

AMPLEFORTH ABBEY

PENTECOST SUNDAY 23 MAY 2010

Jesus said to his disciples: If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it. If you love me you will keep my commandments. Anyone who loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make a home in him. Anyone who does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not my own: it is the word of the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Paraclete, the holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

(John 14: 14-15: 23-26)

SETTING FIRE TO THE EARTH

Pentecost has an obvious hold on the imagination. The image of a small, beleaguered group of believers, apprehensively expecting the worst, but suddenly finding themselves the focus



of a mighty outpouring of divine power and wisdom, can still inspire and delight.

However, if Pentecost remains a devoutly-recalled historic event 'pickled in aspic', we clearly miss the point. The situation of the Apostles and 21st Century Christians has more parallels than might initially appear. For many believers in the Middle East and elsewhere who face active persecution, the connections are immediately apparent.

The question remains: whether we still believe and hope for the gifts the Holy Spirit can and will shower upon those who call upon him in faith and love. If so, let us pray fervently this Pentecost for the gift to know what we most need and persistently ask the Spirit for a fresh outpouring of grace upon us and the world.

MASS TIMES IN THE ABBEY CHURCH

Sun.	23 May	PENTECOST SUNDAY	10.00
Mon.	24 May..	Feria 1	12:35
Tues.	25 May..	FEAST St. Bede the Venerable	12:35
Weds.	26 May	Feria	12:35.
Thurs.	27 May..	SOL. St. Augustine Canterbury	12:35.
Fri.	28 May	Feria	12:35
Sat	29 May	Feria	12:35

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HAVE WEBSITE – WILL TRAVEL



First-time visitors to Ampleforth may find they need a little time to find their way around. This is to be expected on a campus developed in stages over many years – rather than from an overall plan. Improved signage has helped. Also, however, a website specifically for newcomers has now been launched.

<http://visitors.ampleforth.org.uk>

offers directions, information on parking, the tearoom, the Abbey shop, our grounds and all facilities available to visitors. The website also provides a downloadable version of the Ampleforth Visitors' Leaflet and the Holiday Lettings brochure. This new access-point gives a concise and representative overview which hopefully will make a visit more enjoyable and straightforward. It is, after all, merely another way of carrying out St. Benedict's injunction that visitors are to be received *as Christ*.

'PRAYING TWICE'

The Abbey Church echoed one afternoon last week to the singing of pupils from a range of Yorkshire-based primary schools. This initiative - including children from our preparatory school – aims to encourage the development of latent musical talent and to form long-term links between participating schools.



Of course, there is also a deeper dimension. St. Augustine famously said that 'he who sings, prays twice.' Recognising and nurturing talents which can be developed further throughout an entire lifetime brings together God's work and human co-operation in a wonderfully creative way. When this takes place in the setting of the Abbey Church, we can more clearly see the force of St. Augustine's dictum.

BEDE - A PATRON OF LEARNING



Learning and deep faith are a powerful mix – but are now at a premium in Western society. St. Bede the Venerable (673-735): monk, Doctor of the Church, and Father of English History is an inspiring example of how fruitful this combination can be. A hopeful sign for the future is the Bede Chair of Catholic Studies – attached to the Durham Centre for Catholic Studies. This was launched in 2008 as an integral part of Durham University - with Ampleforth Abbey among the contributors to this venture. At a time when the search for a common language between the Church and wider society becomes increasingly urgent, the Bede Chair of Catholic Studies could hardly have a more appropriate patron and 'bridge' between the various partners in true scholarship.

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WEEKDAY MONASTIC OFFICE IN THE ABBEY CHURCH

6.00 a.m. Matins

7.30 a.m. Lauds

8.45 a.m. Little Hour

6.30 p.m. Vespers

9.00 p.m. Compline