

Weekly Message from Fr William for Pentecost Sunday 2022

Dear People of St Mary's

This Sunday we come together as Christians across the town to worship together in an ecumenical service to honour the queen and to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. It's a unique and one-off occasion when the different churches in Knaresborough have all dropped their own individual Sunday services on this day in favour of this ecumenical service. This is something that would have been inconceivable in former times, and might still be inconceivable in other countries that have not made the same ecumenical progress that we have in this country. It has been made possible by an intentional and sustained effort on the part of the different denominations in Knaresborough and in thousands of other towns across the country in recent years to meet together on a regular basis, to pray together, and to work together where we can. In Knaresborough this takes the form of CTiK (Christians Together in Knaresborough), in which I and the leaders of other churches and Christian groups in town meet together on a regular basis, pray together, and work together where we can.

This is also Pentecost Sunday when the Holy Spirit was poured into the early Christian community, uniting them into the Body of Christ, the Church.

We still don't have perfect unity in our different ways of being Christian, or in our different moral, theological and ecclesiastical teaching. But this ecumenical service today is a very positive sign of our shared desire for that unity for which Christ prayed, and maybe a help along the journey towards that goal. 'Father, may they all be one' (John 17 as we heard at Mass last Sunday). It's a service we can all fully participate in. There's no Holy Communion. So please do come along and join us if you can. It's 10.30am in St John's. We will still be celebrating our own Sunday Mass at Sat 6pm and Sun 5pm for Pentecost Sunday.

Next Sunday, Trinity Sunday, 12th June, our fifteen confirmation candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Sunday 5pm Mass, with their families and sponsors to support them. Let's pray for them. If you normally celebrate mass with me at 5pm please be assured that you are still very welcome at this Mass. It will be a bit more full than usual, but probably not much more, because these young people and their families have been coming to the Sunday 5pm mass in recent weeks during the Confirmation preparation course.

Prior to this there will be the usual Confirmation Vigil for these candidates and their families. It's usually the evening before, but this time it will be Wednesday this week at 7pm in church. It's open to anyone who would like to come and your support for them and your prayer would be very welcome.



Pentecost, Sunday 29 May 2022