page or two in sequence. Anything to make things easier will, I am sure, be welcome, and I hope that today's service is a good example of what can be done. W.R.H.

Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today. Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in the church hall across the road between the 0930 and 1100 services.

1100 SUNG EUCHARIST

Book of Common Prayer rite

Setting of the Eucharist: *Darke* in F. Nicene Creed: *Merbecke*. Hymns from the small *red* hymn books at this service today.

Sermon by *the Reverend Dr Patrick Miller*.

Introit hymn: AMR 235 [Tune: NEH 137]

Then Green prayer book: page 31; Kyrie eleison

Greeting and the Collect of the Day

(There is a separate leaflet for the Collect and Readings)

For the Epistle: Acts 2: 1-11

The gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost

Gradual Hymn: *On the readings' paper.* [Tune: NEH 272]

The Holy Gospel: St John 14: 15-31

Jesus' promise of the gift of the Spirit.

Nicene Creed: page 34.

Biddings to prayer and the Offertory Sentence.

Offertory hymn: AMR 155; Collection.

After the hymn, all kneel for the Prayer for the Church (page 36), the

Prayers of Penitence, etc., and for the Prayer of Consecration

Hymn at the Consecration: AMR 384 part 2. [Choir use NEH 269 part 2]

Anthem during Communion: Listen sweet Dove. *Grayston Ives*

Listen, sweet Dove, unto my song, The sun, which once did shine alone
And spread thy golden wings in me; Hung down his head, and wished for night,
Hatching my tender heart so long, When he beheld twelve suns for one
Till it get wing, and fly away with thee. Going about the world, and giving light.

sacramental presence. On the following Sunday (which we have observed over the years as the 'external solemnity' of Corpus Christi) the services will be in our normal Sunday morning style, and this furnish an opportunity for some specifically Eucharistic preaching. However, because of the additional Corpus Christi material this year, the 8 o'clock service on the Sunday will simply be the normal one for the First Sunday after Trinity. I hope that many will be able to turn out on the Thursday evening for an unusual and distinctive act of eucharistic worship. W.R.H.

The Easter Garden should properly disappear tomorrow, but in practice it will be with us for an extra week, albeit without the Easter Candle, which gets transferred to the area by the font this morning. Our thanks go to Kathie and Ian Burgess for giving us once again a peaceful devotional focal point during Eastertide. It is more convenient this year for the Garden to be removed after Trinity Sunday.

Next Sunday is Trinity Sunday. Normal Sunday morning arrangements, but with the monthly 1200 Eucharist, transferred from today. There will be Evensong and Holy Baptism at 1630.

Sharing the love of Christ, the Light of the world, with the people of Ewell.