

Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions' Story

One of 22 Ugandan martyrs, Charles Lwanga is the patron of youth and Catholic action in most of tropical Africa. He protected his fellow pages, aged 13 to 30, from the homosexual demands of the Bagandan ruler, Mwanga, and encouraged and instructed them in the Catholic faith during their imprisonment for refusing the ruler's demands.

Charles first learned of Christ's teachings from two retainers in the court of Chief Mawulugungu. While a catechumen, he entered the royal household as assistant to Joseph Mukaso, head of the court pages.

On the night of Mukaso's martyrdom for encouraging the African youths to resist Mwanga, Charles requested and received baptism. Imprisoned with his friends, Charles's courage and belief in God inspired them to remain chaste and faithful.

For his own unwillingness to submit to the immoral acts and his efforts to safeguard the faith of his friends, Charles was burned to death at Namugongo on June 3, 1886, by Mwanga's order.

When Pope Paul VI canonized these 22 martyrs on October 18, 1964, he also made reference to the Anglican pages martyred for the same reason.

Franciscan Media

Africa certainly faces a host of problems, from endemic poverty and disease, to political corruption and civil wars to economic instability, to the imposition of ideological colonialism, to the crises of globalization and exploitation of human and natural resources and the bloody march of Islamists such as ISIS and Boko Haram.

Given those challenges it is easy to think of Africa as a place where hope does not exist. Yet, in fact, the continent is filled with the promise of a vibrant, young and dedicated Catholic Church that continues to grow exponentially — even as African Catholics are already helping to re-evangelize the West in the face of secularism, the culture of death and an amnesia regarding the primacy of God and the centrality of the family.

Indisputably, Christianity and especially Catholicism is on the rise in Africa. At the start of the 20th century, there were barely 2 million Catholics on the continent, and most were Europeans who belonged to colonial powers that controlled almost all of Africa.

Today, there are more than 230 million Catholics, almost all of them native Africans.

According to a study by the Centre for Applied Research in the Apostolate, since 1980, the Catholic population has risen by 238%, the largest growth anywhere in the world.

National Catholic Register

Saints of the Week

Mon 1 June	The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church	Wed 3	St Kevin, abbot
Tues 2	Ss Marcellinus and Peter martyrs	Thurs 4	Ss Charles Lwanga and Companions, martyrs
		Fri 5	St Boniface, bishop and martyr
		Sat 6	St Norbert, bishop St Jarlath, bishop



FOXROCK PARISH

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER 31st MAY 2020



PENTECOST SUNDAY

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." - Jn 20:21

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass 02001, 1998, 1970 CCD. GLP

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun 31 11.30 am

Matt McCusker
(Recently Deceased)
Phil Gough
(Recently Deceased)
James Pearse Kilcullen
(Recently Deceased)
John and Lorraine Dobson (Anvs)
Oran O'Kennedy (Anv)
Margaret (Ita) Mahon (Anv)

Other Anniversaries

Mary Boylan
Anna Dowling
Michael Lenehan

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Parish Pastoral Worker Maeve Davidson
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Recently Deceased

Máire Galvin
Martha McManus
Philomena Hughes
Thomas Lynch

May they rest in peace



May 31, 2020 Pentecost Sunday

You can feel so small standing by the seashore. The vastness of all that is before you expands much farther than your eye can see. What is happening on the other side? As tides continue to ebb and flow, what occurs as they come and go remains largely a mystery and the effects of their presence unknown in your sight. Yet, things are moving and changing as you gaze upon the water, as the thumbprint of their presence is left behind. The greater the wind and wave, the greater the effect. But even a gentle breeze leaves its humble mark upon the seashore on which you stand. The smallest pebble still makes a ripple in the great blue expanse of ocean waters. It doesn't need to be big.

You never know the full impact of your smallest gesture or simplest of words. A yes or no, agree or disagree, here or there, this or that can influence time and history in ways you may never know. The Holy Spirit is like that: fierce and torrential, and then almost still and silent, creating and recreating nonetheless. Coming as a gentle breeze or a gusty wind, God's Holy Spirit continues to move over, around, and into the waters of our lives. The Spirit brings fruit and unknown possibilities to what we humbly

bring with us and that same Spirit eventually brings all to fulfillment in Christ.

The first disciples didn't have much. They possessed simple faith and a willingness to go into uncharted territory with a love of their friend-God, humble offerings, and a knowledge that they were not alone. This allowed them to do amazing things with very little. Do you believe that you are being led and that you have a purposeful life? We often do not realize our value because we do not think that the little we have is good enough. How wrong we are! A little flour mixed with water and embraced by a prayer of blessing transforms simple offerings into the magnificent Eucharistic presence of God. If the Holy Spirit can do such amazing things with these humble gifts of the earth, even more can happen with you. Don't underestimate the value of the smile you gave a stranger, the door held open for an elderly widow, the listening ear offered to one who was lonely, the tolerance given to the wounded soul who is angry, and the loving shoulder you offered as a cradle under the head of someone in pain. Modest gifts offered with love can be transformed by the Spirit into wondrous blessings you may never know. It's Pentecost. Trust. You are not alone.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

FIRST READING

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting, and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; then separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. (Acts 2:1-11)

GOSPEL

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were for fear of the Jews. (Jn 20:19-23)

PSALM

Bless the Lord my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
Earth is full of your riches.
(Psalm 103:1.24.29-31.34)

SECOND READING

No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
(1 Cor 12:3-7.12-13)



Pentecost By Giotto di Bondone in the Scrovegni Chapel Padua

The Scrovegni Chapel is a small church in Padua which contains a fresco cycle by Giotto completed in about 1305.

Giotto and his team covered all the internal surfaces with frescos including the walls and ceiling.

There are over 30 of these showing the Life of Christ and the Life of the Virgin.

Among them is depicted Pentecost Sunday.

The Christian holiday of Pentecost is celebrated on the 49th day after Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks as described in the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11 The Feast of Weeks is a Jewish Harvest Festival celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover which was celebrated on Holy Saturday (Pentecost means fiftieth in Greek)

Vestment colours are red, symbolizing joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian Church and the start of the Churches Mission to the world.