



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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Incorporating the Communities of St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill as well as the Lake Boga Families & Faith Group



19TH MAY 2024

PENTECOST SUNDAY

RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Today is a very special day in the Church's year- Pentecost- the celebration of the gift of God's Holy Spirit. We cannot see the Spirit, but we can see his effects. Like a breath he animates us and brings life. Like a rushing wind he moves us, sending us forth for the Mission. Like a tongue of flame, he brings warmth to our hearts and sets them aflame with his love. As always, there is so much we could say, but I just want to draw attention to two details from the Scriptural accounts. They are perhaps more obvious in Luke's account from Acts, but they hold true for John's account as well.

The first is this; pay attention to the setting. The disciples are gathered together in a room. A little earlier in Acts we hear that this had been their practice from the very beginning - to gather together on the first day of the week (i.e. on Sundays) for the breaking of the bread (i.e. the Eucharist) and fellowship. In other words, they gathered together as the Church. Now the Spirit is not constrained by walls, it can blow where it will, but God chose to first send His Spirit in and through his Church. Why? I think there is an important lesson there. Firstly, none of us are entirely self-sufficient. We need each other, and we need God. We can't do this on our own, we aren't made that way. The fact that the gift of the Spirit is mediated through the Church reminds us of this. The second point is simply the flip side of this, we are made for each other, and the gifts we are given are meant to be shared. Each of us are entrusted with our own particular gifts. When shared in the context of the Church, we can see how our gifts complement each other's and are perfected in the exchange. Have you heard the one, 'there can be no perfect individual, but there can be a perfect team'? There is truth in that. Or as Paul puts it, "all these parts, though many, make one body." The Spirit is given in and through the Church because we need each other, and the gifts we receive are given to be shared.

So, the setting was the Church. Now pay attention to the timing. The disciples had to wait. In Acts this is very clear- the Spirit was given '50 days' after the Resurrection, hence our celebrating Pentecost today. In John, the gift comes in the evening of that first Easter Sunday. A bit quicker yes, but when you remember Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalen at the crack of dawn, it still very much involved a wait. It was too long for Thomas in any case, he had already left. So what is the lesson? Sometimes God asks us to wait. He will give in his time, not ours. So be patient. Now obviously this lesson can be applied in a lot of different ways, but there is just one practical one we might take. This may sound a bit cheeky, but could we ask ourselves, do we really need to rush off so quickly after Mass? I am very deliberate in keeping to time, avoiding long homilies or endless explanations. This means we are sometimes finished Mass in a little over 30 minutes. That isn't long. Now I hope I have not given the impression that I am rushing, or that I cut things short because what we do is unimportant, because my intention is exactly the opposite. I avoid dragging things out so that you won't feel the temptation to look at your watch. I limit my words to leave you more time and space to tune in to God's word whispered in your heart. So please don't rush. Patiently wait on the Spirit. Spend a little time in quiet prayer after Mass, and before you exit the gates spend time with each other too. If you don't see any of your friends, make new ones. After all, God has made us for each other, and our gifts are meant to be shared. Give God the time, and don't rush him. His best gifts are yet to come.

Parish Contact Details:

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Office Hrs: Tues, Thurs and Fri 10:30 -2:30

Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

Parish Office:

Glenda Klabbers & Mary Kennedy

Child Protection Officers:

Damian and Karen Kelly

Child Safe Church

Here in the Parish of Holy Family North East Mallee we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

RECENT DEATHS+

Cathie Bowen
Mavis Jones

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Leslie Woodburn, George Scott, Maurie Coughlan
John McLoughlan, Herbert Roberts, John Wise
Charlie Ficarra, Noel & Aileen Rogers, Wayne
Cameron, Raphael Mollo, Kevin Byrne, Bill Kelly,
Pat Willson, Debra Nolen, Martin & Peter Ryan,
Hugh Woodburn, Cornelius Ryan, John O'Bree,
Annie Coughlan, John Joseph O'Loughlin,
Lorna Graves, Haydee Phyland, Renata Corbani

SICK LIST

Pat Croft, Yvonne Richardson, Paul Donohue,
Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott,
Jarrod Crimmins, Michael Bourke, Jack Donohue,
Jude Lewis, Susan, Yvonne Annan,
Bridget Phyland, Carmel Ryan,

THIS WEEKEND 18TH/19TH MAY

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Culgoa
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Monday 5:30pm Mass (Mary Mother of the Church)
Tuesday 10.30am Funeral Prayers for Cathie Bowen
Tuesday: 5.30pm Mass
Wednesday: 10am Mass
Thurs: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass, Adoration
Friday: 11.30am Mass
1pm Funeral Prayers Mavis Jones
Saturday 10am Mass

NEXT WEEKEND 25TH/26TH MAY

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill
With special celebration for Flores de Mayo

NOTICES



50 YEARS OF SERVICE

This Sunday 19th May at the conclusion of 10:30am Mass, Mrs Yvonne Richardson will be presented with her St Vincent de Paul Society 50-year service badge by the State President of SVDP, Mr Michael Quinn.

Following Mass, morning tea will be provided in the Parish Function Centre where Mr Quinn will be a guest speaker. All parishioners are most welcome to attend. *Brian Richardson, President, Swan Hill SVDP*



FLORES DE MAYO: NEXT SUNDAY 26TH MAY

The day is almost here! We look forward to our special celebration of Flores de Mayo next Sunday 26th May, with a traditional procession and some special snacks to follow.

If you will like to help, the Church will be decorated after the 6pm Mass on Saturday 25th May. Any flowers would be most appreciated.

SEMINARY ENQUIRY DAY

Pentecost Sunday is the annual occasion for our regional Seminary Corpus Christi College to hold its enquiry day for young men considering a vocation to the priesthood. Please keep these men in your prayers, and indeed all our seminarians and the staff in charge of their formation.

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake

Principal: Kate Nunn
47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake
Ph: 03 5070 1272

Principal@smsealake.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin
2 Murlong St Swan Hill
Ph. 03 5033 2541

principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au



AN INVITATION

FEAST OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

St Michael's Church Wycheproof is hosting a special celebration for the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patron of Australia, this coming Friday 24th May. Mass will be at 10am, followed by a guest speaker, the Rosary and finishing with some light refreshments. All welcome. Contact Deb Mathieson for more details: 0409215748

ANNUAL MASS COUNTS

Our Annual Mass Counts continues this weekend and for all the weekend Masses and Lay Lead Liturgies throughout May.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

In what ways was the Pentecost experience, 50 days after Easter, the 'right time' for the disciples?

What emotions may the disciples have felt on that day?

How would you have reacted if you were in the disciples' place?

What is the relationship between Jesus and the Holy Spirit?

Where in your life could you use the guidance and strength of the Spirit?

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-34. 39-40

Second Reading: Romans 8:14-17

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20



BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL

The season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is to we know that after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world.

In the context of the feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun: "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and sends them to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' act of breathing the Holy Spirit upon the apostles mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "spirit" can also be translated as "breath." This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiveness of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

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FIRST READING Acts of the Apostles 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. ALL: Thanks be to God.

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

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

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.

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.

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 Corinthians 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.

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. ALL: Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE

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 man will stay;
All his good is 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.