

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS – May 31st 2020

PENTECOST YEAR A

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandra Watkins: 0409 492 508
Fr Marcello Colasante 0416 194 825 Contact: St Columba's, Ballarat North 53 311 012
email: ballaratnorth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Information for special parish events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals)

Please contact Anne Beer on 5349 2168 or 0417 369 322

Parish Support:

A reminder that if anyone needs help with anything,
to please get in touch with one of our members below, if needed.

Gail Hall 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc 0427 678830 Anne Beer 0417 369 322

Welcome to 'Our Community News' for May 31st 2020 - Pentecost

Note: Today's Community News email has two other attachments

- Pentecost - copy of 'The Saving Word'

- Studies in Theology Special Session Information - Letter from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Please find attached the latest information from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR regarding gathering in places of worship restrictions from June 1, 2020. All updates are on the diocesan website "news" section"
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

FATHER JUSTIN'S ONLINE MASSES FROM ST JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL:

Reminder: Daily Mass at 11.30am from St John of God Hospital.

Access by searching St Patrick's Cathedral in Facebook If you can't watch then, you can always replay it.
<https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9>

RECENT DEATHS:

We pray for Barbara Woods and Lorna Pearce who passed away last week.

We continue to pray for all the victims to Coronavirus throughout the world.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Margaret Cuthbertson, Jean Finch, Gary Sargent, Ray Umbers, Rose Duggan, Eileen Hanley, Jack Martin, Fr Brendan Smith, Monica Flynn, William Michael Fay, Mona Walters, Eddie Verlinden, Grace Foran, Keith Lofts, Mary Jane Collins, Peter (Sam) Dunn

PRAY FOR ALL THESE FRIENDS OF OURS WHO ARE ILL:

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Roger Molomby, Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Fr. Adrian McInerney, Shelagh Mulcahy, Valda Murphy, Michael Wise and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTERS:

The newsletter roster will continue, but if any parishioners wish to contribute anything at all for inclusion, it will be greatly appreciated. This is be a great way to keep our little community in touch. Just simply put your contribution in an email.

May: Angela Gerrard Phone: 0439 565 468 Email: colangegerrard@gmail.com

SPECIAL STUDIES IN THEOLOGY: LITURGICAL INCULTURATION

ACU's Faculty of Theology and Philosophy and the ACU Centre for Liturgy will welcome Rev Prof Mark R Francis csv (President of Catholic Theological Union, Chicago) as a guest lecturer for a new one-off masters-level unit called: THEL620 Special Studies in Theology: Liturgical Inculturation will be offered as an online intensive on July 6, 7, 9 & 10. All information on the attached flyer.

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Diocesan Pastoral Development Coordinator will develop and facilitate diocesan initiatives, programmes and activities to strengthen and support Diocesan and Parish life. Position information available from the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

“DANCING AT THE VATICAN” AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

In May 2017, Pope Francis became the first world leader to recognise the devastating plight of those living with and affected by Huntington's disease. “Dancing at the Vatican” tells the story of a seemingly impossible, cross-continental journey made by some extraordinarily brave families bound by the same devastating disease. Special online screenings in Australia on June 12 and August 14. Tickets: <https://tinyurl.com/dancingatthevaticanaustralia>. Learn More at <https://www.dancingatthevatican.com>. Contact: kelly.atkins@monash.edu

WEEK OF PRAYER AND CHRISTIAN UNITY 2020

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Australia will be observed from May 24-31, 2020 in the week between Ascension and Pentecost. This year's theme, “They showed us unusual kindness” (Acts 28:2), calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action and remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. Resources are now available at the website [The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#).

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2020: MAY 27 – JUNE 3

The theme for #NRW2020 – In this together – is now resonating in ways that could not have been foreseen when this was announced last year, but it reminds us whether in a crisis or in reconciliation, we are all #InThisTogether. For resources and further information, go to <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/national-reconciliation-week/?CFID=12862572&CFTOKEN=e6a4ca29bbfd552d-D8E105CE-F113-49B7-19FBF3A050E3AA2A>

ST VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

Scholarships are offered to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. More information and applications forms are available at <https://pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html>. Closing Date July 31, 2020.

IMAGES FROM THE WORD

- Peace
- Receive the Holy Spirit
- They are forgiven
- Head of each
- Jesus is Lord

LITURGICAL NOTES

‘The Christian community is never closed in upon itself ... This intimate life only acquires its full meaning when it becomes a witness ... Thus, it is the whole Church that receives the mission to evangelize, and the work of each individual member is important for the whole’ (Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, § 15).

For many, the word *evangelisation* implies standing on a street corner pushing opinions to convert others. In contrast, Pope Paul speaks of a subtle and respectful approach of entering into dialogue with contemporary culture to discover its values and offer it the depth of Christian life. This is our daily task: to be witnesses to the world in which we move.

‘O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption’

PRAYER FOR PENTECOST

In the weeks of isolation, gyms, pools, tennis courts, skate parks and bowling greens have all been closed. So many of us have been out walking. I have found a few extra minutes to notice and enjoy the trees in our neighbourhood. As I have stretched my legs each day, they have become a bit more like friends, waiting patiently for my visit, standing quietly while the rest of us keep moving. They have drawn me a little deeper into the mystery of life and into prayer.

Michael McGirr

Gospel Reflection:

Pentecost Sunday is often called the birthday of the Church. The earth itself features powerfully in the imagery associated with this feast: harvest, mountain, earthquake, thunder, fire. For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning 'fiftieth') was a harvest festival celebrated fifty days after the opening of the harvest. When the Jerusalem Temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that Israel had made with God on Mt Sinai. Several decades after the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God's new covenant with God's people. In today's first reading (Acts 2:1-11), Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God's Law on Mt. Sinai. Just as God's presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God's Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant in the upper room appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire. Luke's account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received God's Law in their own tongue.

For the teaching at the heart of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John 20:19-23. The resurrected Christ appears to the disciples who are huddled behind locked doors. He offers the simple greeting: "Peace be with you," the greeting we have been in the practice of offering each other with a simple gesture at every Eucharistic celebration-until Covid-19 challenged us to find other ways of communicating the peace of Christ. Jesus sends his disciples on a mission of peace in continuity with his own God-inspired mission. He breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit and tells them that God will forgive those whom they forgive and will "retain" or "seize hold of" the transgressions of those whose sins or transgressions they "retain". To seize hold of wrongdoing is to expose it and deal with it. Sometimes it is best to forgive and simply allow everyone to move on. In other situations, an easy amnesty only exacerbates the problem.

Much of the enduring conflict in our world derives from the inability of ordinary people and of both church and civic leaders to know how to deal with transgression. The Holy Spirit is the unique source of our capacity to deal with the perpetrators of violence. The Holy Spirit is likewise the source of our power to forgive, of our power to refrain from vengeance and our power to ensure restoration and healing. In our times, the earth itself cries out for forgiveness, for restoration and for healing. As we celebrate this feast of the Holy Spirit in a time of pandemic, we might consider engaging in a "values inventory" by looking at how much of our personal and collective resources we invest in the things that make for peace.

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm



Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful / and kindle in them the fire of your love. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

In 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

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. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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RECONCILING SPIRIT

Today's rich array of scriptural readings brings out the Church's sense of being a community equipped by the Spirit to take up the mission of Jesus.

The first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, locates the imparting of the Spirit on the Jewish feast of Pentecost, a pilgrimage feast celebrated fifty days after Passover.

In biblical tradition, wind and fire signal the presence and power of God, as when Israel stood before God at Mount Sinai. What is described here seems to be a central fiery mass from which distinct 'tongues' ('as if of fire': not real fire!) separate off and come to rest on individuals.

The sense is that the Spirit, which rested solely upon Jesus during his own life, is now, as he promised (Luke 24:49), being distributed among those who are to carry on his mission – in first instance to Israel, eventually 'to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8).

The variety of people who hear and understand the testimony of the apostles in their own language foreshadows this worldwide mission. In many languages the Church will communicate the single message of God's reconciling love.

The Gospel (John 20:19-23) associates the gift of the Spirit more closely with the resurrection. On Easter Sunday evening the risen Lord breathes out upon his disciples the Spirit that will empower them to take up the mission that he has received from the Father. Central to this will be passing on the reconciliation ('whose sins you shall forgive ...') that he, as Lamb of God (1:29), has brought into the world.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

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; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

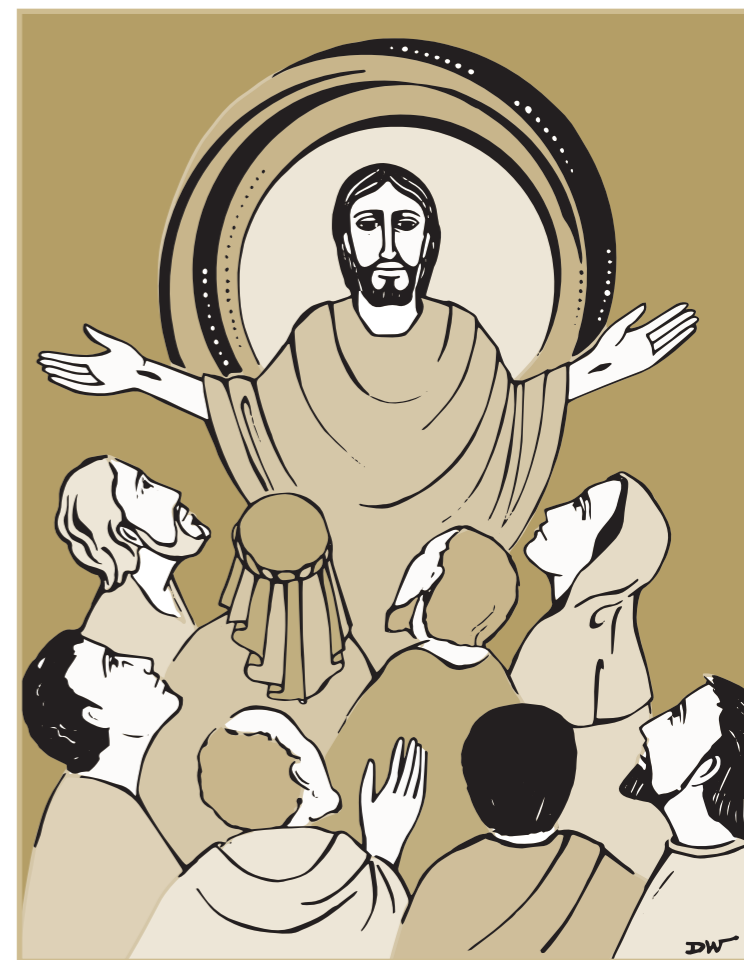
RESP PSALM

Ps 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34. R. v. 30

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (or Alleluia.)

1. Bless the Lord, my soul! / Lord God, how great you are! / How many are your works,
O Lord! / The earth is full of your riches. **R.**

2. You take back your spirit, they die, /
returning to the dust from which they came. /
You send forth your spirit, they are created; /
and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**



3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever! /
May the Lord rejoice in his works! / May my
thoughts be pleasing to him. / I find my joy in
the Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.