



# Stepping out in faith

**T**his year, 1 May falls just beyond the midpoint of the 50-day period between Easter and Pentecost. During that time in our liturgical services we are focusing on the beginnings of the Church – from the time when Jesus’s apostles, his mother Mary and other disciples gathered in the upper room, in hiding for fear of the Jews, through to the coming of God’s Holy Spirit empowering them to go out and proclaim to all the good news of Jesus’ resurrection and his defeat of sin and death.

It must have been a roller-coaster time for them. They had seen their leader executed as a disgraced criminal and feared for their own lives and future. They had experienced the joy of being reunited with him after his resurrection and then they had lost sight of him as he ascended into Heaven.

Before his ascension, as described in the gospel of Mark, Jesus had charged his followers: ‘Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation.’ He had also told them on the night before he died that when he was gone he would send his Holy Spirit to teach and support them. And so at Pentecost, still fearfully gathered in the upper room, they experienced the coming of God’s Spirit, described in the scriptures as coming like a wind and in tongues of fire.

The Spirit empowered them to go out into the streets and public places and to make the proclamation Jesus had entrusted to them. The book of the Acts of the Apostles describes in very vivid terms the results of their efforts, the number of people who came to believe in Jesus, but also the resistance and condemnation they met from others.

At Christ the King and our partner churches of St Brigid’s and St Paul’s, this time after Easter brings reminders that

we and all our fellow Christians are the inheritors of the instruction Jesus gave his disciples – to go out and proclaim the good news – and of his promise that His Spirit would be with us always.

The instruction to proclaim the good news is very challenging, but one of the ways we do this is by supporting our children and young people and their parents as they journey in faith.

At present we have 45 children aged seven and upwards preparing to receive the Eucharist at two celebrations of First Communion later in May. The children started their preparation back in January, working with their catechists (adult members of the church who lead the programme) and their parents. Half will receive the sacrament at St Brigid’s on 11 May and half at Christ the King on 18 May.

First Communion Masses are always joyful occasions for the children, their families and the whole church community. The photograph above is of the colourful poster put together by the children who will celebrate on 18 May, telling us their names and asking for our prayers as they take this important step.

We also have a group of around 20 teenagers who are preparing to receive the sacrament of confirmation in July. This marks the start of their transition to becoming adult followers of Jesus. Archbishop Mark O’Toole will celebrate the sacrament by laying hands on them and asking God’s Holy Spirit to come down on them and strengthen them for what lies ahead in their lives.

So we have another busy period ahead in the life of our community – reflecting on Jesus’ instruction to spread the good news and making our response both through our sacramental celebrations and through our daily lives.

**Elizabeth Taylor,**  
chair of Christ the King  
Parish Advisory Council



## Church services

6pm: Vigil Mass of Sunday

9.30am: Sunday Mass – with children’s liturgy in term time

9.30am: Tuesday Mass

9.30am: Thursday Mass

### Activities (in the parish centre)

- Monday, 9.30 – 11am: Baby and Toddler Group
- Wednesday, 11am – 1.30pm: Welcome Space
- Friday, 6.30pm: Junior Club in term time (School Years 3–6)
- Thursday 9 May, 7pm for 7.30pm start: Quiz Night
- Saturday 18 May, 2 – 5pm: Free Sustainable Clothes and Books Market

For further information, contact Christ the King’s parish office (phone 2075 3945, email [llanishen@rcadc.org](mailto:llanishen@rcadc.org)) or Canon Matthew Jones (phone 2075 2389, email [matthew.jones@rcadc.org](mailto:matthew.jones@rcadc.org)) or visit the website at [www.3churches.org](http://www.3churches.org)

The church and parish centre are located at Newborough Avenue, Llanishen, CF14 5DB.