

THIS SUNDAYS REFLECTION

The International Space Station is the largest artificial object in space. Its first module was launched in 1998 and since then both American and Russian spacecraft have been used to carry further modules, supplies and personnel. It stands as testimony to what can be achieved when we act with a common purpose. It has always struck me as anomalous that the two superpowers can work in such close union when set against the backdrop of space – but put them together on planet Earth and they bicker and argue and are filled with mutual mistrust. Since its birth, the station has hosted scientists – and some tourists – from fifteen different nations. As of March this year, 216 individuals have made 367 spaceflights to the space station, including the six people who currently live there and who look down on our planet fifteen times every day, orbiting the earth every 92 minutes. Their co-operation and ability to live in close proximity remind us that some things are more important than nationality or cultural background. The one thing we all share is our common humanity. The politicians will argue as to who should offer sanctuary to the boatloads of refugees stranded in the Mediterranean Sea or the Indian Ocean but our first response is one of compassion. Our hearts ache when we see them. We want to end their plight, to bring relief to their anguish and pain – and I thank God for that!

Today we celebrate the birthday of the Church. Jerusalem is teeming with thousands of pilgrims. There are traders galore, offering all manner of animals for sacrifice, moneychangers ready to “help” with competitive exchange rates and inn-keepers offering food and refreshment to weary travellers. The apostles are gathered in a room, hidden away from this teeming mass of humanity. Earlier their world had been turned upside down with the execution of their leader. Their faith and belief in the resurrection is still in its infancy. Logically the resurrection makes no sense, but they had seen with their own eyes: Jesus was, indeed, raised from the dead. They had seen his wounds, he had shared food with them, some of them had walked with him on the road to Emmaus - but still there were doubts. As they sat together in that room, afraid to go out, conscious that there would still be residual animosity to Jesus and everything he stood for, they have a collective religious experience. There is a wind, there are tongues of fire and suddenly the apostles find themselves emboldened to such a degree that they can no longer sit still doing nothing. They go out full of courage and preach with conviction and without fear. They are no longer imprisoned by timidity; their doubts and fragile faith are strengthened to such a degree that they become like granite; the word “fear” is no longer part of their vocabulary. Their lack of education is no barrier and where, a short while ago they expected to return to their humdrum lives as fishermen, labourers and tax collectors, now they have a direction and purpose. There is so much to be done and so little time. Full of zeal, they go into the crowds and start to preach. The crowd is huge, the crowd is diverse, there are people there from different countries and cultures and yet they can hear and they can understand. They hear the gospel story in its most basic form. It’s a universal story that speaks to everyone of every generation, every race and every culture for it’s a message of love and forgiveness.

Today we stand as a community of believers. We come from different backgrounds, we all have different stories to tell, we have different levels of conviction and certainty but despite these differences we remain as one because of our shared belief. More importantly, as the International Space Station testifies, we know that we can act as one when we put our minds to the task in hand. So we rejoice in the Gospel of love and forgiveness; we exult because once, a timid group of disparate men acted with conviction. As they preached, differences were forgotten, mistrust was extinguished and the Church was born. The story is ours to share. The story reminds us of what can be achieved when we act with a common purpose and a common mind. Above all, the story fills us with hope – and hope is the gift we bring. Happy Birthday!

SUNDAY 24.5.15 <i>+ Pentecost Sunday</i>	11am 5pm 6pm	Parishioners Hannah Scott - RIP Spanish Mass	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">PRAYER GROUPS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2">CENACOLO - The group prays for those who are most afflicted by addiction and seeks to bring them to the healing love of the Lord. All welcome. Every Monday in the church 7.00pm-8.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">LEGION OF MARY – every Wednesday 7pm-8.15pm</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">ADORATION</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday to Friday</td> <td>7am-8am and 1.30pm-6pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>7pm-9pm</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">DAILY PRAYER (Monday to Friday)</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Morning Prayer</td> <td>8am</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Evening Prayer</td> <td>5.45pm</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">CONFESSION</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday to Friday</td> <td>12.15 – 12.40pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>5.30-6pm</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">SOS PRAYER LINE</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">“Because nothing is impossible to God” Request for prayer answered personally by telephone, 02074349211, 7 days a week 7pm-11pm</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PRAYER GROUPS		CENACOLO - The group prays for those who are most afflicted by addiction and seeks to bring them to the healing love of the Lord. All welcome. Every Monday in the church 7.00pm-8.30pm		LEGION OF MARY – every Wednesday 7pm-8.15pm		ADORATION		Monday to Friday	7am-8am and 1.30pm-6pm	Saturday	7pm-9pm	DAILY PRAYER (Monday to Friday)		Morning Prayer	8am	Evening Prayer	5.45pm	CONFESSION		Monday to Friday	12.15 – 12.40pm	Saturday	5.30-6pm	SOS PRAYER LINE		“Because nothing is impossible to God” Request for prayer answered personally by telephone, 02074349211, 7 days a week 7pm-11pm	
PRAYER GROUPS																															
CENACOLO - The group prays for those who are most afflicted by addiction and seeks to bring them to the healing love of the Lord. All welcome. Every Monday in the church 7.00pm-8.30pm																															
LEGION OF MARY – every Wednesday 7pm-8.15pm																															
ADORATION																															
Monday to Friday	7am-8am and 1.30pm-6pm																														
Saturday	7pm-9pm																														
DAILY PRAYER (Monday to Friday)																															
Morning Prayer	8am																														
Evening Prayer	5.45pm																														
CONFESSION																															
Monday to Friday	12.15 – 12.40pm																														
Saturday	5.30-6pm																														
SOS PRAYER LINE																															
“Because nothing is impossible to God” Request for prayer answered personally by telephone, 02074349211, 7 days a week 7pm-11pm																															
MONDAY 25.5.15 <i>St Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor</i>	12.45	Holy Souls																													
TUESDAY 26.5.15 <i>St Philip Neri, Priest</i>	12.45	Friends and Benefactors																													
WEDNESDAY 27.5.15 <i>St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop</i>	12.45	Hipola & Bertha Pires - RIP																													
THURSDAY 28.5.15 <i>feria</i>	12.45	Melchiori Giovanni – RIP																													
FRIDAY 29.5.15 <i>feria</i>	12.45	Eleanora Malurgio & Mauricio Porcelli – 25 th Wedding Anniversary																													
SATURDAY 30.5.15 <i>Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday</i>	4pm 6pm	Portuguese Chrissie Murray – Sp. Int.																													

St Patrick's

MUSIC AT THE 11AM MASS

Pentecost Sunday (B)

Entrance Hymn: **Come down O Love Divine (88)**

Kyrie & Gloria: Missa Brevis in D Minor KV 65 (W. A. Mozart 1756-1791)

Psalm Response: *Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.*

Offertory Hymn: Love divine, all Loves Excelling (257 vs 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Offertory Motet: Loquebantur variis linguis (G. P. da Palestrina 1525-1594)

Trans: The Apostles spoke in many languages of the great works of God, as the Holy Spirit gave them the gift of speech, alleluia. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.

Sanctus, Benedictus & Agnus Dei: Missa Brevis in D Minor KV 65 (W. A. Mozart 1756-1791)

Communion Motet: Hodie completi sunt (A. Gabrieli 1532-1585)

Trans: Today the days of Pentecost are fulfilled, alleluia: today the Holy Spirit appeared in fire to the disciples, and gave unto them the gift of grace: He hath sent them into all the world to foretell and bear witness: that whosoever believeth and is baptized shall be saved, alleluia.

Recessional Hymn: Come Holy Ghost Creator Come (90 vs 1, 2, 3, 6 & 7)

OPEN HOUSE NEWS

Open House continues this week on Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th May

If you are interested in volunteering please contact the parish office, details below.

ST PATRICK'S - HOPE IN THE HEART OF SOHO

This week we have had another wonderful group here training for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. It is really amazing to watch the presentations that we would be giving to the children, even for those of us who attend Mass on a regular basis there are little things which we have not truly thought about before. Let's pray that opportunities to use this training arise in the near future. It seems to be a great way to catechise young children and to help them to develop a loving relationship with Jesus. Over the last year I have used some of the concepts of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd with the First Holy Communion group and it has been unbelievable to see the reactions of the children and the enjoyment they have had from their experience. It is only a few weeks now until the children celebrate their First Holy Communion and we are now beginning to put together the plans for the Mass itself. Please pray for the children as they enter into their final preparations for their First Holy Communion.

This coming week some of our cell group members are heading over to Milan for the International Cell Group Conference. We are very much looking forward to finding out more about Cells in other countries and hopefully forming some friendships with others and learning from their experience. We have only had Cell Groups here in the Parish for almost a year and there will be people in Milan who have had Cell Groups for almost 20 years, we can pick up some tips from those experienced Cell Groups. Please pray for us while we are in Milan and for the continued success of our Cell Groups here in the Parish.

ST PATRICKS NOTICES & OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

DAY FOR THE LORD – In March 2014, Pope Francis asked that each diocese have one church open for twenty four hours for Eucharistic Adoration and Confession. Inspired by the Holy Father's invitation, we will continue this initiative with a series of 24 hour Vigils of Eucharistic Adoration, with priests available to hear confessions through the night. Each Vigil will run from 12noon Friday to 12noon Saturday. The next one will be Friday 19th and Saturday the 20th June.

PRAYER AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION – in thanksgiving for the gift of human life and intercession that we will join in God's plan for Creation. Every first Monday of the month (if Bank Holiday second Monday) from 6pm – 7pm in Our Lady of Guadeloupe Chapel.

SAVE THE DATE – ST PATRICK'S OPEN HOUSE BAZAAR (raising money for Open House, our outreach programme for the poor and homeless of Soho) will be held on **SUNDAY 21ST JUNE - 12-5pm in Soho Square**. Only nearly new items (clothes, books, shoes, accessories, etc) can be dropped off at St Patricks from Wednesday 17th to Friday the 19th June between 2-8pm. If you would like to bake for our cake stall email della.chivers@imagination.com.

CHURCH CLEANING – Please note the next Church Cleaning will be held on Monday 8th June 2015 – 6pm to 7pm.

CORPUS CHRISTI – Sunday 7th June. There will be no 5pm mass as there is the International Mass at 6pm followed by a procession with the Blessed Sacrament to St Giles with Benediction.

SPIRIT IN THE CITY FESTIVAL - (10th to 13th June 2015) gathers people of all cultures for a joyful and dynamic Catholic celebration of faith in the West End of London. The events include prayer, talks, celebrations and a Eucharistic street procession in the West End Churches, and the final day of the festival in Leicester Square gardens on Saturday. For details visit: www.spiritinthecity.org or T: 020 7440 2663.

THREE WITNESSES - a remarkable theatre play based on the Gospel of St Luke. London premiere at Notre Dame de France church on Wednesday 10th June 2015 at 7.30 pm. An evening not to be missed! Tickets: £7 book online: www.bit.ly/3wtickets or T: 020 7440 2663, E: info@spiritinthecity.org