



The Pentecost Option

Jacqueline C. Rivers

This is a particularly telling time in Western culture – a time when Christian values that were once widely accepted and enshrined in law in Western nations are increasingly vanishing from the public square and being replaced by radical individualism. The need for Christians to resist the seductions of today’s culture is real and just as pressing as the need to remain engaged as a public witness to the gospel. The time is ripe for a more robust and dedicated Christianity, similar to the practice of the early Christians. However, the crisis in Western culture must not be conflated with a crisis of Christianity, which is thriving in the global south, particularly in Africa. Indeed, it is essential, even as we discuss the need to resist Western culture, to acknowledge the strength of global Christianity and the black church here in the United States in order not to alienate the fastest-growing segment of the population: non-white people.

Western Christians must seriously reconsider the original Christian community, as described in Acts 2:42–47:

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold their property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The time is ripe for a more robust and dedicated Christianity.

This is really the model for Christian life; we should be doing the things that are outlined here: devotion to prayer, scripture, and fellowship. Our churches have fallen far short of this, instead practicing “cultural Christianity” and becoming very weak as a result. I remember being bewildered at the Harvard Christian Fellowship as an undergraduate. I was a new Christian, and I thought that Christianity was supposed to turn your life upside down, reorder your priorities, and transform you. With these young people, it was warm milk and cookies. These students were concerned with consumerism, getting a Harvard degree, and going on to be extremely comfortable financially.

One aspect of Acts 2 that I take very seriously is the promise of signs and wonders. In the Pentecostal Church, the belief that God has the power to heal and to work miracles, even in the twenty-first century, is one we take seriously, although this belief is rare in today’s churches.

There’s another verse in Acts we fall short on: “The believers were together and shared everything in common.” Do we care for each other that way? Instead, we lead atomized lives, separated from each other. We don’t know our neighbors, and often church is just a matter of watching the clock: “When is he going to end? It’s one hour and one minute. Church is supposed to be over in an hour.” But there isn’t time for fellowship, for connection, for investing in each other’s lives, for caring for each other radically, as these people did, because they met every day. If anybody was in need, they were ready to sell what they had in order to take care of one another. That was the life of that early community and we need to look at it again because it holds up the biblical model for Christianity, which has been overlooked.

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St Mary’s
Parish
Haddington
Road

Serving
the
Community

Serving the
Family

Serving
the
City

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Thoughts for a Day

We must guard against the false notion that God is a purely transcendental power, removed from matter and the stuff of this earth. The coming community of life will be a kingdom of work on this earth. Work will be the binding factor in the cells of human community. The only work people can do with their whole soul, work full of spirit and pulsing life, comes from love. And there is no love that does not get to work.

-Eberhard Arnold

Jesus went directly to those who were outcasts. He much preferred to associate with the "sinners" than with those who proudly set themselves apart. Jesus shared the lot of the down-trodden because God himself loves those rejected by society, those the world deems unworthy. God wants to help all people, and raise the dignity they possess to the light.

-Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt

The Holy Spirit is God active in us and awakens our memory of how Christ redeemed us of our misery and sin.

We cannot be "backseat Christians" or "couch-potato Christians", cosy in our comfort zones - the Lord always wants us to move forward, forward, forward, and not take refuge in a comfortable, quiet life.

-Pope Francis

April-May Parish Diary 2018

- May 20: 7:00pm **Concert: Dublin Orchestral Players**
May 28: **Parish Pastoral Council Meeting**
June 3: **11am Special Mass for the World Meeting of Families**, Fr Timothy Bartlett, Secretary General for WMOF2018

OFFICIAL FAMILY PRAYER FOR WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018

God, our Father, We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son, One family, in the Spirit of your love. Bless us with the joy of love. Make us patient and kind, gentle and generous, welcoming to those in need. Help us to live your forgiveness and peace. Protect all families with your loving care, Especially those for whom we now pray: [We pause and remember family members and others by name]. Increase our faith, Strengthen our hope, Keep us safe in your love, Make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share. This we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen

Mary, mother and guide, pray for us. Saint Joseph, father and protector, pray for us. Saints Joachim and Anne, pray for us. Saints Louis and Zélie Martin, pray for us



PARISH FAMILY DAY

Sunday , June 3, 11am– 1pm

Special Family Mass

Fr Tim Bartlett, main celebrant

Secretary General, WMOF2018

Garden Party

Family day garden party in Church grounds

We invite all families in the parish to support this occasion leading up to WMOF2018

"We must pay special attention to this: the children and the grandparents. Children and young people are the future, they are the strength, those who take us forward. They are the ones in which we place our hope. Grandparents are the memory of a family, they are the ones who gave us the faith, transmitted to us the faith."

(Pope Francis)

In Memoriam

Recently deceased

Elizabeth Dempsey

Our oldest parishioner, funeral took place on Friday

Masses on 19th/20th May 2018.

6pm, Vigil, Caroline Hussey (1st Anniversary)
11am, Mgr Paddy Finn (5th Anniversary)

27 May 2018

11am, Robert Mooney (Anniversary)

Masses and Confession

Sundays: Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm
-Rosary daily after 10am mass

Adoration Blessed Sacrament, Weds 10.30-12.40

Church Collections

W/e 13th May 2018

1st Collection: €1,107

Share Collection: €765

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