



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

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PENTECOST SUNDAY YEAR A

27 & 28 MAY 2023

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Parish Priest & Mission Leader

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Priests in Residence

Fr Joseph Hieu Xuan Nguyen CSsR

Fr Patrick Corbett CSsR

Parish Secretary

Mary-Lucy Atonio PH: 9366 1310

Parish School Principal

Michael Bonnici PH: 8312 0900

Filipino Chaplain

Fr Joselito Asis

South Sudanese Chaplain

Deacon George B.P. Meat

MASS TIMES

- ♦ **Tues-Fri:** 9:00am
- ♦ **Saturday:** 5:00pm
6.30pm Vietnamese
- ♦ **Sunday:** 8:45am, 10:00am,
6:00pm
12:00pm Vietnamese

Other Masses

- 1st & 2nd Sun. Sudanese Mass 3pm
- 3rd Sun Samoan Mass - 2.00pm
- 4th Sun Filipino Mass - 3.00pm

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all the Children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 26th May 2023, Mass was celebrated by Bishop Martin Ashe, Auxiliary Bishop to the Western Region. Special thanks to the Parish Priest Fr. Vincent Long Pham, Holy Eucharist Principal and staff, the RE Coordinator Vanessa Shaw and the Brothers of Preca Community not forgetting the parents in preparing the children to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. May the Holy Spirit bless you all with wisdom and strength always to live God's holy way.

THE LIVING WORD

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak

When Pentecost day came round, they 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 (104):1,24,29-31,34

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.

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

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.

Lord, send out your Spirit, and 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.

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

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13

In the one Spirit we were all baptised

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.

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

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

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

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 wrong-doing 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, 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.

By Sister Veronica Lawson rsm



Artist Paul Nash Giltner from www.gnpi.org

WE ARE WINDOWS TO GOD'S LOVE

The discipline of community makes us persons; that is, people who are sounding through to each other (the Latin *personare* means "sounding through") a truth, a beauty, and a love that is greater, fuller, and richer than we ourselves can grasp. In true community we are windows constantly offering each other new views on the mystery of God's presence in our lives. Thus the discipline of com-

munity is a true discipline of prayer. It makes us alert to the presence of the Spirit who cries out “Abba,” Father, among us and thus prays from the center of our common life. Community thus is obedience practiced together. The question is not simply “Where does God lead me as an individual person who tried to do his will?” More basic and more significant is the question “Where does God lead us as a people?”

By Henri J. M. Nouwen

LET THE SPIRIT HELP US TO PRAY AND LIVE AS WE SHOULD

We prayed the Holy Rosary frequently while growing up in my family. I never really understood then why we began the Rosary prayers with the following invocation to the Holy Spirit:

“Come, Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of the faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.”

Why invoke the Holy Spirit to help us to pray prayers that we had already memorized? I mean, many of us could recite the Rosary prayers and mysteries half-asleep! Was the Holy Spirit being invoked to help us keep awake during the praying of the Rosary?

I found the answer much later in life when I came across this hope-filled passage, *“The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.”* (Rom 8:26)

Without the aid of the Holy Spirit, we cannot pray as we should. Our prayers are much more than the rituals we perform, the prayers we memorize, or the daily devotionals we do. It is more than attending the Novus Ordo or the Traditional Latin Mass. All these, essential as they all are, must also be avenues where the Spirit prays in us and through us. On our own, without the aid of the Spirit inspiring and sustaining our prayers, our prayers are useless.

How does the Spirit help us to pray as we should?

Firstly, the Holy Spirit leads us to pray to God as our loving Father. In the words of St. Paul, **“The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”** (Rom 5:5)

When the Spirit inspires our prayer, we pray to God primarily out of love for Him as His beloved children. Our prayer is primarily relational and not primarily to get Him to do things for us. We express our love and confidence in Him through our prayers. We speak to Him from our hearts without fear of being ignored or rejected. We do not try to hide anything from Him.

Spirit-guided prayer does not have room for worry and anxiety because we know that God will provide for all our needs. We are aware of His abiding presence with us all the time. We can also accept God’s silence when we pray because we know that He always hears us even if He does not give us what we expect from Him.

The Spirit inspires in us an unconditional love for God. We come to Him in our sinfulness and brokenness and not hide from Him in shame like our First Parents Adam and Eve. We are not afraid of failures or making mistakes in His service because we do not see Him as a taskmaster but a loving Father.

Secondly, the Holy Spirit brings us to submit to Jesus as the Lord of our lives. In the words of St. Paul, “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.” (1Cor 12:3)

When we allow the Spirit to guide our prayers, we begin to surrender to Jesus and to follow in His footsteps. We listen attentively to His will because we want to keep His commandments out of love for Him, “Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments.’” (Jn 14:15) This firm resolve to do the will of God at all cost is a sure sign that His Spirit is alive and praying in us.

Spirit-inspired prayer is not sentimental, focused on our feelings and desires only. It is not a prayer that is focused on our consciousness or spiritual insights. On the contrary, we begin to seek for the will of God no matter how we may be feeling about it. We want to do the will of God with His grace and for His own sake alone.

The Spirit also prays in us in a way that we also begin to follow Jesus in His suffering and pains. We begin to do and endure all things out of love for Him, “For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps.” (1Pet 2:21) Such prayer helps us to face and overcome our fear of suffering.

Thirdly, our prayer makes us more docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, “The Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” (Rom 8:27)

When the Spirit prays in us, we begin to sense the will of God for us and those that we are interceding for. We are not blinded by our desires or the needs of others. We can pray and accept whatever God gives us because we see His will for us in all things. We do not give up on prayer or doubt its efficacy because our prayers have not been answered the way that we want.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, if we do not pray as we should, we cannot live as we should. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray as we

should so that there is a life-giving harmony between our prayers and our daily life. Without this help of the Spirit, we can pray well and even fervently and still be mediocre in our spiritual lives, lacking true freedom that the Spirit alone brings. This is why scandals and hypocrisy abound when the Spirit is not present and active.

This is why Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the “Spirit of truth whom the world cannot accept.” There is nothing in the world that can sustain us in life-transforming prayer if we are devoid of the Spirit or resisting His actions in our lives. We must first pray in the truth that God is our Loving Father, Jesus is our sovereign Lord, and the Holy Spirit is our guide in all our choices.

Let us first remove the obstacles to the Spirit’s actions in our lives. The most important obstacles to His action are unrepented sins, lies, and that self-sufficient attitude that pretends we can pray on our own without the aid of the Spirit. Then let us fervently invoke the Spirit in our prayers and we will begin to pray as we should and also live as we should.

Fr. Nnamdi Moneme, OMV



St Vincent DePaul Winter Appeal
St Albans Conference will be at the doors of our Church next weekend in all Masses, **Saturday 3rd June & Sunday 4th June 2023**. Your generosity will provide shelter, food, clothing and long-term support to the people in crisis - and help rebuild their lives.
Thank You

CLEANING ROSTER

Week starting 31 May 2023
Group 5 - Xuan Dung Huynh, Phuong Ung, Margaret Bajada, Tran Thi Kim Hao, Hong Thuy Tran & Nguyen Thanh Tao

**READERS/COMMENTATOR/
COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC
MINISTERS**

Tues 9:00 AM, 30-05-23
Reader Xuan Duong
Eucharistic Min. Monica Lomen
Wed 9:00 AM, 31-05-23
Reader Carmen Camilleri
Eucharistic Min. Carmen Carmilleri
Thurs 9:00 AM, 01-06-23
Reader: HEP School
Eucharistic HEP School
Fri 9:00 AM, 02-06-23
Reader Helen Maddela
Eucharistic Min. Catherine Bartolo
Sat 5.00 PM, 03-06-23
Lit. Coordinator: Reno Attard
Commentator: Violeta Montoro
Readers: Ed Cabla
Jinky Monteros
Eucharistic Min. Carmen Camilleri
Wendy Forbes-Perera
Reno Attard
Sun 8.45 AM, 04-06-23
Lit. Coordinator: Monica Lomen
Commentator Shirley Krizmanic
Readers: Mini Eddy
Salve Nidea
Eucharistic Min: Helen Maddela
Shirley Krizmanic
Monica Lomen
Sun 10:00AM, 04-06-23
Lit. Coordinator: Rita Martin
Commentator: Christina Afano
Reader: Samoan Choir
Samoan Choir
Eucharistic Min. Rita Martin
Taoete Afano
Br. Noel Debono
Sun 6.00PM, 04-06-23
Lit. Coordinator Rod Lalunio
Commentator Larnie Mendoza
Reader Lani Laririt
Xuan Duong
Eucharistic Min. Lani Laririt
Xuan Duong
Rod Lalunio

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 3 June 2023
♦ 5pm – Fernandez Family
Sunday 4 June 2023
♦ 8.45am - Charlie Schembri
♦ 10.00am - Samoan Choir
♦ 6pm - Exxemos family & friends

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick
Nguyen Thi San, Diana Moules, Magen Hallorina, James Floros, Pam Norris, Alfred & Pauline Storace, Ar-nord Fernandez, Toni Antonowicz, Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Jessie Spiteri, Stella Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.
Recently Deceased
Joe Bartolo, Grazzio Lia
Death Anniversaries
Mary Ann Grima(9th), Maria Anthony Bartolo, Joseph & Connie Agius, Joseph Formosa, Joseph, Frank & John Xerri, Tran Thi Huong, Cornelio Maddela, Grazzio (Horace) Camilleri, Joseph & Franc Xiberras, Reno Cauchi, Mac-co Ngo Van Thinh, Lucia Huynh Thi Kim Hue, Phero Ngo Minh Truong, Maria Huynh Thi Thanh Kieu, Phero Le Nghia, Matta Le Thi Linh, Phero Le Quang Tuan, Theresa Nguyen Ngoc Giang Thu, Dominico Le Ngoc Son, Mary Camilleri, Richard Cummi, Iro & Jessie Vella, Angela Chircop, Peter Disco, Wayne Camilleri, Bartolo family, Brincat & Galea family, Maria Vu Thi Yeu Thuong, Duong Family, Do Family, Vincent Duong Kham Su, Michael Alphonsus Schiller, Mollie Rice (Marie), Raymond Abela and All Souls

SAFETY FOR ALL

Holy Eucharist Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Holy Eucharist parish respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we reside and worship.

VOCATION VIEW

“There are different gifts, but the same Spirit.” Each of us has been graced with certain gifts of the Spirit. And they are active, if we utilise them for the building up of the Church. Name the way the Lord has gifted you.

All information used in accordance with the terms of our privacy policy.