

## GREETINGS AT PENTECOST

from All Saints, Rome to all the saints:



*Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the Gospel; Send us out in the power of the same Spirit to witness to your truth and to draw all to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (A collect for Pentecost)*



## 2011 - THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE

In the March issue, to celebrate **400 years of the AV version of the Bible**, you were invited to share with us your favourite **Bible story or verse or passage or Psalm**. This is an opportunity to

share what this wonderful book means to us personally. A **small prize** is still on offer for each contribution - and all of 2011 to get your entry in! **Fr. Jonathan** has nobly kicked off for us. His favourite verses are **Isaiah 41: 28-31**; He writes: 'Let's celebrate the King James' Bible in its 400th year by using it:

**28** *Hast thou not known, hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding.*

**29** *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.*

**30** *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:*

**31** *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not be faint.*

I love it mainly because of its optimism, a characteristic that I have naturally but which in the face of challenge can slip away. I love it because it talks about something very human, being tired, and gives an image which transcends the everyday in imagining..

## NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE PEWS

### Why Pentecost is so late this year:

We celebrate **Ascension Day** on **2nd June** this year and **Pentecost**, or Whit, Sunday on the **12th**. The **Feast of the Ascension** has been Celebrated since the earliest times. St Augustine (fourth century) said that it is of Apostolic origin.



Some representations in diptychs and freschi date back to the fifth century. On Ascension day the church celebrates the body of Christ raised up by His own powers, forty days after Easter day and it is a national holiday in Italy.

The important **Festival of Pentecost** is when we celebrate the gift descent of the **Holy Spirit** on the disciples, which descended as cloven tongues as of fire on each one of them, the gift of the Holy Spirit. The disciples '*were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.* (Acts 2)' It is often referred to as the 'Birth of the Church' because so many were baptized that day when they heard the disciples speak so powerfully in their own language.

It is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter because it was the Jewish harvest festival, Shavuot, celebrating God giving Moses the commandments. So the date of Easter fixes the date of both Ascension day and Pentecost Sunday. And we know how and why Easter was so late this year!

... that in God we will mount on eagles' wings. This also reminds me of one of my favourite works of fiction, Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*. Here the exhausted anti-heroes are plucked from destruction by massively strong but infinitely gentle eagles.

I grew to love these words of Isaiah when I was myself a youth and yet at a time I felt lonely and sad in spite of my vigour. Now that I am no longer young they pull me back to a sense of God's power shared with me to enable me to do His work despite my limitations.'



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The Venerable Jonathan Boardman

## WHEN THE SAINTS ... for your diary

Singers.

**Saturday 28th May; Ladybirds Charity Jumble Sale for Japan** at the Core International School near the Villa Ada.

**Sunday 29th May; 10.30, Africa Day**, Fr. Jonathan will be presiding at **St. Paul's within the Walls** so there will be no service at All Saints at 10.30. The **08.00 Said Eucharist** and **09.30 Bible Study** as usual.

**Wednesday 1st June; 12.45**, weekday Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Chamberlain from Nigeria, assisted by Fr. Augustine and Mary Styles.

**Thursday 2nd June; 7pm**, an Ecumenical service for **Ascension day** at the Lutheran church, Villa Sicilia 70. (NB Church Office closed today for the National Holiday.)

**Friday 3rd June; 8.30pm**, **Mozart Requiem** performed by All Saints', Northampton.

**Sunday 5th June; Parish Lunch** following the **10.30 Eucharist**, **5pm Evensong**; **6pm Organ Vespers**.

**Wednesday 8th June; 7.30 -9.00, EARLY SUMMER SUNSET APERITIFS**, a fundraising event by ticket only (Euro10) on a terrace overlooking the Foro Romano. Contact the church office for tickets.

**Sunday 12th June; EXTRAORDINARY AGM** following the **10.30 Eucharist**. **All are asked to attend.**

### PARISH LUNCHESES

The next **Parish Lunches** are on **Sunday 5th June, 3rd July and 7th August** following the 10.30 service. **All** are warmly invited to stay and join us for lunch. Suggestions, offers of help to Val Spicer on **06 9963336**

**Food, forgiveness, fun - a family**



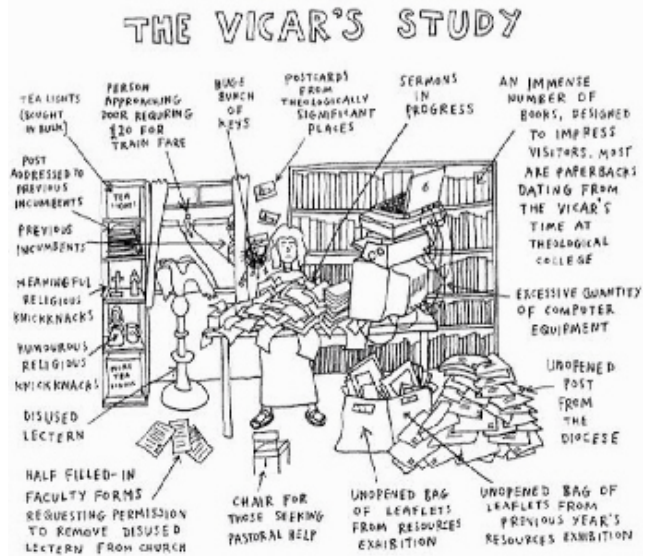
Events in **Rome** and beyond in June 2011:

**2 - 5 June:** Calling the fit and fit wannabees! The annual **FITNESS FESTIVAL** will be held at Nuova Fiera di Roma, focusing on the world of fitness, sport and exercise with a varied programme covering all sorts of sporting disciplines and a range of activities, competitions, lectures and seminars to join in. There's a 1km Fitness Challenge on treadmills and a 5km Mega Pixel Run (ed; Do pixels run?!). Definitely one not to miss! ([www.fitfestival.com](http://www.fitfestival.com))

**Elsewhere in Italy, 2-5 June**, time to **Tango** in Apulia! Bari hosts a lively **Tango Festival** with music, performances, lessons and workshops at all levels. ([www.apuliatangofestival.com](http://www.apuliatangofestival.com)). Time to dust off those dancing shoes again! Or perhaps a tuna festival is more your thing. This involves a trip to Sardinia where the fish is celebrated

Others not to be missed this month- the **Cricket** (that's the insect, not the game) **Festival** in Florence;

## SAINTS ALIVE!



(Not our vicar, obviously!)

**Cont./ the Girotonno**, celebrating the flavoursome fish on San Pietro Island, Sardinia; the **Heineken Jammin' Festival** in Venice ([www.heineken.it](http://www.heineken.it)); the **BMW Italian Men's Open Golf** in Turin ([www.bmwitalianopen.com](http://www.bmwitalianopen.com)); The annual **Taormina Film Festival** ([www.taorminafilmfest.it](http://www.taorminafilmfest.it)); **L'Ombra del Vivere** theatre festival in Poggibonsi, Tuscany ([www.festivalalombre.it](http://www.festivalalombre.it)); the **Vogalonga boat race** in St. Mark's basin, Venice when a 1000 or more rowing craft race across the lagoon to Burano and back ([www.vogalonga.it](http://www.vogalonga.it)) and, last and surely not least, Pisa celebrates its patron saint with the **San Ranieri Regatta** race on the river. Truly something for everyone across Italy this June!

### MORE NEWS AND VIEWS

We've enjoyed the witness of the talented and truly inspirational **New English Orchestra** in Rome for the last few summers. David Ash, one of the tenors, says that their founder, leader and conductor is currently not well. The **NEO** is taking a sabbatical year consequently so are not planning to tour this year.

### **Pentecost Praise**

#### COME HOLY GHOST

*Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,  
and lighten with celestial fire;  
Thou the anointing Spirit art,  
Who dost thy sev'nfold gifts impart.*

*Show us the Father and the Son,  
in thee, and with thee, ever one.  
Then through the ages all along,  
This shall be our unending song.*

*Praise to thy eternal merit,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

(John Cosin (c.1620) after Rabanus Maurus c.800)