



Pentecost in the XXIst century

by Margaret Quirke FCJ

If Pope Benedict XVI, in his Easter Vigil homily (2006) can boldly claim that Christ's resurrection is « a qualitative leap in the history of evolution » can we not claim with equal boldness that the event of Pentecost as experienced by the first disciples of Jesus (Acts 2: 1-21) marks the beginning of a new era in the history of humankind – the age of the Spirit.

At Pentecost we read that God's Spirit, powerfully descended upon Jesus' disciples gathered in the Upper Room in Jerusalem filling them with a new spiritual energy that utterly transformed them (Acts 2: 1-21).

The critical question is, 'Has this experience of the first Pentecost of

the infant Church any relevance for us to-day as individuals and as Church? Is it just a matter of early Church history or is it more?

If we believe, as we profess we do, that all Scripture is the inspired word of God, alive and active in every time and place, then Acts 2: 1-21 and the following chapters are for our instruction. Do we dare read these texts as if for the first time, and allow ourselves to be moved by the Spirit? With the assembled crowd can we too cry out 'What must I/we do to receive this amazing outpouring of the Holy Spirit?'

The answer to this question will be given if we sincerely ask. Are we perhaps blocked by preconceived assumptions that the Holy Spirit was given in this way for THEN and not for NOW?

The disciples, as witnessed in the

Acts of the Apostles, took Jesus at His word:

'Go out to the whole world, proclaim the good news to all creation' (Mark 16: 16).

As disciples of Jesus in the twenty-first century do WE dare take Jesus at His word? Are we prepared to allow the Spirit of Jesus invade our spirit, transform us and act through us to-day?

For a powerful inspiring modern day account of what could well be described as 'The Acts of the Apostles' of our time, read the following book: "The Heavenly Man" by Paul Hattaway, ISBN 1 85424 957 X (UK) or 0 8254 6207 X (US).

This is the remarkable true story of a Chinese Christian man and the amazing growth of house churches in China 1980 to this present time.

Letter from Fr. Vincent

Working for Justice and Peace

Dear fellow Parishioners

Recently I attended a 3-day conference of Pastors of English-Speaking Catholics in the Capitols of Europe held in Den Haag, Holland. Our English-Speaking Catholic Community of St. Anthony in Brussels area is by far the largest such grouping in Europe. And, it emerged that we have by far the largest number of children and teenagers preparing for and receiving the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation in the Holy Spirit. Our gathering in Den Haag discussed a lot of matters of mutual interest but the predominant theme discussed was our involvement in issues concerning justice. It was emphasised that while our charitable contributions are a very important component of our

concern for poor suffering people both locally and worldwide, in itself that is not enough from concerned Christians on behalf of their sisters and brothers in Third World countries. Most poor people are suffering because of unjust social and political structures in their countries and our charitable donations alone are not really going to solve the problems of these poor people. We need to do more than just put money in the "Poor Box" - or basket! There is a worldwide Justice and Peace movement in the Catholic Church for a long time past and it was agreed that every Catholic community needs a Justice and Peace Group within it to constantly remind us of how we can help in promoting Justice and Peace in our world. The aim is to pull together

the outreach activities in our Parish Community and to help maintain a common focus on why we are carrying out the will of God in these charitable activities with the aim of making His world a better place for the many who are suffering needlessly. Those of you who would be interested in joining a Parish Justice and Peace Group are asked to Email me at vagall@telenet.be and we can arrange a meeting at a mutually acceptable time.

In this time of Pentecost I pray that all of us will be renewed and strengthened in the Holy Spirit.

Father Vincent, pastor



Alpha, the back-to-basics course

By Davor Stier

When my wife Veronica told me about Alpha, my first instinctive reaction was a rather cold "Thanks, but probably not". I frequently work late hours; Wednesday is one of the few days in the week we can have dinner together, and, after all, I already know the basic notions of Christianity.

Wisely, Veronica didn't argue with me. But she didn't give up, either. She waited until the following Wednesday, and then she reminded me that was Alpha day. She'd take care of the kids, and I was free to go. And I went.

I mean, I did have the basic notions of Christianity. And I do go to Sunday mass and pray with the kids every day before bedtime. Still, even if I was initially reluctant to admit it, I was aware that my faith was becoming a question of routine rather than substance. Then, although I knew nothing about Alpha, I decided it was worth giving a try.

I retained some level of skepticism



A discussion session during an Alpha Course at Saint Anthony's.

regarding Alpha, and my first impressions of the course were mixed. The social part (dinner and coffee) was fine, and the lectures by Nicky Gumble were quite convincing and to the point. It was the last part of the evening, the group discussion, which made me feel a little bit uncomfortable. I was not used to speak about my faith in public. Even listening to others, how they love Christ and embrace the Gospel, provoked in me a weird sense of unease.

However, Wednesday after Wednesday, that feeling turned into acceptance, and then even admiration for those who, in the group discussion, transmitted the joy of being Christians. Then I started to understand how much I was scared of really following Christ and putting my life into His hands.

Yes, Alpha is an introduction to Christianity. It's a back-to-basis course. And, it was exactly what I needed.

Special Invitation to all Mothers

Why not come along on a Friday morning to join us as we meet and pray together as a parish community for our own children and the children of the world. We pray also for any special intention that has been placed in the Mothers Prayers basket, which is beside the tabernacle in the Church.

We meet in the Parish Centre (or outside if the weather is good) each Friday morning from 11.00am to 12.30pm and we begin our meeting with the celebration of the Eucharist. We will continue to meet during the summer months.

If you are new to our parish, you and your children are especially welcome. For more information



please telephone Felicity 02 783 22 68 or email

felicity@celesteandclarissa.com or telephone Ada 02 731 87 60

PFC: Thank you!



During recent months the Council has been occupied with the following issues--

Car parking-

The work to provide extra car parking places is now almost completed and this will add a considerable number of extra parking places within the grounds. After the Fayre-this new area will be seeded and will green up to blend in with the rest of the grounds. While this area is greening and the new grass is coming through, we may have to restrict parking, for a short time.

Following the completion of the parking area, we intend to re-surface a large part of the existing

By Liam Breslin

grounds; before this work will start- we will have the old poplar trees around the parking area removed and these will be replaced by new trees. When the re-surfacing work is completed- the parking will be clearly marked out -so that persons parking have clear indications of entry-exit etc..

Fencing the grounds-

You can probably see that our grounds are well fenced-- there is one remaining section to be done and this will ensure that our grounds are fully fenced.

Gates

Entry and exit gates will be improved and an automatic system installed at the entry gate.

Diocese

We have met on a number of occasions with the DIOCESAN representatives and have agreed to make a monthly contribution to the diocese- so as to make a contribution to their running costs. This has now commenced and we will set aside some special collections for this purpose during the year.

To make all of these improvements- we need your support-- which is why we have written recently to all parishoners asking that - in addition to the support you give each week- that you might consider a monthly standing order to support the parish. We are also very grateful to those who already support us in this way & to those parishoners who have given donations to the parish. These new standing orders would help us greatly-- in addition to your support you provide during the year-- not least of which is the PARISH FAYRE!

Confirmations 2006: 43 new adult Christians



by Michael Quillinan



Some of the participants in the Confirmation programme.

This Pentecost will be a big day in the lives of our 43 Confirmation candidates who will present themselves to be confirmed by Dr. Raymond Field, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin. This follows a year of preparation over five separate sessions at St. Anthony's in which the candidates, mostly aged between 12 and 14 years explore the meaning of their Christian faith and learn how it may be applied in their daily lives as followers of Jesus Christ. In particular, they prepare themselves to receive the Holy Spirit, whose

many gifts can sustain them throughout their adult lives. At the final preparation session on 13 May, we welcomed a small group of candidates from the 'city branch' of our parish who attend Mass at St Joseph's church on Chaussée de Wavre.

This year's class was prepared by Helen Smith, Emer Daly, Karen Ward, Michael Quillinan, Tracy O'Dwyer and Susan McEneaney. Helen and Emer are 'retiring' from the confirmation team after many

years of devote service to catechetics teaching and we thank them for their wonderful years of service. Karen is moving to join the First Communion team and our loss is certainly their gain. So we are looking for new members in our Confirmation teaching team and if you feel moved to join us in this very rewarding task, please contact Fr. Vincent, Brian O'Neill or Michael Quillinan who will be very happy to hear from you. E-mail killesterbrian@hotmail.com, Michael.quillinan@ec.europa.eu

St Anthony's Summer Fayre

By Yvonne Nielsen, Chair of the Parish Fayre Committee

It's that time of year again when our thoughts turn to long summer days, barbecues in the garden, and the much longed for summer holidays are approaching. The forerunner to all these lovely times ahead is St Anthony's Annual Summer Fayre which this year will be held on Sunday June 11, with everything kicking off at 12.45pm.

First, for those of you who have joined our parish in the past year, a little HISTORY about the Fayre. St Anthony's Summer Fayre has been an annual international fixture for the Brussels ex-pat community for over 20 years. It is really the first major event to launch the summer season. The date of the Fayre is also significant, as it is always held on the Sunday closest to the feast day - June 13 - of our patron St Anthony.

This year's Fayre as every year has some exceptional free entertainment on offer. Back again as firm favourites are Los Eternos our parish Webmaster's Ferran Tarradellas Spanish group, our own Parish Folk Group with special guest, the Brussels American Community Choir,



Homemade Cakes & Sweets are included in the gastronomic offer

the Karen Ward School of Dance and Crossroads with our own Oliver

Gray. We also have some exceptional new artists participating. We have a well known Irish Folk Group, the Brussels Concert Band which includes an orchestra of between 30 to 50 musicians playing a variety of Big Band music. We have a well known Flemish Blues Singer Marjolaine and a wonderful Scottish Pipe Band. We also have some amazing dancers to entertain. We have The Beran Parry School of Dance who will have around 14 Spanish Dancers on stage doing the Flamenco, there is traditional Irish Dancing provided by a Flemish dancing school and exciting African and Philippino Dance. Plus, a first for the Fayre we have our own special Fashion Show.

The Fayre gives us all an opportunity to meet old and new parishioners and the wider community. More than this the Fayre gives all our parishioners the opportunity to help the parish by volunteering their services on one of the many stalls or games. And we desperately need as



Our Parish Flok Group



Pony rides for kids.



Trio Los Eternos will play a fine selection of Spanish and Latin music.

many volunteers as possible. One hour of your time can make such a difference and is very much appreciated by all. Perhaps, you may simply want to support the Fayre by attending the event, partaking of and participating in all the fun and incredible entertainment that the day has to offer.

Now you know the background, let's get down to what's on offer and why it's an event not to be missed. The Fayre offers a cornucopia of non-stop live entertainment, games and interesting stalls. Let's start with the

St Anthony's Summer Fayre Menu

Starters

Wild Irish Smoked Salmon from Co. Mayo

Vegetarian Delicacies

African Delights

Main Courses

Freshly Barbecued Beef Burgers & Hot Dogs

Vegetarian Dishes

Exotic African Food

Desserts

Homemade Cakes & Sweets

Sensational Strawberry Teas

All washed down with a delicious Irish Coffee

All of course accompanied by a beverage of your choice. Personally, I like to sample all the delicacies on offer!

FOOD STALLS. I like to think we offer our parishioners and visitors a 'Foodies' delight. Who needs Michelin Star Restaurants when you can eat like a king in the most convivial of surroundings?

Between courses, it is great for the digestion to take gentle strolls and visit the various stalls and games.

The **BOOK STALL:** you never know what little gem you might find there, from a Keep Fit Book to a Connoisseurs Guide to Wine. For the little ones you might find that 'Winnie the Pooh' Book you've been looking for or maybe, if it's not too old hat, a Famous Five Book or Secret Seven Book, or for the very lucky few, a Harry Potter Book. Whatever your taste in reading material there will be something to please.

The **CLOTHES STALL** is also a much-visited stall full of interesting little numbers. Perhaps you'll find that little black dress, you've always wanted or that silk tie by that designer you always adored! The world of fashion is at your fingertips.

The **BRIC A BRAC** or "White Elephant" Stall as some may know it, offers an eclectic mix of Objets d'Art. Perhaps you will find that seminal piece of art which will add the finishing touches to your sitting room or simply find a really useful object.

The **BOTTLE STALL** offers many hidden delights. Why not try your luck, perhaps you will win a fine bottle of Scottish Malt Whisky or a bottle of Tomato Ketchup - both have their uses! The surprise is all

part of the fun.

For our very special **YOUNGER PARISHIONERS** and visitors we have pony rides. For the very energetic there is the wonderful Bouncy Castle where you can jump up and down to your hearts delight. We have many games to entertain 'Soak the Bloke' and Football, to mention but two. Face painting is on offer for all who wish to become a lion or monkey for the day.

For all you thirsty people the **BAR** supplies draught Guinness, various beers, wine and soft drinks and is on tap all afternoon from 12.45pm to 7pm.

So finally, please come and join in the fun of the Fayre. We look forward to seeing you all.



The Fayre offers real fun for all the family!

St Anthony's Parish

Summer Fayre



SUNDAY 11TH JUNE
13.00 - 19.00

FREE ADMISSION

Fun for all the family

LIVE MUSIC, DANCING, BARBEQUE, INTERNATIONAL CUISINE, BOUNCY CASTLE, PONY RIDES, GAMES, WHITE ELEPHANT, CAKES, BOOKS AND BOTTLE STALLS, TUG-OF-WAR, GIANT TOMBOLA AND LOTS, LOTS MORE

St. Anthony's Parish, 23/25 Oudstrijderlaan, 1950 Kraainen. Tel: 02 720 1970
Brussels Roman Catholic English Language Chaplaincy

The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Christ

..... By Fr. Philip Sandstrom

Festivity Sunday, 18 June.

This 'glorious reflection' on the events of Holy Thursday was celebrated for the first time at Liège in what is now Belgium in 1247. A nun, Saint Juliana of Mont-Cornillon, was insisting that there should be a special feast to honor the holy sacrament of the altar.

She convinced the Bishop of Liège to allow it and she was aided in her efforts by James Pantaleon, the Archdeacon of Huy. This Archdeacon later became a Bishop in Spain, then a Cardinal, and eventually Pope Urban VI (1261). As Pope he had the authority and so he decided this Solemnity should be celebrated by the whole Western Church. The tradition has it that the texts for the liturgy of this day were prepared by St. Thomas Aquinas op.

Juliana's insistence on the necessity of this 'new solemnity' and the acceptance of it by the Western Church grows out of the spiritual context of the time – both the 4th Council of the Lateran (1215) which commanded the Easter Communion as a minimum requirement on all Catholic Christians; and the plain fact that our ancestors in the faith held the Eucharist in such awed reverence that they often they went to Communion very few times in their whole lifetime, though most wanted to take Viaticum, the Eucharist given to the dying.

This Solemnity has been known by various names since its 13th century beginnings: the Feast of the Eucharist, Feast of God, Feast of the Most Precious Sacrament, the Body of Christ (Corpus Christi which was the most common name used by English-speakers), and the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. The outdoor procession, which is its most spectacular manifestation, began in the 14th and 15th centuries in various places. Even today, particularly in Catholic parts of Germany and Switzerland, the procession's



The custody for the exposition of the Most Holy Sacrament.

path is covered with a 'flower carpet' with often very intricate traditional designs, and has become an expression for faith, but also an attraction for tourists.

Nowadays this Solemnity is usually held on a Sunday and is the last of the Sunday group of Solemnities which follow Pentecost.



A big thank you to our Holy Communion team!

Many parishioners have been moved to comment on the wonderful effort and preparation that went to making both Holy Communion services this year very special for all concerned. Parish Life has been asked to include a very special thank you to all those involved in making this day such a memorable one for parents, extended family, parishioners and, not least, for those children who made their First Communions in St Anthony's in May.



St. Anthony's Parish
 Oudstrijderslaan -
 Av. des Anciens
 Combattants, 23-25
 1950 Kraainem
 Tel: 02 720 19 70
 Fax: 02 721 62 91
stanthonyparish@pardona.be
<http://www.saint-anthony.be>

Contacts list

Parish General Number 02 720 19 70

Parish Pastoral Council

Chair of the Parish Council	Barry O'Halpin	0472 960506
Deputy Chair	Dan Nicholson	02 731 87 60
Secretary	Judith Carr	016 490305

Finance Committee

Chair of the Finance Council	Liam Breslin	02 767 02 81
Financial Controller	Yvonne Nielsen	02 731 22 17
Secretary	Melanie D'Sa	02 725 53 56

Fayre Committee

Chair of the Fayre Committee	Yvonne Nielsen	02 731 22 17
Deputy Chair	Peter Willis	02 782 24 16
Volunteer Co-coordinator	Sharon O'Kane	02 688 26 89
Committee Support	Sue Hannacher	02 731 44 52

Ministries

Lectors	Lorraine de Cruz-Rabier	02 687 8261
Ushers	Sue Hannacher	02 731 44 52
Music at 18.00 (Saturdays)	Jeff Oppenheim	02 306 92 24
Music at 10.00	Noel Doyle	0437 83 72 96
Music at 11.30	Nigel Ward	0476 45 14 50
Flower Arrangements	Catherine Sternemann	02 767 33 91
Church Linens	Sharon O'Kane	02 688 26 89
	Anne Hamell	02 767 26 37
Sacristans	Damien O'Kane	02 688 26 89
11.30 Mass Co-ordinator	Susanne Lehne	02 742 18 70
Altar Servers	Oneil D'Sa	02 725 53 56
Catechetics	Brian O'Neill	015 51 61 06
	Helen Smith	02 767 84 19
	Bernie Lindop	02 688 22 56
Maintenance	Johny Van Der Bracht	02 305 04 11
Eucharistic Ministers	Lorraine de Cruz-Rabier	02 687 8261
Doughnuts & Coffee	Susan/Paddy McEaney	02 784 23 42
Crèche	please volunteer	
09.00 Adult Discussion Group	Elaine Cozzone	02 384 06 34
Bible Study	Ely Parker	02 732 20 62
	Pauline Whalley	02 782 10 91
Wednesday Group (GIFT)		
Mothers' Prayers Group	Noreen Duguid	duguid5@hotmail.com
Knights of St Thomas More	Gerald Kelberg	02 720 58 55
St Vincent de Paul Society	Chris de Fortis	defortis@skynet.be 0495 34 47 07
Charity Co-ordinator	Yvonne Stausbøll	02 646 05 36
Newsletter Editor	Fiona Murray	0472 96 05 07
Newsletter & Website	Ferran Tarradellas	02 215 89 82
Helping Hands	Yvonne Nielsen	02 731 22 17
Fonds Jean Degive (St. Gilles)	Susan Jacobs	02 734 59 98
	Walter Huyghe	0495 80 35 88

Perhaps you would like to join one of these activities, or start something new? Whatever your talents and time, you are welcome. The Parish Council meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, September -June, open to all.

**Parish Office Hours: Monday / Tuesday/ Friday 09.00 - 13.00 13.30-17.00
 Wednesday /Thursday 09.00 - 13.00**