

## *From the Vicarage Window: May / June*

Because of this year's early Easter, the beginning of June returns us to the Church's ordinary time, and the long succession of Sundays after Trinity stretching away into the far distance of Advent. Before that we mark the end of the Easter season by celebrating the great Feast of Pentecost when the Easter white on our altars gives way to red – the colour of the Spirit's flame.

The Holy Spirit is the unifier, the one who makes sense of things – who even reconciles radical opposites – the one who comes into the world to lead us into all truth in the three-fold oneness of God. In a world so deliberately divided, so polarised by those who seek to gain from discord and resentment, we've needed more to be aware of the Holy Spirit's role in bringing us and all our idiosyncrasies and differences together. The Spirit is the advocate, the comforter who brings in and celebrates in the threefold life of God the diversity of humanity and the complexity of creation itself.

This is the poet Geoffrey Hill, speaking here about his fellow writer Charles Péguy and the landscape around the Cathedral of Chartres in northern France, another ancient centre of pilgrimage and devotion, another journey undertaken as much in the heart as by the feet: Péguy himself wrote: *I walked 144 kilometres in three days. (...) To die in a ditch is nothing; really, I felt it was nothing. We are doing something more difficult*".

But this is Geoffrey Hill himself:

*"Or say it is Pentecost: the hawthorn-tree,  
set with coagulate magnified flowers of may,  
blooms in a haze of light; old chalk-pits brim  
with seminal verdure from the roots of time.*

*Landscape is like revelation; it is both  
singular crystal and the remotest things.  
Cloud-shadows of seasons revisit the earth,  
odourless myrrh bourned by the wandering kings*".

There's an old saying that the best way to make God laugh is to tell him your plans. It's a more profound comment than it appears: the Holy Spirit's priorities are not the ones which spring first to our own minds and authentic prayer is very largely a matter of trying to tune in to his wavelength. Much of what we receive in prayer - or when we are trying to pray - is by way of hints and allusions – the Spirit doesn't operate by means of dictation. Pentecost brings to us the fire of healing and redemption, the fire which renews us and makes it possible, wherever we find ourselves spiritually, psychologically or spiritually, whatever has been done to us by circumstance or others' design, to begin again.

**Fr Michael**

**SATURDAY MAY 18<sup>th</sup> 2024**  
**Severn Wye Ministry Area**  
**‘Rogation’ Walk**

**The Churches of Itton, St Arvans, Penterry,  
Devauden  
and Kilgwrrwg**

**Please join us for as much of the day as you wish!**  
*including well-behaved dogs (on leads)*

- Stage 1: St Deiniol’s Itton to St Arvans Church**  
- we will be setting out after prayer and a blessing at *about* \* 9 a.m.  
arriving at **St Arvan’s Church** at about 10.15 a.m.
- Stage 2: 11 a.m. St Arvan’s to St Mary’s, Penterry**
- Stage 3: St Mary’s, Penterry to St James Devauden**  
– *setting out at 1.p.m. after a break for lunch*  
*(please bring your own refreshments)*
- Stage 4 St James’, Devauden to Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg**  
- *setting out at 2.15 p.m.*

**The walk will end at Kilgwrrwg at approximately 3 – 3.30 p.m..**

For more information about the day, including transport arrangements at the end of the walk,  
contact The Vicarage, St Arvans 01291 622064 or email [frmichaelgoilop1@gmail.com](mailto:frmichaelgoilop1@gmail.com)

*\* All times are approximate, please dress appropriately for the weather conditions and terrain.  
This is not an official ‘organised event’ - we all walk independently, and at our own risk.*