

SUNDAY ASSEMBLY OF WORD AND COMMUNION

RESTRICTIONS ON PLACES OF WORSHIP DURING COVID-19

- Checking-in is no longer required.
- Face masks are no longer required in most indoor settings but they are still recommended. They are strongly recommended if people have any COVID-19 symptoms, are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19 and/or are outdoors and cannot physically distance.
- Communal equipment should not be shared by attendees.
- Holy water fonts are to be emptied or removed.
- At the Sign of Peace, the practice of shaking hands is not recommended. During this time the congregation will be asked to pray for peace or show some other sign of peace.
- The distribution of Holy Communion will be in the hand only and not on the tongue. There will be no distribution of the chalice.
- All ministers of Holy Communion (both ordinary and extraordinary) are to use hand sanitiser before the distribution of Holy Communion commences and are not to physically touch anyone in the act of blessing.

Updates are available from <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covidsafe-religion-https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-live>

PENTECOST SUNDAY – YEAR A 2023

SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

INTRODUCTORY RITES

GATHERING HYMN

Stand

Quiet music is played while people assemble and/or a gathering hymn is sung.

The Leaders move to the front when the Assembly is to begin.

WELCOME

Leader 1: Welcome to you all on this special feast day in the life of the Church.

We read in the Acts of the Apostles that,
“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...
something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire...
they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”

We assemble today as the community of,
following in the tradition of those apostles,
empowered by the Holy Spirit received at our baptism,
to hear the Word, receive communion and offer praise to God.

As we gather in the absence of a priest,
we join with the universal Church
in the celebration of the day of Pentecost
and we are assured of our inclusion
in the prayers of the wider community,
who are able to celebrate the Eucharist at this time.
We join with them in spirit as we say:

GREETING

All make the sign of the cross.

Leader 2: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Leader addresses the people.

Leader 2: On this Pentecost day we rejoice in the presence of the Spirit.
The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world
and that which contains all things
understands what is said.
Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Leader 1: As we celebrate the mystery of our new life with Christ,
let us remember that our Saviour is rich in mercy and great in kindness.

Brief pause for silent prayer.

Leader 1: Lord Jesus, your Spirit sanctifies the whole church in every culture and race:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader 1: Lord Jesus, your Spirit strengthens every disciple
to announce your gospel to the ends of the earth: Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader 1: Lord Jesus, your Spirit unites all the baptised in mutual service
of the poor and neglected: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader 1: May almighty God have mercy on us all,
forgive us our many sins,
and bring us home to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

GLORIA

Leader 2: On this Feast of Pentecost it is fitting that we give praise to God
and so we pray:

Glory to God in the highest,

All: and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader 2: Let us pray that the Spirit will work through our lives to bring Christ to the world.

Brief pause for silent prayer.

Send down, O God, upon your people
the flame of your Holy Spirit,
and fill with the abundance of your sevenfold gift
the Church you brought forth
from your Son's pierced side.

May your life-giving Spirit
lend fire to our words
and strength to our witness.
Send us forth to the nations of the world
to proclaim with boldness your wondrous work
of raising Christ to your right hand.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-11

Sit

A period of silence, about one or two minutes, is recommended at the conclusion of each reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: Lord send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

SEQUENCE:

Leader 1: In response to the Word of God, let us pray together the traditional prayer
to the Spirit.

All: Holy Spirit, Lord of Light, from the clear celestial height
thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come thou Father of the poor, come with treasures which endure,
come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best, Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
dost refreshing peace bestow.

Thou in toil art comfort sweet, pleasant coolness in the heat,
solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine, visit thou these hearts of thine,
and our inmost being fill.

If thou take thy grace away, nothing pure in us will stay,
all our good be turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew, on our dryness pour thy dew,
wash the stains of guilt away.

Bend the stubborn heart and will, melt the frozen, warm the chill,
guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore, thee confess and thee adore,
with thy sevenfold gifts descend.

Give us comfort when we die, give us life with thee on high,
give us joys that never end. Amen.

Leader 1: Let us stand and welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Stand

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

GOSPEL: John 20:19-23

One of the Leaders goes to the lectern.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The Leader makes the sign of the cross on the book, then on forehead, lips and breast.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel:

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SHARED REFLECTION

Sit

- *A shared reflection explaining the meaning which these readings had for their original hearers, and indicating how these readings apply to this particular community, should now be given.*
- *The shared reflection may be led by one of the Leaders or another person from the Assembly.*
- *The reflection must be prepared beforehand and should be a sharing of what the scripture is saying to us today, rather than a 'sermon type' presentation.*
- *The reflection should only be of 3-5 minutes duration.*

** If this is not done, the following should be said:*

Leader: Let us now reflect in silence on the words of the Gospel and take them to our hearts.

PROFESSION OF FAITH – APOSTLES' CREED

Stand

Leader 1: Let us now stand and profess our shared faith:

Allow time for the Assembly to stand then say:

Leader 2: I believe in God,

All: the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, *(all bow)*
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The people are invited to pray; after the Prayers of the Faithful, the concluding prayer is said.

Invitation to Prayer:

Leader 1: My sisters and brothers,
on this Feast of Pentecost let us place our prayers before our loving God,
knowing that the Spirit is always with us.

*Prayers of the Faithful as prepared by the community are now prayed. It is recommended that a petition for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life be included in the prayers. It is desirable that the individual prayers be given by someone **other** than the Leader.*

- **Praying with Pope Francis:** Each month Pope Francis puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service.
May – For Church movements and groups: We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world. Lord, hear us.
- **Prayer for the Synod of Bishops “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission”:** We pray that the Synod of Bishops journey encourages people to speak with courage integrating freedom, truth and love. Lord, hear us.

- **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – May 21-28:** *Compassionate God, help us repair the harm that we have inflicted upon each other and the divisions we have created among your people. We pray that you send your grace to heal our divisions and gift us with the unity for which Jesus prayed. Lord, hear us.*

Concluding Prayer:

Leader 1: Loving God,
hear the prayers of your people.
Give us what you have inspired us to ask you for in faith.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

COLLECTION

Sit

Leader 2: Please be seated as we now take up the collection which is part of our contribution to the life and work of the Church.

As the collections are being gathered, a Pentecost/Holy Spirit hymn could be sung.

As the offerings are brought forward, the Leader prays in these or similar words as the collection is placed at the foot of the altar.

Leader 2: Loving God, we give from our hearts, in the name of Jesus, your Son,
who calls us into unity by the gift of the Holy Spirit,
who lives and reigns with you, Father, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

After leaving the offerings in the accustomed place, the ushers return to their place in the Assembly.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Stand

Leader 1: We are gathered here today as the People of God.
Let us now stand and give thanks and praise to the God who dwells with us.
To you glory and praise for evermore.

Allow time for people to stand.

All: To you glory and praise for evermore.

Leader 1: Blessed are you, O God, the creator of all life,
who made the universe and sustains all creatures.
You are blest, Lord God for ever.

All: To you glory and praise for evermore.

Leader 2: Blessed are you, O God, the hope of all people,
who speaks the life-giving Word
and brings forth the fruit of the earth.
You are blest, Lord God for ever.

All: To you glory and praise for evermore.

Leader 1: Blessed are you, O God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who enriches our lives with love
and surrounds our days with joy.
You are blest, Lord God for ever.

All: To you glory and praise for evermore.

Leader 2: Blessed are you, O God, the all holy one,
who chose us in Christ
and anoints us with the Spirit of adoption.
You are blest, Lord God for ever.

All: To you glory and praise for evermore.

Leader 1: Blessed are you, O God, the rock of our salvation,
who inspires our hymns and renews our youth.
You are blest, Lord God for ever.

All: To you glory and praise for evermore.

Leader 2: Blessed are you, O God, the revelation of love,
who makes us one in Christ
and gives us the crown of victory.
You are blest, Lord God for ever.

All: To you glory and praise for evermore.

Leader 1: Blessed are you, O God, the healer of hearts,
who forgives our sins and binds up our wounds.
You are blest, Lord God for ever.

All: To you glory and praise for evermore.

Leader 2: Blessed are you, O God, the guardian of your chosen ones,
who lives among us and leads us in all our ways.
You are blest, Lord God for ever.

All: To you glory and praise for evermore.

Leader 1: Blessed are you, O God, the source of eternal light,
who calls us from darkness and clothes us in glory.
You are blest, Lord God for ever.

All: To you glory and praise for evermore.

Leader 2: Blessed are you, O God, the provider of good gifts,
who raised us from death and crowns us with life.
You are blest, Lord God for ever.

All: To you glory and praise for evermore.

COMMUNION RITE

The Rite of Communion begins with the Lord's Prayer.

Leader 1: Jesus invites us to call on his Father's name:
Filled with trust in Jesus' power, we pray in his own words:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Leader 2: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader 2: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Leader 2: In the name of Christ, let us pray for peace.

If Communion is to be given, at the conclusion of the Prayer for Peace, the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion moves to the table and cleanses her/his hands with sanitiser. She/he then goes to the tabernacle, opens it and removes the ciborium with hosts, leaves the lid at the tabernacle and moves to stand behind the Leaders.

ADMONITION TO UNITY

Kneel

Leader 1: We are now invited to share in Holy Communion
in the body of the Lord.
We are part of the universal Church,
and all across the world on this day of the Lord,
Christ's saving passover to the Father
is being recalled and made present.
We are in union with the whole Church.

We are in union with our Bishop, Paul Bird,
and our parish community.
Let us be one in mind and heart,
in prayer and service, now and always.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

*The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion brings the Eucharist to the front of the Sanctuary,
and, taking the host, raises it for all to see, saying aloud:*

Extraordinary Minister:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion holds the host in the view of each person and says:

The Body of Christ.

The communicant answers:

Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

COMMUNION REFLECTION or PERIOD OF SILENCE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Stand

*This prayer should be led by the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion as a conclusion to the
Reception of Communion.*

Extraordinary Minister:

Let us pray.

Brief pause for silent prayer.

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.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

All: We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance
lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together
to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

If there are announcements of note, this is the proper time for them to be made. If there is to be special hospitality following the Liturgy, the Leader will extend an invitation to all. In general, those who want announcements made should be invited to come forward at this point and make the announcements. People should then be invited to stand if they have been seated for announcements.

GREETING

Leader 2: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader 2: The time of Easter has now concluded
and so we extinguish the Easter candle.
It will burn for Baptisms and Funerals
and on special occasions,
to remind us of our resurrection hope,
given to us by Jesus our Lord.

The Paschal (Easter) candle is now extinguished.

Leader 2: Let us bow our heads and pray for God's blessing.

Brief pause for silent prayer.

Leader 2: May God who raised Jesus to life, grant us new life.

All: Amen.

Leader 2: May Jesus who ascended, reign forever at God's right hand.

All: Amen.

Leader 2: May the Spirit who loves, descend upon us with peace.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

All make the sign of the cross.

Leader 1: May almighty God bless us,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Leader 1: Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

The Leaders bow to the altar and return to their places in the Assembly.

FINAL HYMN

A concluding hymn may be sung.

Acknowledgements

Material for the Introductory Rites, Opening and Communion Prayers, Profession of Faith and the Praise Prayer have been taken from or adapted from Sunday Celebration of the Word and Hours, Catholic Conference of Canadian Bishops © Concacan Inc., 1995 and LiturgyHelp www.liturgyhelp.com. All rights reserved. This material is used with permission for the purposes of Sunday Assemblies of Word and Communion in the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia only.

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