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PENTECOST SUNDAY - YR A

**30TH & 31ST MAY,
2020**

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

Pentecost celebrates the fullness of the Spirit and the great gathering of nations. It brings the Easter season to its conclusion. The Risen Lord has been exalted to his rightful place next to God and he has sent his Spirit to fill the earth with God's power. The world is charged with divine energy; it needs but a spark to ignite it with life and with excitement. This vitality explodes into the extraordinary. Tongues are loosed and speech overflows its linguistic constraints; charismatic gifts flood the valleys of human habitation; barred doors are burst open and frightened hearts are calmed. The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world.



Once again we gather together for one reason, only to discover that God has gathered us for another. Through the Spirit of God, we are reconciled to each other and then together we spend ourselves for the common good. Through the Spirit of God the world is renewed, the community is revitalised, and we come to know the mysterious yet all pervasive peace of Christ.

The Spirit has been poured forth and works wonders wherever human hearts are open to its promptings. The earth is renewed each time rivalries are resolved, distinctions are recognised as merely expressions of diversity, peace is restored, comfort and solace are offered, and forgiveness is granted. We are immersed in the vigour of the Spirit of God. All we have to do is open ourselves to it and the reign of God will be born in our midst.

Living the Gospel – Come, Holy Spirit

'Come, Holy Spirit', or its Latin, 'Veni Sancte Spiritus', has become the basis of countless prayers and hymns over many hundreds of years. To this day, it remains a powerful invocation that can be used in prayer or meditation. Three simple words convey a wealth of meaning. The invitation for the Spirit to 'Come' indicates recognition of the need for the Spirit's intervention and openness to accept the guidance that the Spirit brings. It is a powerful, simple prayer that can be used at the outset of any significant undertaking or whenever you find yourself in need of inspiration.

Greg Sunter

WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MASSES

**Masses & Adoration
have been suspended
until further notice.**

**Fr Christopher is privately
celebrating Mass each day
and will continue to pray
for all parishioners.**

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

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PARISH TEAM:

Fr Christopher Antwi-Boasiako -
Parish Priest

Christopher.Antwi-Boasiako@parracatholic.org
Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers
- owen.rogers7@bigpond.com

Mrs Marie Cottee - Parish Secretary
- mc@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support
- sw@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament
Support

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary - ph 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College - ph 4777 0900
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

The Living Word

Pentecost Sunday

31st May 2020

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.'

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.

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.

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.

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

Jn 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.'



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REFLECTION *by Fr Michael Tate*

The Bush Fire of Pentecost

As summer progresses in Australia, invariably great bushfires break out. Those who report the infernos speak not only of the flames, but often of a mighty roar like a great windstorm heralding the approaching fire.

The earth had quaked at the death of Jesus, but death had been conquered and the earth was supercharged with divine energy and vitality. Into all this the Risen Lord sent his Holy Spirit like a lightning strike. Divine energy was unleashed and St Luke portrays this particular event in our bushfire terms. The Holy Spirit, he says, was 'like tongues of fire' and 'like the sound of a mighty wind' accompanying the descent of the Holy Spirit on a gathering of a fearful group of followers of Our Lord.

The tangled undergrowth of fear, anxiety and timidity was cleared away. The new life of the church was germinated, took root and has been growing ever since, listening to the core message preached by St Peter: Jesus of Nazareth had conquered death and Peter and others were witnesses to the Risen Lord.

We could pause for a moment to pray for the successor of St Peter that he may preach the resurrection in a way which is understandable by people of every culture, every ethnicity, every language group around the world.



Historical Context – Pentecost

The word Pentecost comes from the Greek for fiftieth day. Pentecost Sunday ends the season of Easter and comes as a Sabbath day after seven weeks of seven days. In Jewish tradition the 50th day after the Passover was celebrated as a blessing of the harvest and rather than the unleavened bread of Passover it was celebrated by leavening the bread. It was for this reason that the disciples were gathered together when they experienced the Holy Spirit empowering them. In Christian tradition, Pentecost is celebrated as the arrival of the Spirit, promised by Jesus, that animated the disciples to spread the gospel of Jesus and gather believers to form what would eventually become the Church.

Greg Sunter

Have you thought? The Spirit

We can sometimes regard Pentecost as the day the Holy Spirit came into the world. However, the Spirit had long been active in the world before this event. In fact, even the second verse of Genesis Chapter 1 tells us that the Spirit hovered over the waters. The Old Testament is filled with references in which 'The Spirit of God came upon (him) with power' and the Spirit was evident at Jesus' baptism and throughout the gospels. Jesus is frequently described as being 'filled with the Spirit'. So, from the very beginning of creation the Spirit has moved in the world and continues to energise it today.

Greg Sunter

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May

For Deacons



We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.



REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * 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?

Questions for Adults

- * What was different about Jesus breathing the Spirit on the disciples and the Pentecost experience?
- * What was significant about the disciples being heard to speak in many different languages?
- * Why might Pentecost sometimes be regarded as the birth of the Church?
- * Have you ever had an experience of being aware of the Spirit's presence/action?
- * Where in your life could you use the guidance and strength of the Spirit?

This is an opportunity for parents to discuss today's Gospel with your children. The following questions and worksheet are a beginning point to assist with the discussion.

- * Today we celebrate the coming of the Spirit.
- * Who do you know who is a Spirit-filled person?
- * What sort of things show that a person is Spirit-filled?
- * Let us ask the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts so that we may be Spirit filled.

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I can show love by _____

 _____ because I am filled with the Holy Spirit.



I can be a peacemaker by _____

 _____ because I am filled with the Holy Spirit.



I can show joy by _____

 _____ because I am filled with the Holy Spirit.

Draw a picture of someone you know who is filled with the Holy Spirit - it could even be yourself!



Each person was able to hear the message of the Gospel in their own language. See if you can decipher the language below to read the special message.

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| ⌢ = A | ± = H | * = R |
| ⏏ = D | π = I | ≡ = S |
| ▷ = E | ∪ = L | ⊖ = T |
| ∩ = F | ⊂ = N | > = U |
| ∞ = G | ∅ = O | ⚡ = W |

⊖ ∅ ⏏ ± ∩ ≡ ⏏ ∅ ⊂ ▷

⚡ ∅ ⊂ ⏏ ▷ * ∩ > ∅ ⊖ ± π ⊂ ∞ ≡ !

Current Arrangements for Masses

So as we can follow the rules set by the government Fr Chris will be personally calling parishioners to personally invite them to specific Masses.

This may be a weekday Mass **OR** a weekend Mass.

All parishioners will have the opportunity to attend.

If you have not filled out a Census Form in the last 12 months please email your contact details to the Parish Office so that you can be included on the list.

To help clergy and parishes manage the new legislative requirements, the Archdiocese of Sydney have provided a booking system - MassRegister.com.au - to help parishes collect the contact details of parishioners who visit our churches for prayer, confession and Mass. (This site is currently experiencing technical issues, but should be online shortly.)

Pastoral Support

During this challenging time of isolation many are struggling to cope. If you are in need of pastoral support or care please contact Fr Chris on 0415 505 594.

Parish Office Hours

During this time of church closure the Parish Office will remain open. You are welcome to telephone or email. At this stage, our operating hours have not been formalised, so please leave a message if we don't answer the phone and we'll get back to you. In the case of an emergency please contact Fr Chris on his mobile, 0415 505 594.

Corpus Christi Facebook Page

Our parish Facebook page continues to be updated with relevant information at:

www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiParishCranebrook

Recommencement of Church Cleaning Roster

As the Church is now being used the Church Cleaning Roster is up and running.

A new roster has been prepared and distributed.

If you have not received your copy of the roster please contact the parish office by email.

**We, the people of Corpus Christi,
seek to grow in living
a Christ-centred mission,
sharing our gifts to foster welcome,
justice and community in today's world.**

**Thank You dear parishioners for your
ongoing financial support to the parish.
Your generosity is helping with the ongoing
running expenses of our parish.**

Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer:

Mass Intentions:

James Vella (02/05), Maryann Azzopardi (14/05/16), Kevin McCormack (04/05/19)

Recently Deceased:

Susan Foster (mother of Jane Fonmanu, 10/05/), Margaret Vella (11/05), Barry (grandfather of Brittany Vella, 28/04).

If any parishioner would like Fr Chris to offer Mass for someone who is recently deceased, a loved one's anniversary or if someone is sick, please email the Parish Office. We can also include the person in The Net so everyone can pray for them.



PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE WHO ARE STREAMING MASS

| PARISH | LOCATION | LINK TO LIVESTREAM |
|------------------------|----------------------|--|
| PADRE PIO PARISH | Glenmore Park Parish | Streaming through Facebook – https://www.facebook.com/gsk2223 |
| ST JOSEPHS CHURCH | Kingswood Parish | Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIjip15JI6H8TrHkEB6lSdw/featured |
| ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE | Marayong Parish | Streaming through Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/ |
| ST MARGARET MARYS | Merrylands Parish | Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6FezbQbHtuMSyWUSnaAcA |
| ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA | Penrith Parish | Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/SNOMPenrith/ |
| THE GOOD SHEPHERD | Plumpton Parish | Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/ https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/videos/163690304720839/ |
| OUR LADY OF LOURDES | Seven Hills Parish | Streamed Mass over weekend to Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/videos/206449013914284/ |
| OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY | St Marys Parish | Streamed to Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OLRparishstmarys/ |

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.

*Since I cannot at this moment, receive you sacramentally,
please come spiritually into my heart.*

I embrace you now as if you were already there and I unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen



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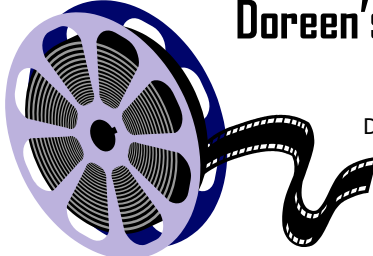
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Solutions

Pentecost Sunday, Year A

Each person was able to hear the message of the Gospel in their own language. See if you can decipher the language below to read the special message.

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| ⊖ = A | ± = H | * = R |
| ⋈ = D | ∩ = I | ≡ = S |
| △ = E | ∪ = L | ⊖ = T |
| ∩ = F | ⊖ = N | ∩ = U |
| ⊖ = G | ⊖ = O | ⚡ = W |

GOD HAS DONE
 ⊖ ⊖ ⋈ ± ⊖ ≡ ⋈ ⊖ ⊖ △

WONDERFUL THINGS!
 ⚡ ⊖ ⊖ ⋈ * ∩ ∩ ⊖ ⊖ ± ∩ ⊖ ⊖ ≡