Acknowledgements

Designers and flower arrangers:
  Church of Our Lady Flower Team
  Church of the Holy Trinity Flower Team
  Gill Chilton and the team at Oasis
  Val Patton, Jenny Martin and team
  The Fleet Flower Arrangement Society

Our thanks are also extended:

to everyone who contributed in making the Flower Festival
  a success particularly in the areas of publicity, painting,
  figure making, construction work, stewarding,
  refreshments and also general help
Introduction by Fr Sean Tobin, Parish Priest

Welcome to the Church of Our Lady and to this Flower Festival, part of our 'Year of Faith' celebrations. The 'Year' began last October, called by the then Pope Benedict XVI to celebrate 50 years since the Second Vatican Council.

Along with the worshipping community of The Holy Trinity in Church Crookham, we are the presence of the Catholic Church here in Fleet. As Christians we must never be an exclusive community so we have opened wide our doors that others may enter and know the presence of God and give thanks for all the gifts He has given His people.

Many experience the wonder of God through the gift of creation, looking at the beauty of our world lifts hearts and minds. Through the specific gifts God has given to some, we have been able to transform our church into a wonderful array of floral arrangements. Throughout history, flowers have played a huge part in beautifying a church and they are a sign of life. As God has given them to us, so we offer them in return by placing them around the building.

In this flower festival we not only see wonderful arrangements, but also the Sacraments of the Catholic Church depicted in a symbolic way. As you walk around, each Sacrament will be made clear. So, appreciate the beauty of God's own gift, and the gifts of those who have created these displays, take time, if you're able just to stop and look, smell the fragrance.

A heartfelt thank-you to all who have created and sponsored these wonderful arrangements, and a heartfelt thank you to God for His creation. Please don't forget to spread the word that others may come also.

Sponsors

Oasis
0800 731 3505

The main sponsor for flowers throughout the Year of Faith and especially the Flower Festival.

Fleet’s premier florist offers all aspects of floristry for all occasions.

Gift products include wine, champagne and chocolates.

297 Fleet Road, Fleet, Hants GU51 3BU
oasisflowers.net and Oasisoffleet.co.uk
The SACRAMENTS transforming everyday life

You are invited to

Four evenings of Discussion, Discovery and DVDs
led by Bridie Stringer & Paul Latawski

8 pm Thursday, 30th May, WHY SACRAMENTS
8 pm Thursday, 6th June, BAPTISM
8 pm Thursday, 13th June, CONFIRMATION
8 pm Thursday, 20th June, EUCHARIST

Church of Our Lady's Hall, Fleet
What are the Sacraments?

St Paul in his letter to the Ephesians tells us, "That is why you must take up all God’s armour, or you will not be able to put up any resistance on the evil day, or stand your ground even though you exert yourself to the full." We need God’s grace to be followers of Jesus Christ.

The sacraments are signs of God’s grace. There are seven sacraments in the Church: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, and Holy Orders. They point to what is sacred, significant and important for Christians, they are special occasions for experiencing God’s saving presence. These help us to be a sacramental people, seeing God always at work around us. Thus, it can be said that sacraments are at the same time signs and instruments of God’s grace.

FAQs

When were the Sacraments introduced into the Church?

The sacraments were instituted by Christ and given to the Church to administer. The seven sacraments were confirmed by the Ecumenical Council of Trent (1545-1563).

How do you explain the Holy Trinity?

Catholics believe there is one God consisting of three distinct and equal divine Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, because on numerous occasions God has described Himself thus. It is the central mystery of Christian faith and life.

Why do Catholics pray to Mary and the saints?

Catholics have always distinguished between the divine worship due to God alone and the lesser honour (veneration) given to Mary and the saints. Although Christ is acknowledged as the sole Mediator between God and man, Catholics ask Mary and the Saints to intercede for them before the throne of Christ in Heaven.

Why are there two Creeds (Apostles’ and Nicene)?

The Nicene Creed is the profession of faith that is most widely used in Christian liturgy. It is called Nicene because it was adopted in the city of Nicaea by the first ecumenical council, which met there in the year 325. The Apostles’ Creed, which in its present form is later, is also broadly accepted in the West, but is not used in the East.
The Holy Trinity with Our Lady

At the very back of the Church you will see, at the Blessed Virgin Marys’ Chapel, a beautiful design portraying Our Lady and The Holy Trinity, this has been designed and arranged by the flower team at The Holy Trinity. It was based around the vision that Lucia had at Fatima of Our Lady and The Holy Trinity, who are the Patrons of our Worshipping Community of Fleet and Church Crookham.

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

As you enter the Church from the Porch, immediately on your right is the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Here we feature one of the miracles performed by Peter and John shortly after Pentecost: the curing of The Cripple outside the Beautiful Gate to the Temple.

Designed and arranged by Val Patton, Jenny Martin and team, the Flowers used here depict the presence of the Holy Spirit in Vibrant Colours of Orange, Red and Gold using Arum Lily, Grand Prix Roses and Gold Chrysanthemums. In healing the cripple, Peter said to him “I have neither Silver nor Gold but I will give you what I have - In the name of Jesus Christ stand up and Walk” Then he took him by the right hand and helped him to stand up.

In the letter of James, he says, "Any one of you who is ill should send for the elders of the church, and they must anoint the sick person with oil in the name of the Lord and pray over him."

Jesus showed great concern for the bodily and spiritual welfare of the sick and commanded his followers to do the same. The celebration of this sacrament is an opportunity for the deepening of the faith of the community who are able to witness the faith and devotion of those being anointed. The oil used is specifically blessed by the Bishop for this purpose at the annual Chrism Mass during Holy Week.
The Sacrament of Marriage

Walking further down the Aisle you will find the Sacrament of Marriage, designed and arranged by members of the team at Oasis Flower Shop a strong mix of colour and design.

The flower varieties used are many but predominately Cerise Pink Gerbera and the Pure White Eucharis Lily. The two, almost complete circles, depict the joining of a Man and Woman to become one, the pathway indicating the beginning of their journey through life together.

The Sacrament of Marriage, is a public sign that a couple give themselves totally to each other. The sacrament confers on them the grace they need for attaining holiness in their married life. They are called to form an intimate community of life and love. Marriage is the only sacrament not performed by the priest. He acts as a witness for God and the Church. The actual marriage takes place between the couple in their wedding vows to each other.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

We now see the last of the Sacraments - Confirmation - Dominated by a huge Dove, symbol of Peace, made by some of the younger members of our community. Tall shapes using slender Vases and Candles depict the youth and mature Adults who partake in this Sacrament and as the word implies it is a strengthening of faith and leads on to being greater partakers of the other sacraments. We use a variety of colours and flowers to show the diverse nature of those receiving this Sacrament.

Confirmation is the Sacrament of mature Christian commitment and a deepening of baptismal gifts by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This was seen at Pentecost with respect to the apostles. In the Acts of the Apostles, the apostles are recorded as ministering by the "laying-on of hands." The sacrament, today, is conferred by the anointing with Sacred Chrism (oil mixed with balsam and consecrated by the bishop), which is done by the laying on of the hand of the minister who pronounces the 'sacramental' words which refer to a gift of the Holy Spirit that marks the recipient as with a seal.
**The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Continue up the aisle and you will come to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Designed and arranged by members of the Fleet Flower arranging Society under the leadership of Jean Warren. The darkness and evil of brambles, together with the Arum Schwarwalder Lily signifying SIN bringing you into the light out of darkness with the use of the White Arum lily depicting peace.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation has a number of elements: first the person must be truly sorry for what they have done, they must confess their sins to a priest, they must have a desire to make amends, and be resolved to avoid repeating the sin. Through the intermediary of the priest, the person receives God’s unconditional forgiveness. The confession, or disclosure, of sins frees us and facilitates our reconciliation with others. It also invites us to forgive others as we have been forgiven, as it says in the prayer which Jesus taught His disciples, "and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

This arrangement has been partly sponsored by Sheilagh Bell.

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**The Sacrament of The Holy Eucharist**

We now continue into the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, depicting the Sacrament of The Holy Eucharist, using predominantly strongly coloured Vanda and Phalenopsis Orchids, plants which take their energy from the air and do not require soil for growth. The Chalice and Host featuring Wheat and Grapes truly significant of the Bread and Wine becoming the Body and Blood of Christ through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Designed and arranged by Val Patton, Jenny Martin and Team.

At the Passover meal with his apostles before his Passion, Jesus instituted the Eucharist. Luke writes, "Then he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' He did the same with the cup after supper, and said, 'this cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you.'"

Catholics believe the Eucharist, or Communion, is both a sacrifice and a meal. We relive Jesus’ sacrifice as he died for our sins and as we receive Jesus’ Body and Blood, we are nourished spiritually and brought closer to God.
The Sacrament of Holy Orders

At the High Altar, we feature the Sacrament of Holy Orders, Vibrant Red to depict Fire and the use of Anthuriums suspended from above representing the tongues of Fire finally resting on the heads of the Apostles at Pentecost giving them the strength and knowledge to proclaim the word of Christ all over the World. These Vestments are worn by the Priest, following his ordination, when celebrating the Mass and Red Vestments have been chosen for this season of Pentecost. Designed and arranged by Members of the flower team at Our Lady’s Church.

Holy Orders is the sacrament by which bishops, priests and deacons are ordained and receive the power and grace to perform their sacred duties. It is a continuation of Christ’s priesthood, which He bestowed upon his apostles. Ordination as a bishop, confers the fullness of the sacrament, making the bishop a member of the body of successors of the Apostles, and giving him the mission to teach, sanctify, and govern, along with the care of all the Churches. Ordination as a priest, confers on him the power, as the bishops’ assistant, to celebrate the sacraments. Ordination as a deacon, places him at the service of the bishop, especially in the Church’s exercising of Christian charity towards the poor and preaching of the word of God.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Moving now to the Font, the obvious choice for the Sacrament of Baptism, where we have created the feeling of a waterfall from Willow branches to make the statement of the use of Water in this Sacrament. White flowers have been chosen to indicate purity and to give a strong visual picture of the importance of this Sacrament, the first of the Sacraments you are most likely to receive, again designed and arranged by members of the flower team at Our Lady’s Church.

In Matthew’s gospel, Jesus says, “Go therefore, make disciples of all nations: baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you.”

For Christians, the Sacrament of Baptism is the first step in a lifelong journey of commitment and discipleship. Whether we are baptized as infants or adults, Baptism is the Church’s way of celebrating and enacting the embrace of God. In Baptism, water is used to symbolise the washing away of the old so that a person can be reborn a son or daughter of God.