

TEAMS GB NEWSLETTER

April- June 2025



Equipes Notre Dame
TEAMS

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Changed Address?

Contact your **regional couple** for any change of postal address or any change in the number of newsletters your Team needs. Contact details in the directory towards the end of the newsletter.

Tell us your Team News

Send us some photos and a few lines for the next newsletter by **1 June 2025**.

Email to: editors@teams.gb.org.uk or
what's app to 07722 014530.

Front cover. The Holy Spirit from Celebrate Conference.



Our front lawn

Notes from the editors



Dear friends in Teams,

We hope this finds you well. Thank you to those who contributed to this newsletter.

We have an update from Paul and Annette O’Beirne our Superregional couple and Chris and Dominique Thompson, our GB treasurers. Our financial contributions due in May are vital in supporting the work of the movement including printing and posting these newsletters. We have lots of photos from the Central Regional Gathering, articles on personal prayer and pilgrimage. We pay tribute

to and remember Teams members who have passed. We have enjoyed catching up with Teams friends recently at a mixed teams event.

Over the last few months we have been spending more time caring for our son Martin who has learning difficulties, as one of his two carers had left. Although he told us frequently that we weren’t as good as his “real” carers (we were the B team) we created many happy memories. After lots of false starts in recruitment we now have a wonderful new carer about to start, a man with lots of experience who also cared for his own brother with similar needs.

Dympna is getting more active after her hip replacement and has just finished a fundraising challenge for Cancer research UK doing 100 squats per day during February. Most days were fine although there were some evenings when she suddenly remembered she needed to do a few more and jumped up to do her squats as the rest of the family were watching TV (strange things happen in our house!) We are enjoying the signs of spring in the garden and when you receive the newsletter we will be in lent and preparing our annual ‘Churches Together’ outdoor passion play.

We continue to pray for Pope Francis and thank God for the wonderful blessing he has been to us all. We also ask for prayers for world leaders at this troubling time. Wishing you a blessed lent and Easter period,

Dympna & Mark Edwards,



Mark’s birthday card to Dympna

Letter from Super Regional Couple

Dear friends in Teams,

We hope you are well. As we write this we are preparing for Lent and by the time you receive this newsletter we will already be approaching Easter. We write at a time when the world is facing uncertain times in many corners of the world none the least in the land where Jesus grew up and where he carried out his ministry. This



year we will again follow the virtual pilgrimage from Magdala in the Holy Land led by Kathleen Nichols, a consecrated woman, on www.magdala.org. Going on “Pilgrimage with Paul, the Apostle of Hope” will give a sense of the life and work of St Paul while visiting the places where he carried out his ministry, ending in Rome where he met his death. Scripture and meditation will be interwoven into the pilgrimage. As members of Teams daily reading of the Bible is an integral part of our endeavours to improve our spiritual life and this is a way to do so a little differently in Lent.

Since the last newsletter GB Teams have experienced Christmas and a very stormy January and wet February but we hope that spring is around the corner. Snowdrops are abounding and daffodils look like they will be opening soon. Signs of resurrection life and the promise of Easter! We are filled with hope! “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old has passed away, see everything has become new” 2 Corinthians 5:17(NRSV).



In Northampton we joined in the Marriage week event organised by the Central Regional couple, Paul and Janet Deboo. We experienced a wonderful day of fun and friendship as well as being creative and remembering our beginnings as a couple as well as appreciating those who influenced us in our marriages.



Young couples and “older” joined with many couples not already in Teams from Northampton diocese. There was a wonderful programme for children and the formal part of the day ended with everyone at Mass in the Cathedral. The evening was spent sharing food and playing games – young and old alike!! See pages 8-11.

Many teams couples also attended the conference at the Excel centre in London run by Word on fire and focussing on the Word. It was an inspirational weekend with input from Bishop Robert Barron. <https://thecatholicherald.com/biblical-renewal-with-bishop-robert-barron>.



As May is the month of Mary, our patron in Teams, we strive to respond as she did with total trust in the Lord and complete confidence in our spouse, that we may be one.

May is also the month when we gather our gift to the Teams movement by donating a day's pay for the development of Teams in GB and elsewhere. Please be as generous as you can so others can share in this wonderful movement. We ask Responsible couples in Teams to clarify the mechanism for contributing at their meeting in May.



We ask for your prayers as we endeavour to find labourers for the vineyard specifically to lead our Southern Region and also for a couple to take on the Transatlantic role at the end of the year.

We pray for all those who are no longer with us, especially Maria Mason of Backworth 1 near Newcastle, previous Regional couple with Jim, and David Meyer from Hastings who died recently and we remember the many others who gave of their time and skills to share the charism of Teams.

New teams are developing across GB and we give thanks for those who are involved in piloting them.

**Paul and Annette O’Beirne,
Teams Transatlantic Super Regional Couple**



RECIPE FOR A
happy marriage

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 cups of Love
- 2 cups of Loyalty
- 3 cups of Kindness
- 4 cups of Understanding
- 1 cup of Friendship
- 5 spoonfuls of Hope
- 1 barrel of Laughter
- Dash of Faith
- Pinch of Forgiveness (no substitutions)
- Dash of Thoughtfulness (not optional)

..... ♥

DIRECTIONS:

- Take love and loyalty and mix thoroughly with faith.
- Blend in kindness and understanding, add friendship and hope.
- Sprinkle abundantly with laughter.
- Garnish with forgiveness and thoughtfulness.
- Bake with sunshine.
- Serve daily with generous helpings

Letter from GB Treasurers

We have just completed our Accounts for the year (they will be on our website in the near future) and we have a deficit again. At just under £1,700, this is acceptable, but we are concerned at the downward trend of Teams members contributions. This is partly due to the loss of a number of Teams over Covid, yet to be replaced, and, sadly, a number of deaths recently. However, we do have to remind couples that we depend on their contributions as our main source of income.

The contributions enable us to invest in expansion as well as supporting Teams in less well off countries through our contribution to the international movement. Last year we spent over £1,000 on expansion and are planning to spend more this year. Please reconsider how much you can contribute to help us to bring Teams to every parish, bearing in mind the impact of inflation on the value of our income.

We would also like to remind you about Gift Aid. Speaking to fellow Teams members at the Central Gathering recently, we found that some people thought that they had Declarations but we had no record of them. Our recent claim for Gift Aid showed that a significant number of our contributors do not have one. If you are an income tax payer, we can recover an extra 25% of your contribution so please check with us if you have a current Declaration. To be certain, you can always do a new Declaration and if you have one already, it will simply replace it. The form can be found on the TeamsGB website at

TOL-Standing-Order.doc.

Chris & Dominique Thompson, GB Treasurers

Update on the Cause for the Canonisation of Fr Caffarel & Friends of Fr Caffarel are available on the Teams GB website. [Www.teamsgb.org.uk/](http://www.teamsgb.org.uk/)

Jubilee Pilgrimages



Pope Francis' Bull of Indiction for the Jubilee of 2025 expresses hope in its opening paragraphs that this year might bring to each and every one of us a "genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus" and "an opportunity to be renewed in hope". A bit later he observes that "the Christian life is a *journey* calling for *moments of greater intensity* to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps towards the goal of our encounter with the Lord Jesus". This Jubilee Year is proposed as one such moment of greater intensity, marked by outward pilgrimage that echoes and amplifies the inward yearning and spiritual journey.

This pilgrimage is essentially an undertaking of conversion: being drawn into Our Lord's limitless pure love necessarily means shedding all blots and obstacles in our hearts and lives of resistance, ingratitude, imperviousness, insensitivity to him. Some of these we may already know, others grace must lead us to see. Reconciliation is thus central to the Jubilee journey. We seek reconciliation via the Church's sacrament for ourselves, of course, and liberty from all imprisoning attitudes and mindsets that constrain our own charity—that is, constrain the charity Our Lord wants to channel through us. We also pray for the Lord's gentle light of conversion everywhere it is needed, and for wisdom and courage by various ways and means to be its messenger. At last, we appeal for the Lord's indulgence upon those now entirely dependent on his mercy.

A particular expression of Jubilee grace is the Jubilee Indulgence typically obtained by pilgrimage to a Jubilee church for Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and prayer for the Pope's intentions. Every diocese has designated Jubilee churches where we can make pilgrimage especially for this indulgence. Check your diocese's website for the church nearest you. Works of charity and mercy can also obtain the Indulgence; learn more at <https://rcdow.org.uk/jubilee-2025/the-jubilee-indulgence-step-by-step>.

Now is a good time, together as a Team, or with nearby Teams, to make, plan, or participate in a pilgrimage or some work of mercy as a Jubilee activity, or as part of your Annual Retreat. We shall certainly be looking to arrange what we can. Remember: take photos of what you do, and submit them to this newsletter.

Janet and Paul DeBoo, Regional Couple, Teams GB Central Region

Power of Personal Prayer

After 44 years in Teams we still try more to be effective in our time of personal prayer. Going to my quiet place each day at 10.30 when my alarm sounds doesn't always happen. When I do manage time with the Lord, do I really listen, or do I ask him to comply with my request?

We read a wonderful article today by Dom Laurence Freeman, a Benedictine. He speaks of five essential elements. Firstly to find a inner place, a secret place, a desert to be in the presence of the ever-present Source. Second, not to babble (like the pagans do), as He knows us more than ourselves. Next, to abandon, to forget, our worries. Fourth, to set your mind on his glory, on his Kingdom, on his Kingship and care of us. And fifth, lastly to be simply and only in the present moment. Not looking back or looking forward.

We recall a homily a few weeks ago by a local Teams spiritual accompanist...."those who look to the past are already dead" !! We looked up Evagrius; he was a 4th century monk, who taught to pray by "laying aside all thoughts". These seemed to us to be really helpful pointers for our Personal Prayer endeavour.

The article is in The Tablet of 1st March. If you have a copy perhaps you can share it with friends. Else Fr Laurence has a book Sensing God: Learning to Meditate through Lent. £8 on Amazon. The book is a daily guide for Lent.

We see too, that Laurence Freeman is offering a free (optional donation) for Four weekly online sessions in Lent. 17th March to 7th April register at www.wccm.org

**Paul and Annette
O'Beirne**



Celebrating the love of couples

Central Regional Gathering & National Marriage week event

The Central Region held its Regional Gathering for this Teams Year on the day after Valentine's Day at the St Thomas Centre adjacent to Northampton's Cathedral of Our Lady Immaculate and St. Thomas of Canterbury.



Our theme “Celebrating the Love of Couples” drew upon Valentine's Day, National Marriage Week, and the Jubilee motto “Pilgrims of Hope”. 13 Teams couples—including 4 couples experiencing their first Teams Gathering—attended with their children from the utmost reaches of the Region, as well as Super-Regional Couple Annette and Paul O'Beirne from the south coast. Our prime aim, together with 11 non-Teams





couples from Northampton Diocese, was simply to celebrate being couples together and the hope this kindles. Our Children and Young People's programme attracted more participants than the Swanwick Province Gathering of 2023.



Kickstarting with a toast to each other asserting our intent for the day, we set couples a challenge to create a 2D or 3D artwork in tribute to some place, person, shared interest, or memory from their early days that had shaped or still shapes their relationship. The imaginative force ignited by this task is shown in photos from the activity.



Canon John Udris, now Parish Priest at St. Peter's in Marlow, offered us keynote reflections on the Holy Spirit's constant work to form us in "oneliness", highlighting how standout memories and the origins of our relationship hold clues to our unique vocation as a couple, and urging how we must pray not just for ourselves, but for each other as spouses and as a couple, to receive and welcome the Holy Spirit so that our marriage can reach the fullest extent of God's intent.



One mission for this event was to showcase Teams to those who had come as enquirers; small group discussions were key to this. We also shared worldwide Teams statistics and the Province Team's recent strategic work building a new phase of expansion.



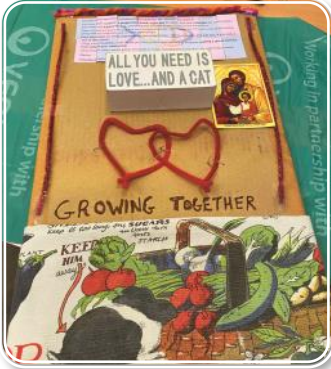
Our afternoon closed with Evening Prayer styled after the Divine Office, but laced with images of marriage and bolstered with worship hymns.

After Mass with the parish for the 6th Sunday of the year, a meal from the St. Thomas Centre's Catering Team served as prelude to an evening of nonsense bemusing to many including Bishop David Oakley, that showed who was champion at the Strawberry Lace Challenge, and that children know best about engineering churches from marshmallows and sticks of



spaghetti (“How I’ve longed all my life to make a church from such stuff; alas, the best I could ever do was aspire!”).

Our best encouragement from the day is the handful of couples with whom we are following up in hopes of the first new Team at Northampton in several years.



Janet and Paul DeBoo,
Teams Central Regional Couple



North West Mixed Teams

Picnic pie, chocolate brownies, food to feed the 5,000, sharing, prayer and discussion were all on the menu at the North West Sector teams gathered as the Formby Team welcomed Teams from Warrington and Wirral. The venue was St Luke's Church, Crosby. The church was being used for Gather 25, a 25-hour prayer gathering across 6 continents and across 200 countries so we met in the parish hall.



It was so good to catch up with Teams friends and share our highs and lows, to have the opportunity to stop and pray for Pope Francis and the rapidly changing world events. The March readings and reflection on the transfiguration by Fr Rob Esdaile Muir provided much food for our study topic discussion.





Mixed Teams meetings



Picture below, a Lenten challenge perhaps to avoid the picture above?



FROM	TO
ARROGANCE	HUMILITY
IS FAULT PROOF	ADMITS MISTAKES
DOESN'T LISTEN	LISTENS TO UNDERSTAND
INTERRUPTS	GIVES SPACE
WANTS TO BE RIGHT	HAS AN OPEN MIND
DOESN'T SEE DIFFERENTLY	EMBRACES DIFFERENCES
PUSHES POINT THROUGH	ALLOWS IDEAS TO EMERGE
SHOWS FRUSTRATION SOON	DEMONSTRATES PATIENCE
AVOIDS ACCOUNTABILITY	TAKES OWNERSHIP
CREATES A FEAR CULTURE	BUILDS LEARNING CULTURE



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Remembering Maria Mason



Barga coat of arms

Maria, 18yrs old, arrived in Stanley, Co. Durham from her home in Barga, Italy, to live with her uncle and other members of the family. Keen to educate herself, the first aim was to master the English language. She continued her studies, achieving A level exam success in a number of subjects, including French and Spanish. Ultimately, obtaining top nursing honours. For years her language skills were used in several areas of need and vital translation for medics in the local hospitals - she was doing that still, the day she suddenly passed away.

Jim and Maria married in St Joseph's Church Stanley in 1959 and had three children, Paul, Angela and David. Paul was ordained in 1998 and is the Bishop of the Forces, Angela is married with children and lives in the USA and David is also married and is a local business man in the North East

The Teams of Our Lady had figured largely in their many years of marriage. The first team, North Shields 1, was established in the North-East following a visit from Harry & Clotilde Meigh. The second team that of Jim and Maria, Backworth 1, was formed in 1966. Looking at an undated list of team members, it consisted of a powerhouse of couples, extremely active in the movement not only in the North-East but nationally and internationally.

Maria and Jim lead by example. Actively engaged in the two sectors that were established: North Tyne & North East. Helping to organise events, regional conferences, piloting teams and always eager for the opportunity to share their love and their commitment for the Teams of Our Lady. We would say, they gelled together very well; Jim was uncompromising in the application of the ways and methods...whereat Maria applied a gentle logic in making the point. A great team.

In later years as their team members died or the ones remaining were no longer active, Maria and Jim embraced modern technology and joined the monthly inter teams Zoom meeting .

Dzidzia and Piotr who are instrumental in encouraging team members to join together monthly wrote

'We feel very lucky to have got to know Jim and Maria more closely through the monthly virtual meetings. They were an integral part of that group and we will miss Maria but hope that Jim will continue to join us.'

In more recent times Maria and Jim attended the last International Gathering at Turin in July. They were overcome by the size of it and the attention they received from fellow team members ensuring their wellbeing during the period of the gathering.

Maria and Jim came into our lives many years ago as the pilot couple for Durham 1 team. There was no half measures, these were the days of careful preparation and discussion with your liaison couple prior to the meeting. Jim and Maria explained carefully the reasoning behind this approach to ensure that members followed a tried and trusted way.

Jim and Maria continued to watch over us and have never relinquished their role as our liaison couple.

May she rest in peace.

Tom and Maureen Hoban

*Magnificat, Magnificat Magnificat anima mea Dominum
Magnificat, Magnificat Magnificat anima mea*

Remembering Cathie Honour



On a cold afternoon in mid November last year team members, all of us widows or widowers, gathered to help spread Cathie Honour's ashes on the same patch of Merton Cemetery where the ashes of her husband David had lain for 12 years, and where her beloved daughter Maureen's ashes were also interred.

Cathie came from Glasgow and David from Newcastle and they enjoyed a long and happy marriage. It was in Merton they settled, and became such a leading couple in the life of the Team movement. They were founder members of Merton 1, and then when in 1986 the new sector of Merton and North Surrey was set up they were the first sector couple. After their term of office they took on the editorship of the local Teams Newsletter for many years, important at a time when many new teams were being founded in Wimbledon, Merton, South London and North Surrey. They were both very active in the parish, Cathie a leading advocate for the Justice and Peace movement. With their three children both were active supporters of Wimbledon AFC.

David's death was a heavy blow for Cathie but the death of her daughter soon after Maureen was worse for her, as it was not expected. Eventually, Cathie sold her house and moved up to near Newcastle, and to be near David's relations. In her last years she was an enthusiastic member of the Teams Widows team, which after Covid was set up on Zoom. She is greatly missed, for her prayerful contributions.

Nora Courtney

Remembering Ann Dunn



The sudden and unexpected death of Ann Dunn was a surprise to all of us who knew and loved her, as she was always so active and so full of energy. How can she have stopped?

Ann was a great walker, and it was walking that she and Jo met. The birth of three daughters may have slowed them down but the walking and adventuring continued. Jo's career with the Civil Service moved them to many places, including some years in

Jamaica, and their travelling continued, with, after his retirement, a year-long round the world adventure, walking again and also crewing a boat up the east coast of Australia.

And the energy they displayed in these ventures was also evident in the work they did for the Church, in the parishes they lived in and for the Teams movement. The first team they joined was in the North East at Cullercoats, and from there they piloted one of the Fife teams in Scotland.

When they returned from the Caribbean the family went to Reading and they were part of the first team there, Reading 1, and after their return to the North East they helped to set up the team in Tynemouth, Cramlington. That team had folded by the time of Jo's death. In 2021 Ann became an important member of the Teams Widows Team which met on Zoom. A few weeks before her death she was down on the South Coast, enthusiastically planning for the future of that team too. She will be greatly missed.

Nora Courtney

April Team meeting

Philippians 2:6-11

'He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him.'

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who see me deride me;
they curl their lips, they toss their heads:
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him, for in him he delights.'

For dogs have surrounded me;
a band of the wicked besets me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;
I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them,
they cast lots for my robe.
But you, O Lord, do not stay afar off;
my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my kin,
and praise you in the midst of the assembly;
'You who fear the Lord, give him praise;
all descendants of Jacob, give him glory;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel.'

Concluding prayer

Lord, as we contemplate your passion, death and resurrection may we come to know more fully the depth of your love and have the will to serve others. Amen.

If Jesus Christ didn't
abandon you in his darkness,
the ultimate darkness,
why would he abandon
you now, in yours?

Tim Keller

April Reflection

“He emptied himself by taking the form of a servant,” (Phil. 2:7)

In his life, death and resurrection Jesus models for us the way of living that will further the Kingdom of God on earth. St Paul tells us He did not ‘grasp’ his status as the second person of the Holy Trinity but humbled himself, taking the form of a servant. Jesus’ obedience to the Father demanded a ‘kenosis’, a self-emptying of his own desires, and placing himself at the service of God’s Kingdom. But where was he formed in this way of living?

The answer is probably found in his home. This was the attitude that we also find in his mother, Mary who said, ‘I am the Lord’s servant, let it be done to me according to your word’ (Lk 1:38), and in his step-father, Joseph, who chose the more difficult path in obedience to the Angel’s message, taking Mary as his wife, rather than shunning her (Matt. 1:20). They modelled for Jesus what he then modelled for us.

Today, our homes can still be schools of discipleship and seedbeds for germinating the fruits of the Holy Spirit within ourselves and our children. Examples of this willingness to serve abound in family life: the parents who walk the floor night after night with their disgruntled new-born; the single parent who juggles work with organising the home and taking children to activities so they get every opportunity to develop their talents; the parents of children with learning difficulties who champion their cause to overcome barriers to their child’s development.

There are partners who care for each other through long illnesses or who forgive one another because they prioritise their relationship above holding onto the hurt or being right. There are extended families and blended families who can hold and heal others after the experience of abandonment, bereavement or divorce. The home is both a holy place and the domestic church. This is where children and parents learn to practise sacrificial love rather than to ‘grasp’ that which is their right. It is a sacramental space where God is visibly and effectively at work. It is where we encounter Emmanuel, the God who is with us, and where our lives, when they mirror the humility shown by Jesus, proclaim that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

**Deacon Keith Ballard,
Formby team**

**Humility is not
thinking less of yourself but
thinking of yourself less.
CS Lewis**

May Team Meeting

Reading: John 14:23-29

'The Holy Spirit will bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.'

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.'

'These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I will come to you." If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.'

Psalm 67

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

*May God be gracious and bless us
and let his face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your salvation.*

*Let the nations be glad and shout for joy,
with uprightness you rule the peoples;
you guide the nations on earth.*

*Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.*

*May God still give us his blessing
that all the ends of the earth may revere him*



Concluding prayer. Lord, may be bring peace to those who are troubled, a listening ear and a comfort to those who are suffering. Amen.

May Reflection

The beginning of this month's Gospel sounds so simple but as with many of Jesus' sayings, it is not as easy as it sounds! How do we keep Jesus' word? I would suggest that He wants us to keep His commandments – to love God and to love our neighbour. We are then promised that if we fulfil this then the Father and Jesus will make their home in us. What an offer!

Jesus then goes on to explain, as He has done often before, that the word is not His: it comes from His Father. Jesus is promising His disciples a life that includes Him and His Father. He is anxious that He should do all that He has to do while He is still with them.

It is important that the disciples – and us – realise that they/ we are not alone. The Holy Spirit is our Advocate – someone on our side. Not only has the Father sent the Spirit to teach us everything but also to remind us of all that Jesus said. The Spirit will help us to understand all that Jesus has revealed about Himself and His Father. Sometimes we forget how important the Holy Spirit is in our lives and perhaps we would do well to remember that the Spirit is an equal member of the Trinity.

Jesus goes on to bequeath peace to the disciples. It is not just any old peace – it is Jesus' own peace, one the world cannot give. He then exhorts them, and us, not to let our hearts be troubled or afraid. (Easier said than done!) As when we lose our loved ones whom we believe return to the Father when they die, so too Jesus returns to His Father. How can the disciples not be glad for Him?

Jesus ends this passage by explaining that He needed to do all this before it all happened so that when it DID happen they could believe. This passage has many comforting words from Jesus but they cannot comfort us unless we allow them to make a difference in our lives – we must do something, we must depend totally on God.

Sr Margaret Mattison



June Team Meeting

Reading: John 14:15-16, 23b-26

‘The Holy Spirit will teach you all things.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

‘These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.’

Psalm 104

Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

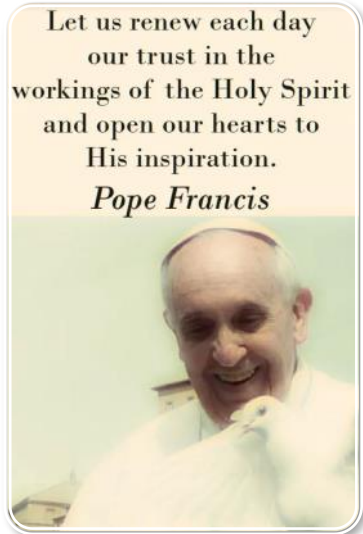
Bless the Lord, O my soul!
O Lord my God, how great you are!
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your creatures.

You take away their breath, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, and they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I will rejoice in the Lord.

Concluding prayer.

Come Holy Spirit. Renew our lives, our hearts and our world so that we see the fruits transform our world. Amen



June Reflection

This passage for reflection, is taken from one of the alternative readings for Pentecost and is very Trinitarian in outlook. Jesus is quoted as saying: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments". For Jesus, keeping the commandments is more than just observing the letter of the law: it involves being faithful to the spirit that underpins the Law. Love for John therefore is self-sacrificial exemplified by Jesus on the Cross. One of John's themes is that not only did God so love the world that he sent his only begotten Son but that he promised that, by the sending of the Helper or Holy Spirit, he would not leave his disciples orphaned when Jesus departed this world.

This can be a source of hope for those of us who have faith – faith that Jesus is risen. In all the Gospels that faith in Jesus was not always strongly evident among the disciples. In John they were locked up in a room out of fear. The Spirit is not only a defender but also an animator of mission. In the Eastern Church the Trinity is sometimes expressed as the Word uttered by the Father in the breath of the Spirit. Jesus, as the historical embodiment of the Father in history, reveals God's transcendence while the breath of the Spirit embodies God's immanence – his presence throughout all creation. As the psalmist says, the Spirit renews and therefore energises all creation. It is the Spirit that embodies the outward looking dimension of the Trinity.

We are called therefore to be other-centred rather than self-centred. True love breaks down barriers. Our Liturgical celebrations centre on our being united to each other symbolised in the sign of peace which is reinforced by our being united with Jesus himself in Communion. Similarly Married couples are called to be at one with each other through the sharing of household tasks and the sharing of time together despite the busy schedules of much of modern living.

Fr. Bill Muir



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Last notes...

The Magnificat (Lk 1: 46-56)

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
and my spirit exults in God my Saviour,
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.**

**Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,
for the almighty has done great things for me.**

**Holy is His name,
and His mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear Him.**

He has shown the power of His arm.

He has routed the proud of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.

The hungry He has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.

**He has come to the help of Israel His servant, mindful of His mercy
According to the promise He made to our ancestors
of His mercy to Abraham and to his descendants forever.**

Our Lady of the Home, pray for us.

Wife: I love you!

Husband: I love you, too.

Wife: Prove it, scream it to the world !

Husband: (whispers in her ear) "I love you"

Wife: Why did you whisper it?

Husband: Because you are my world!

Happy marriages begin
when we marry the
ones we love, and they
blossom when we love
the ones we married.

TIM MULLEN



Equipes Notre Dame

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