

ParishMonthly

Our Lady & All Saints Catholic Church, Otley

www.olasotley.org

June 2017



To represent something of that first Pentecost, at our 9.30 Mass last Sunday several children read the Bidding prayers in their own language, and dressed in the different national costumes. The congregation were able to hear and be moved by children reading in Polish, Hindi, Spanish, French, and Filipino.

One of the young readers, Leona said about reading the bidding prayer in Hindi:

"I was nervous speaking in Hindi in front of everyone. But I enjoyed it. And it was fun listening to all the other languages."

Her Mum Agnes added, *"You may be surprised to know that In India, the Holy Mass, in addition to English, is celebrated in 23 other regional languages such as Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, etc. Having attended Mass in a few of these languages, I realized that no matter how diverse we are, we are all united by a common bond during the Mass – irrespective of background and the language that we prayed in. A prayer from the heart transcends all barriers. A prayer in any language is a means of talking to God and God in his mercy listens. The Pentecost Sunday celebration was an awesome experience."*

The children did a fabulous job and hearing the prayers in different languages was a testament of our unity in the midst of diversity."

Marek, who read in Polish, said afterwards **"It was so interesting to listen to others speaking in their own native language. It was like real Pentecost happening again, everyone could hear their own language, just like real Pentecost!"**

Eliza felt nostalgic. **"On reading in Cebuano dialect, my Mum comes from Cebu, it reminded me of my last visit to the Philippines where my cousins speak to me in the same dialect. At Mass I was wearing a traditional Filipino dress that was vibrant pink with an embroidered**

poncho style to go on top: it was very delicate. Hand in hand, I loved the Mass and look forward to the never-ending surprises next year". Being understood in whatever language we speak is so important if we want to get a message across. And we know from the Acts of the Apostles that on that Pentecost day there were people there "from every nation under heaven". How could they all receive the message the Apostles preached?

Remember Martin Luther King's address in Washington DC...his famous "I have a dream" speech? His language crossed every divide that day and his message received by everyone who heard it. It was biblical in tone as he quoted from the Old Testament and he was truly moved by the Spirit to reach the hearts and minds of ordinary people, black and white, educated and uneducated, in America and beyond. He spoke with an overwhelming sense of faith and conviction. The Dream may have been his, but the Holy Spirit surely inspired the language he used to set hearts on fire.

Language isn't just about words. On page 3 we'll see how young Parishioner Rebecca, like so many other disabled children and young people in Lourdes, transmits a particular language, with an ever-present smile - one of sheer joy!

Joe McGuinness



Joel – The Prophet of Pentecost

The Prophet Joel is thought to have worked about 400 BC. He is sometimes called the prophet of Pentecost and it is appropriate to write about him at this point in the Church's year.

Joel prophesies the outpouring of the Spirit on all God's people. This will be fulfilled with the descent of the Spirit on the Apostles recounted in Acts.2 16-21. St. Peter actually quotes the Prophecy in his first address after the Pentecost experience when the Apostles are thought by some to "have been drinking too much new wine". We perhaps need to look a little more closely at the link between Joel and the New Testament events with which we are familiar.

Surprisingly the story begins with our old friend Moses. In Chapter 11 of the Book of Numbers he is asked to stop Eldad and Medad from prophesying and expresses the wish that "the whole people of God were prophets and God gave his spirit to them all". This arises from Moses having shared the spirit that was given to him with

some of the Elders of Israel during the Exodus. This theme of the outpouring of the Spirit pervades the whole area of Old Testament prophesy and is encapsulated in Joel.

His prophesy is made up of two parts. The first is an account of a plague of locusts, its cause and consequences. God calls the whole community to prayer, fasting and repentance in familiar words, giving them a vision of plenty and prosperity.

Part two is all about the new age to be experienced by Israel. It will be preceded by the outpouring of the Spirit quoted by Peter in the Pentecost account in Acts 2. Here is the link between Old and New Testaments we find so often.

But what is brought about by this outpouring of the Spirit? The first recorded effect is the ability of the Apostles to speak in words understood by the myriad of listeners who were present at the event, "we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God".

Next is the spirit of repentance felt by those who heard Peter's call. We are told they "were cut to the heart" and about three thousand were converted. Christianity (although it was not already called that) took off from that point.

For the rest of it we shall have to go elsewhere, John's Gospel, Paul's Letters et al but that is for another day. I conclude by reflecting that the sending of the Spirit is the result of a promise made by Jesus at the Last Supper to his Apostles and as confirmed by Peter in Acts 2.39, "the promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself" and just a reminder that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity whose feast concludes the Lent/Easter/Pentecost story we celebrate.

All this from a minor prophet like Joel!

Frank Bowe

A brief insight into mixed marriages

(Catholic and a Non-Catholic)

When couples marry, promises are made and hopefully kept. Often people marry young and don't really know what to expect on the journey through life. The success stories are the ones who, together, find their way.

In the case of mixed marriages, the promises made are a bit more complicated and those who marry Catholics are sometimes moving into an alien world. In our respective marriages those promises have been kept by our husbands, jointly, for around 100 years (awesome!) So we do understand a bit about this state.

They support us in upholding our faith and in raising our children in this faith. They send their children to a Catholic school sometimes when there are good local schools much nearer; they support those Catholic schools in every way, attending meetings, fund raising, etc. In Otley we are fortunate in having a good Catholic school but this is not always the case and it must make

things difficult.

Many will say our partners have the opportunity to convert to the Catholic faith and, of course, this happens often. Some of the best Catholic men and women are converts. However, we must respect the fact that we are fortunate to live in a free country where people are allowed to have their own ideas and principles. It therefore follows that respect must be accorded even more when, despite their beliefs, our spouses still abide by their promises to help us uphold our faith. In our own parish priest we have someone who treats everyone equally with respect, care and kindness and all respond positively to this.

We salute all those men and women of all ages who support their Catholic families and a special thank you to Mick and Brian.

Sylvia Wardman and Maureen Smith

This article was first published in an early edition of the parish magazine "Wharfetales". We were asked to reproduce it here for the benefit of any current parishioners to whom it might apply and as a reminder to all.



 Aid to the Church in Need
Prayer for Refugees and Victims of War

Lord God,
no one is a stranger to you
And no one is ever
far from your loving care.
In your kindness, watch over refugees
and victims
of war, those separated from their
loved ones,
Young people who are lost, and those
who have left
home or who have run away from
home.
Bring them back safely to the place
where
they long to be, and help us always
to show your kindness to strangers and
to all in need.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Reflections

Rebecca's reflections on Lourdes

The opening lines of the film "Song of Bernadette" say "For those who believe in God, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe in God, no explanation is possible". As most people know, the appearance of Our Lady in 1858 to the peasant girl Bernadette signalled the start of one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in the world and today around eight million people a year enjoy something of the experience of Lourdes.

The HCPT (formerly known as the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust) has been taking children to Lourdes for 60 years. Our Parish has long supported this wonderful charity: Since establishing the Otley Group in 1994, our own Sandie and Andrew Guzdek have tirelessly raised money, organised and accompanied groups every year for the annual Easter pilgrimage. And every year the week is blessed by the coming together of HCPT groups from all over the UK, and by smiles that bridge every divide you could possibly imagine!

“ When asked for her favourite place, Rebecca didn't hesitate for a second to say “The Grotto” ”

This year, our young Parishioner Rebecca was one of those who travelled with the group flying from Manchester on her 18th birthday – yes including a birthday cake - just to add to the excitement! And excitement is what you read in her eyes when she is talking about Lourdes. I met with Rebecca recently and watched as she re-lived her trip through photographs of all the popular sites.

When asked for her favourite place, she didn't hesitate for a second to say “The Grotto”. And we both agreed there is something very special there.



“ Rebecca shivered and laughed at remembering her visit to the Baths in Lourdes where the water was ice cold! ”

I hesitate to use the word “magical” but Rebecca's expression was certainly that! Through the pages of a book on Lourdes, she took me through the early years of Saint Bernadette, pointing out pictures of the Soubirous family, and explained to me what happened at the Boly Mill, how Bernadette's father had to mill the corn for the local bakery. From there, as Rebecca reminded me, the family had to move to a disused prison called the Cachot.

Rebecca shivered and laughed at remembering her visit to the Baths in Lourdes where the water was ice cold! And she particularly enjoyed the special HCPT Mass held in the underground basilica where she was able to indulge one of her favourite pastimes – singing! And to prove it she gave me a beautiful rendition of “Sing it in the Valleys”.

Her Helper told me that in Lourdes Rebecca actually glows and never stops smiling. I can well imagine that. I believe her whole spirit probably comes alive with the special presence there of Our Blessed Lady. And like so many, Rebecca communicates simply with her smile.

Rebecca's Grandparents asked me to say a huge Thank you to Andrew and Sandie, to Danny Cooney for his fundraising efforts, and to the Helpers who make this all possible. I am more than happy to say “Thank you” to them and I feel just a little humbled at having witnessed first hand the difference their enormous effort can make to the life of one very grateful and very special young girl.

Joe McGuinness

Parish Archives: Going Back 900 Years

Work is underway to transfer onto the website as much as possible of the Parish historical information. It's a huge task but hopefully the end-result will provide great interest to both "new and old" parishioners.

Much of the material was collected by the Parish History Group over many, many years. The Group included Frank and Jean McManus, Patricia Johnson, Cherry Rawcliffe, Wynn Dawson, Andy McManus and our local historian Chris Power. Not forgetting our deceased members Eric Connolly, Elsie Barrett, Eileen Lane, Ruth Pickles and Ann Swale. The archives, consisting of literally thousands of pieces of parish history in the form of photographs, newspaper cuttings, outline plans, interviews and recollections have been carefully preserved and catalogued to provide a resource that would surely be the envy of any Parish in the country. Frank and Jean have been of immense help in introducing the Communications Group to what is a remarkable collection.

The website will eventually contain information and pictures grouped as follows:

The Early History: how many of us were aware that the Church and the School stand on the site once occupied by the Archbishop of York's palace? That was around nine hundred years ago which indicates that Christianity was well established here in the 13th Century.

The Tudor and Stuart Years: two of the Yorkshire martyrs - Blessed Francis Dickinson and Blessed Mathew Flathers - have connections with Otley. Francis Dickinson was christened here in 1564,

Mathew Flathers was born in Weston in 1560. Both were martyred and one can only assume they received the Faith in their formative years in Otley.

The Constable Family: the principal benefactors responsible for the building of our present church around 1850. We are fortunate to have a wealth of information on the Constable family with references in Diocesan records to their owning land in Otley as far back as 1671. Thomas Constable bought the Manor House in 1836. He then added Clitherow House as his office. Thomas married Elizabeth Ducarel, the daughter of a French Count, the Marquis de la Pasture, who lived in Pool for a while. The Count's parents had fled from France at the time of the French Revolution!

This family history becomes even more interesting when we look at their only child, Lady Mowbray, who in 1893 married the premier baron of England, Charles Botolph Joseph Stourton. Photographs show that it could easily be said "she was every inch a Lady".



1845 onwards: prior to there being a church in Otley, Thomas Constable along with other Catholics had to ride or walk to Myddleton Lodge near Ilkley to hear Sunday Mass. Thomas and his sister Mary provided a combined sum equivalent in today's money of £610,000 to build what was to become the Chapel of Our Ladye and All Saints which opened on 24th June 1851.

It was around that time that potato blight brought hunger and poverty to many communities in Ireland and thousands travelled to England to seek a better life. The 1851 Census shows that over 500 residents were Irish born - which was 1 in 8 of the Town's population. A fitting tribute to those in the Parish who died at that time was the erection in 2002 of a memorial stone on the South wall of the church and a second memorial stone in the Parish churchyard. The Parish lost too many of its young men in the Great War of 1914-1918, and in the Second World War 1939-1945, The War Memorial can be found on the East Wall of the church and the website carries a short biography of all those who gave their lives.

On a happier note, the archive material contains wonderful photographs from the Parish and St Joseph's School of parties, processions, retirements, plays, assemblies, trips to Lourdes, Walsingham and much, much more. Meanwhile, our special thanks to Frank and Jean, Mary and Tim Morgan, all members of the History Group, and all those who have contributed to the compilation of this Treasury of the Past!



Baptisms

Poppy Louise Costello
Fionn Padraic Stringwell
Walter Peter Price
Harry Patrick Fleming
Jack William Lee
Evelyn Grace Lee
Ryan James Branford-White

Marriage

Leah Walsh & James Mallachy

Visit the Parish Website

for Mass Times, News, Parish History
& Events



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