



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

May 30, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our Church and, certainly with great enthusiasm, our parishes celebrated the great Feast of Pentecost. What a blessing to realize that while the Holy Temple in Jerusalem welcomed hundreds of thousands of pilgrims fifty days after Passover, as they offered thanks for the first harvest of spring, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and through them began the first harvest of believers!

What a sight it must have been! People from all over the Jewish world came to fulfill the Law of the Lord and offer thanks for the first fruits of the earth. The earth was alive again and producing its bounty in proof of God's blessing. From the farthest reaches they came and mingled with the locals. Together they celebrated the early spring harvest.

At the same time as all of this was happening, the little band of disciples was "sheltered in place," not in thanksgiving, but in fear and maybe some amount of grieving after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. Feeling alone and frightened they didn't join in the festivities of their fellow Jews. They were doing exactly what the Lord had told them: "Remain in Jerusalem until the Advocate comes; the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name," but they couldn't possibly have imagined what this meant or the impact it would have on them and on the world!

The Divinely inspired Acts of the Apostles captures it magnificently. A city swarmed with people, but there is no mention of what a mess that must have been. Instead, the focus is on the disciples united with a voice of faith and love and hope for the world. And of the mobs of people reveling in the good fortune of the early spring harvest, there is a smaller mob focusing on what the disciples are saying. Miracle of miracles! In the midst of chaos and secularism, the Word of God is still able to be heard, understood and taken to heart with the result being a harvest of new souls and new workers for the kingdom! The seeds of faith and love and hope have sprouted the new and early growth that has spread throughout the world. Many saints have shared in the joy of such a harvest. Today, together, we are able to keep the Pentecost alive. Today, together, we are able to draw on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of so many authentic bearers of Sacred Tradition and the Doctrinal teachings of our Church united by this same Holy Spirit. As the Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic we are all gathered into the storehouse of the Lord and at the same time are called to be the harvesters for the Kingdom of God.

Through this letter I direct that in all Church Bulletins and calendars of the Diocese of Manchester that the "Sundays of Ordinary Time" be written with the subtitles of the Sundays

After Pentecost.” Both designations to appear with Ordinary Time above and After Pentecost below. I wish us all to make this a year of remarkable harvesting of the Fruits of the Spirit for the refreshment of the Church and of the world.

SAMPLE TEMPLATE:

June 4

Trinity Sunday

First Sunday After Pentecost

June 11

Corpus Christi

Second Sunday After Pentecost

June 18

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Third Sunday After Pentecost

June 25

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

And so on through the year.

Weekdays need **not** be annotated with the “*time After Pentecost.*”

With grateful prayers and assured that all will take up this catechetical moment and device, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter A. Libasci". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, D.D.
Bishop of Manchester