



NEWSFORUM

PARISH OF THE BLESSED TRINITY

May 2018

THE DIFFICULTIES OF PARTING THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE HOLY TRINITY

Because of Easter falling in late March or April the month of May can be a very rich one with the climax of the Paschal season leading on to Pentecost and Trinity. Accepting that most often Easter falls in April, this means that May usually includes all this richness for us, though it is possible in some years for there to be an overlap into June.

But it is not only that main richness. Traditionally the first day of May has always been some kind of a celebration until it has turned in more recent times to a kind of Labour Day. And in addition, the Church have given a special place of devotion to the Virgin Mary during the whole month of May.

While taking note of these more devotional aspects which can be said to draw attention to the service of mankind for the Gospel and the world, the main emphasis should be on the intensely spiritual message of the sending of the Holy Spirit.

This begins with the sad-gladness of Jesus going back to his Father in Heaven at the Ascension. The pain of parting cuts deeply, even when we know in our hearts that the one we love is going to peace and joy. A sense of loneliness as well as joy perhaps held the apostles as they waited in prayer with the Virgin Mary as Jesus had told them to do.

So we have a good opportunity for opening ourselves before and during the Pentecostal period to the inpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Lord wants us to be full of faith and hope in the Spirit's presence and power. Those who have already been awakened by the reality of the Spirit and felt his gift will be full of praise and thanksgiving and renewed expectation. For others who are still less touched by the Spirit of Jesus this period can be one of calm, open and deeply hopeful waiting to be taken by the power of God into a new richness of spiritual expectation. Here it is important that we should all realize the work of the Spirit as being by far the larger part. Our part is to come, to be ready, to expect his presence, and to praise and glorify God. The actual inpouring is God's work on the receptive heart.

With the coming of the Spirit, the disciples knew Jesus in a different way, and were given strength, power and courage to go out and preach the Gospel. This they were able to do with wonderful results. If we are generous in the gift of ourselves in prayer and living, we too are promised power beyond anything we can imagine or personally achieve. The source of this power is the Holy Trinity – God revealed and yet still too vast and deep a simplicity for us to grasp with the mind. This great season should take us tranquilly and contemplatively into prayer of the heart, from which will emerge in our lives the Word our lives should speak.

 **Fr. Thomas Murray**

*“To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God
in everything He has given us - and
He has given us everything.*

*Every breath we draw is a gift of His love,
every moment of existence is a grace,
for it brings with it
immense graces from Him.*

*Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted,
is never unresponsive,*

*is constantly awakening to new wonder and
to praise of the goodness of God.*

For the grateful person knows that

*God is good, not by hearsay
but by experience.*

And that is what makes all the difference.”

Thomas Merton

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish of the Blessed Trinity
Zaaiersweg 180, 1097 ST Amsterdam.
Tel (020) 465-2711
email: info@blessedtrinity.nl
www.blessedtrinity.nl

Masses In English

Sunday at 10:30am & 12.00 noon;
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at
12:30 pm

Both Sunday masses offer a special liturgy
for children 4-8 years.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at
11.30 am & Saturday at 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday from 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm or
call to make an appointment.

Religious Ed. Classes for children 8-15 years
are held on Sunday from 11:30 am -12:30 pm

Sacramental Ed. Classes for

† 1st Holy Communion (8 years +)

Classes are held on Saturdays
11.15 am - 12.30 pm.

† Confirmation Classes are held on
Sundays 11.30 am - 1.00 pm..

Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Murray
Emergency 06-54320840

*The Parish of the Blessed Trinity is
primarily funded through Contributions
and Donations. Please give generously.*

*Direct contributions can be made to
Rabobank*

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*Unless the eye catches fire, God will not be seen.
Unless the ear catches fire, God will not be heard.
Unless the tongue catches fire, God will not be named.
Unless the heart catches fire, God will not be loved.
Unless the mind catches fire, God will not be known.
(William Blake)*

MONTH OF MAY – MONTH OF MARY



Last year, 2017, we celebrated the centenary anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima. In Fatima Mary made her big promise: “In the end My Immaculate Heart will triumph and the world will be given an era of peace.”

When Mary speaks about a triumph, it means that there is a battle. A battle in which some will triumph and some will be defeated. It is about the apocalyptic battle between “The Woman and her offspring” and “The great dragon and his minions” (Apoc. 12). In the end ‘the Woman’ will crush the head of ‘the serpent’ and mankind will be given an era of peace.

This apocalyptic battle wages in the heavenly domains, but also on earth. We are all engaged in this battle. Every human being is invited to choose for the good, to choose for God and to love God and his neighbor. If we do that and overcome our self-centeredness than we belong to the offspring of “the Woman” and we will share in her Triumph.

Since 1981 until today Mary appears in a little village in Bosnia and Herzegovina, called Medjugorje. She appears in Medjugorje under the title of “Queen of Peace”. Mary said that Medjugorje is the continuation and the fulfillment of Fatima. That is also what Saint Pope John Paul II believed about Medjugorje. The title “Queen of Peace” is very appropriate since the great promise of Fatima is about Peace. Many pilgrims (I have been there more than 50 times) experience in Medjugorje a heavenly peace. Mary has given many signs of her presence in Medjugorje (healings, miraculous signs in the sky, many conversions, etc.) and many signs will follow. She has promised that in Medjugorje, when the apparitions will be ended, a sign will be given, visible for everyone and inexplicable for science, that will be a permanent sign in Medjugorje.

In Fatima the sign of the miracle of the sun was given in October 1917, when 70.000 pilgrims witnessed the sun spinning in the zenith and falling down to earth. Just before the sun would fall on the earth, it stopped and returned into the zenith. In Medjugorje also a sign will be given to confirm that it is really Mary who has appeared there.

But most important is her continuous assurance of her motherly love for each one of us and her words to guide us to Jesus and His coming Kingdom of Peace. She gives us the arms to fight the battle which is coming to its climax. We need the protection of Mary and we must use the arms she offers us: daily prayer with the heart, especially the Rosary, the Holy Mass as the most important moment of our day, regularly confession, reading and living the Word of God, fasting (she recommends Wednesday and Friday on water and bread).

May is the month of Mary. Let us give our heavenly Mother a generous response to her calling in Medjugorje. We can all contribute to the gift of peace to mankind if we entrust our lives to her Immaculate Heart and heed her words.

Fr. Peter

*Peace is not primarily about doing.
It is first of all the art of being.*

DEAR GOD,
IF TODAY I LOSE HOPE,
PLEASE REMIND ME
THAT YOUR PLANS
FOR ME
ARE BETTER THAN
MY DREAMS.

Spiritual Benefits of Volunteering

At the end of the Easter Sunday mass Fr. Murray asked us to show our appreciation to all those who prepared the church for Easter. We applauded to show our appreciation for the choir, Marten the organist, and all those who contributed their time behind the scene – volunteers. We have volunteers working visibly (Tony created the cave and tomb) and others working invisibly (cleaning, washing etc.). God sees their services. Many who volunteer, may have heard Pearl say, “You know where your reward is, it’s in heaven”. It’s like having credits in heaven – accumulating before you reach there. A nice thought. It beats accumulating credits here on earth as we can’t use them later.

Volunteering provides a sense of purpose and responsibility. It can help you feel part of something outside your friends and family. It is usually done out of a need you feel to help others and it brings you spiritual satisfaction. Knowing that your act of service has a positive impact on those around you is a shot in the arm. Those who give their time, energy and money without apparently receiving anything in exchange are in fact reaping spiritual benefits. God gives us special abilities to accomplish His purposes on earth and He does that through people. A church that works together, serves together, and builds together, is often a church that is healthy and vibrant. Our church always needs volunteers. Let’s volunteer some of our time as and when we can and maybe in the bargain accumulate some credits in heaven.

“The way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others” ~ Gandhi

Gerard Lobo



What's happening ...



During the month of May, the Rosary will be prayed in between the two masses. All are invited to participate in praying the rosary. If you are unable to join in please leave the church quickly and quietly so that the prayer can begin promptly. Thank you!

Celebration of the Sacraments of First Reconciliation

on Saturday, 26th May at 11.30 am

& First Holy Eucharist

on Saturday, 9th June at 12 noon

The children receiving these Sacraments are:

Caitlin Eve van Waaijen, Daisy Efua Woode

Yawson, Emake Ikhimokpa, Geniva Asong

*Amin, Kinsey Macauley-Igho; Ciara Ann Kelly
(Ireland); Giselle Gadet (Russia).*

*Please keep these children and their families in
your prayers. You are all welcome to come and
support these children on the two special days.*

Friday 1st June, 6.00 p.m. Celebration Mass for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Auxiliary Bishop Mgr. dr. JWM Hendriks
will preside at the Mass.

The candidates are:

Catherine Filson,
Ken J. Alapatt,
Kevin George Kuriappan,
Makda Ghebrecristos,
Manuel George
Kuriappan, and Mary
Asamoah Dufie Akua.

*Please remember our young
people and their families in your prayers. Come
and share with them in these very special
celebration.*



2018



Weekly Collection € 6.210,11

Charity

Zambia (Vastenactie) € 507,74

April 2018

Weekly Collection € 8.605,26

Charity

*Giving is an act of the heart.
You may give without loving, but
you cannot love without giving.
Thank you for your generosity.*

March



"Create
in me a
clean heart,
O God,
and put a
new and right
spirit
within me."
Psalm 51:10

PILGRIMAGE TO HEILOO **Ascension Thursday,** **10th May, 2018**

**Holy Mass will be celebrated at
12.00 noon (in the small chapel)**

A short history of this place of pilgrimage of Our Lady of Need in Heiloo

The Legend:

A man named Nelis, who went looking for lapwing's eggs on the land of the Runxputten farm of Farmer Siemen, stepped with his wooden shoes on a piece of wood. Bending down, he noticed a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary with the child Jesus Christ. He took it to his mother who cleaned it and put it away in a suitcase. The next morning, however, he again found the wooden statue in a little hole with three lapwing's eggs.

At the same time a ship loaded with iron lay floating at sea. The ship belonged to the merchant named Mors from Alkmaar. He had a dream about the Runxputten statue, without ever having heard of it. A woman's voice whispered: "The wind will start blowing again and the ship continued its course. When the merchant had finally found the hamlet of Runxputten, after a long search, he brought along lots of golden ducats - for the purpose of building a stone chapel. This is said to have taken place in the fourteenth century.

From then on, many people visited the chapel in search of comfort. During the siege of Alkmaar in the year 1573, the chapel was destroyed and became a ruin. However, pilgrims continued to come flocking in.

About 1930, a new chapel was built. Whoever comes here in silence still experiences the mercy and blessing of the Virgin Mary and still hears her voice saying: "The wind - the blessing of my sweet Son - will start blowing the moment you honour me".

The forecourt of the chapel, designed by the architect Jan Stuyt, is surrounded by a simple colonnade with a wooden covering. With the destruction of the sanctuary, the original statue of Our Lady of Need was also destroyed. The present statue was cut by Mengelberg who used an old commemorative medal, found in the Episcopal museum in Haarlem, as a model. A little piece of the rock of Lourdes was built into the base of the statue. The chapel has been richly painted by Hans Bijvoet with frescoes which portray the role of the Virgin Mary in the messianic history of our redemption. The complete chapel was renovated in the year 1985.

The well (put):

In the middle of the forecourt one can find the old Runzput which became the Lady well in the night of 8 to 9th December 1713. The water of this well is said to have healing power.

A little further on, on the Willibrord lane, one can find the rocky fountain, which has been recently built, meant as a spot to meditate on the Living Water which is indicated by the well and the Chapel of Mercy. The Willibrord lane ends at the statue of St. Willibrord, who guards the sanctuary of the Virgin Mary. The relation between Our Lady of Need and St. Willibrord already existed in olden days. Contact Ricky Opoku for more information.

Tickets for the bus Adults: € 13.00 Children: € 6.00

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL?
DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO
IS SERIOUSLY ILL?
PLEASE LET US KNOW.
THE ONLY WAY WE CAN FIND YOU
IS IF YOU TELL US. LET US KNOW
IF YOU WOULD LIKE A VISIT.
Tel: 020-465 2711 or
email info@blessedtrinity.nl**

**Congratulations and welcome to Robert Duisdeiker who was
Received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church recently.**

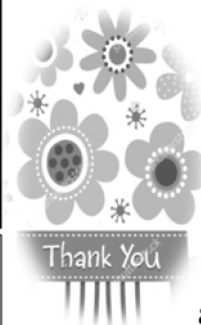
For those whose mothers and grandmothers are still alive - cherish them today. Hug and kiss them. Honour them. Thank them. For those whose mothers have gone home to the Lord, remember them. For all who bear the name Christian, the name of our eternal family, let us also honour the Mother of the Lord today. Mary's maternal care for Jesus still embraces all those who are joined to Him, as members of His Body, by that great new birth of Baptism. Finally, let us ask the Lord to open our eyes, and our hearts, to come to understand more fully the great mystery and gift of the Church as our Mother. Let us live our lives as Christians, by living in the heart of Mother Church, for the sake of the world into which we are sent to bear the Good News.



Our Lady Health of the Sick, we trust to your gentle care and intercessions those who are sick, the elderly, their caregivers, the lonely and those who are hurting. Help all of us Holy Mother to bear our burdens in this life until we share eternal life with God. We lift up Toos Welling, Baris & Jennifer Klop, Kazuo Fudeuchi, Thomas Gerard, C. Pinto, Cecile Gozo, Edith Bajnath, Toni Nierop, Begum Baker, Nathalie Trindade, Victor Nalpon, Alice Enriquez, Abigail Sharpe, and all who are sick and need prayers of healing in body, mind and spirit. Our Lady, Health of the sick; Pray for them.

Christian Aid

For advice on social matters, please contact one of the Christian Aid members directly; Doreen King, Marilyn Blancaflor, Natie Otico, Dominic Okyere.



Heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked so hard to prepare for our Holy Week and Easter celebrations. We really do appreciate all that you do. Your kindness, generosity and hard work throughout the whole year are invaluable to the life of our parish. May the risen Christ continue to live in your hearts and bless you and your loved ones.

Fr. Thomas Murray

Francis of Assisi 1181-1226

Francis continued to draw large crowds with his preaching. He already had a band of Brothers that had accepted the Rule. Married couples saw the value in his example and words and pressured him to join. Here are the initial tenants (1221) from Francis's first rule for members of the Order of Secular Franciscans.

1. Members were not allowed to attend banquets, dances, or other outlandish shows.
2. Members were not fast every Friday. Fasting was also required on Wednesdays from All Saints Day to Easter.
3. Members were allowed to eat meat three days a week, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.
4. Members were to tithe to the Church.
5. All members were to receive Eucharist three times a year: Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
6. Daily prayers were required along with during Lent all members were required to attend Morning Prayer in the Church.
7. Members were not to take solemn oaths with these exceptions: if it would keep the peace, uphold the faith, refute slander, or support evidence in court. No private oaths were to be taken to a king or lord.
8. Members were forbidden to bear arms.
9. Once a month, all members living within the same town were to attend liturgy together and have a religious preach a homily to them.
10. At the monthly meeting, all were to make a contribution to the common fund.
11. The minister was to see that the sick were visited once a month.
12. All members were obliged to attend the funerals of the deceased members, and to pray intercessory prayers for them.
13. All members were to make out their wills shortly after profession.
14. All legal disputes were to be settled in the fraternity.
15. The Sacrament of Penance was to be received once a month.

The first Rule also had prerequisites for admission to the Order

1. Candidates had to pay all debts and tithes that were due.
2. Candidates were to mend all quarrels with neighbors
3. Candidates had to be free of suspicion of heresy.
4. A married woman needed her husband's consent to enter the Order.
5. After a year of trial, if the candidate was thought suitable, profession took place.

This historical list provides insight to life during the time of Francis. Do you want to learn more about Franciscans? Contact johnk687@yahoo.com

*The NewsForum is a publication of the Parish of the Blessed Trinity. All contributions are welcome. Submissions will be edited for brevity and clarity, punctuation and spelling. The deadline for submitting items for the June 2018 issue is **18th May**. Please send your articles to info@blessedtrinity.nl.*