

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN EAST ANGLIA SPRING 2021

**Catholic Charismatic Renewal Newsletter
For the Diocese of East Anglia**

Onwards and Upwards

It is now a full year since we published our last newsletter and what a year it has been!

Amidst all the closures our Celebrate weekend could not happen and after our Cambridge Day of Renewal on 29th February we have not been able to organise a day when we all come together. Even our prayer groups had to stop in the form that they existed, though some have found a way of operating through Zoom, for those who have computers.

And it is only online that our DST team has been able to run events that people could “attend”. In the autumn we teamed up with the core team of Celebrate to offer 5 virtual evenings of renewal, under the title of Back to Basics, which finished with an evening about growth as a disciple of Jesus.

This Lent we are organising two virtual evenings ourselves, under the title of “Come and See: finding God in stillness, worship and his Word”. The talks for these evenings will be given by Fr Luke Goymour and Fr Stefan Park and Praise and Worship will be provided by Hamish MacQueen and another worship leader. The evening will finish with an opportunity to receive Prayer Ministry, in the privacy of an online room. You will find the dates of these inside.

If you are reading this and do not have a computer, mobile phone or any other means of accessing online signals, I can only say that we are praying for everyone and are hoping that later this year it will be safe to organise

actual gatherings. But if you know someone who has access to Zoom through their computer or mobile phone, and you would like to join us for the Lent renewal evenings through them, all the contact details are on the next page.

During this very difficult time we trust that God is still with us and is guiding us by his Spirit.

I myself have been quite fearful at times and have needed to dig deep in my trust in the Lord. Knowing that it is the Holy Spirit who brings all aspects of our faith alive I have asked him to come afresh each morning and invigorate my believing and thinking. Quite often I feel minor insights into what our life in Jesus is about – as an example of which “Our life in God is all about relationship” is currently written on a bookmark in my bible.

Much more common though for me is how the Holy Spirit brings the words of Jesus to life – a current example for me is how meaningful the “I am” statements of Jesus are: “I am the light of the world” , “I am the bread of life”. Praising Jesus for being my light and my bread, binds me closer to him and it is a simple praise word I can use on and off during the day.

As another way of asking the Holy Spirit to come afresh each morning I have found a wonderful prayer written by Fr Pat Collins. Its story is told on page 3 of this letter. I have found that in praying it slowly line by line my heart is warmed afresh with the reality of what the Spirit wants to do in my life. I am sure you have favourite prayers / psalms that do the same. It is good to have a variety of these so that one does not become stale.

Philip Walters

The Daily Prayer to the Holy Spirit of Fr Pat Collins

I discovered this rather special prayer about 5 years ago as I was reading Fr Pat Collins’ book, Guided by God. In a book that deals with the many

ways in which we are guided by God's Spirit, Fr Pat was writing a specific chapter about how God sometimes speaks through inspirations and promptings. To exemplify this from his own experience he describes how one day sitting at his desk a thought came spontaneously into his mind to write a prayer which would ask God for daily guidance.

He thought this should be quite straightforward and set about doing this, hoping to have it finished in a day or two. But it proved much more difficult than he thought to adequately express in words what he was aspiring to ask God for on a daily basis, taking into account the things he felt he must include. In fact he struggled with one version after another until he was so exasperated that he gave up altogether. After all, no one had asked him to do this!

However he got no peace about it, so began again, losing count of the number of versions he had rejected. Finally, wanting some resolution and a result from what he clearly thought was important, he took to the printers a version that he was more or less happy with and asked the printer for 500 copies. Shocked at the price he discovered 5,000 copies would make each prayer card cheaper so agreed to this number.

Later, arriving back at his house carrying the cards, he discovered a priest and a woman he did not know were waiting to buy some of the prayer cards, because they heard that a Fr Collins was writing a daily prayer to the Holy Spirit. Still carrying the box he asked how many prayer cards they would like to buy and was told, to his great surprise, 1,000 – twice the number he had originally thought to print. Since then he has sold well over 300,000 copies. Fr Pat's daily prayer for guidance reads as follows:

Father in heaven, yours is a Spirit of truth and love.
Pour that same Holy Spirit into my body, my mind and my soul.
Preserve me today, from all illusions and false inspirations.
Reveal your presence, your word and your will to me
in a way that I can understand.
And I thank you that you will do this, while giving me the ability
to respond,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

**COME TO 2 ONLINE EVENINGS OF PRAYER
AND RENEWAL IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The theme for the event

**"Come and See: finding God in stillness,
worship and His Word"**

Led by

**Fr Luke Goymour &
Fr Stefan Park**

The evenings will include

**PRAYER AND PRAISE
TALK
PRAYER MINISTRY**

Dates: Tuesday, 2nd Mar & Tuesday, 16th Mar

Time: 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Online on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86389820144?pwd=eFNkTnRLYWp0MzM5UHFkRFc4N2g0dz09>

Meeting ID: 863 8982 0144

Passcode: 780726

For further information contact Philip on 07910157584

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