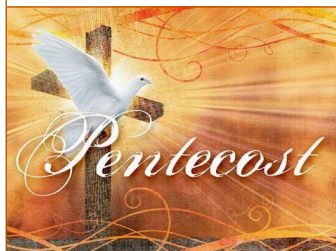


SUNDAY MAY 19 2024
PENTECOST SUNDAY
YEAR B



Entrance Antiphon

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

Responsorial Psalm

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

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

Second Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel Acclamation

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

Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-23

Communion Antiphon

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
YEAR B

First: Deut 4:32-34. 39-40
Resp Ps: Ps 32:4-6. 9. 18-20.
22. R. v.12

Second: Romans 8:14-17
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Recently I considered buying a Bose 'sound wave' speaker system. For a small box it gave the best sound reproduction I have ever heard. In comparison to the hi-fi I presently have, its bass notes are strong and true, which gives the music a sense of presence, a foundation upon which the treble rises and falls as the music dictates. This machine allows an exceptional clarity to the sound, so that the composer's work can be properly heard.

In the Acts of the Apostles today we are told that the crowd who heard the earliest disciples of Jesus understood them in his or her own language. Now that's clarity! It wasn't so much the gift of tongues the earliest disciples received as much as their hearers received the gift of ears, of listening.

When it comes to listening in the Church today, some people mistake mono for stereo, uniformity for unity. At the first Pentecost, the earliest Christians had no such difficulty; they knew that speaking the same language was not as important as was careful listening to one another.

The early Church was a very complex and diverse community. Like today they had their struggles with one another. Within a few years of the first Pentecost, there were fights between Peter and Paul over Jewish and Gentile converts. There were people who died for the faith and others who betrayed them to the authorities. Some Christians thought they were for Paul or Apollos rather than for Jesus, and still others thought the end of the world was nigh. Through it all, however, the bass notes played: the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Second Vatican Council helped us recover the most ancient tradition in our faith, that in various, unexpected and inculturated ways the Word of God has been present in all peoples, in every culture. We now hold that whenever the Gospel has been proclaimed in a new land, it compliments the best in that culture as well as correcting aspects of any culture which oppress, demean and diminish the women and men within it.

In this process, what is born between Christ and an individual culture is an inculturated faith, which takes as seriously as the early Church did the context in which our faith is proclaimed and lived.

Pentecost faith holds that while we build our faith on that of all the believers who have gone before us, we have the responsibility to listen to our contemporary culture and put it into conversation with the Gospel. That's why courage is one of the Holy Spirit's pre-eminent gifts. We are not allowed to retreat from the world but are sent out to enter into conversation with it, and hear in this dialogue the symphony God is composing here and now between the treble of our daily life over the continuing bass line of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

Let's pray that this Pentecost Eucharist hones our ears as well as prepares our tongues to clearly receive and proclaim the Gospel of Christ in the market places of our own day and age. *by Richard Leonard*

Our Parish Pastoral Council

are releasing our new parish pastoral plan this weekend. The plan was developed in consultation with parishioners at our annual parish meeting last november with reflection on our past Pastoral plan and the Diocesan plan "A vision for parishes". During the coming months our different ministries will be invited to reflect on the plan and engage with the strategies that will be developed to help implement our plan. Stop after Mass and say hello to our Pastoral Council members.

Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday at 12 noon	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		



Contact us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr “Jill” Girdle Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm

Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176

Email: varroville@dow.org.au

Website: varroville.dow.org.au

Meetings and Gatherings

Friendship Group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 9am.

Readers Ministry Meeting meets on the last Tuesday of every 2 months at 7.30pm via zoom.

Holy Family Fellowship meets on the 4th Saturday at 7pm.

Book Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am.

Fundraising Team meeting is on Wednesday 29 May at 7.30pm.

Faith Circles meets every Monday via zoom at 2pm & 7.30pm.

Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.

Children’s Choir will meet on 3rd Friday at 7.30pm.

Childrens Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm.

Youth Ministry is on fire for faith, friendship and specially for God! All 13-17 years old are invited to join every fortnight on the 2nd & 4th Friday of every month at 6:30 pm.

Save the date: **Parish Fiesta** July 14

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Matthew Johnson, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda and John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart.
May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Gerry Antilla, Emeritus Bishop Peter Ingham, Jaya Jones.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ivan Srebrenovic, Nelia and Antonio De Azevedo,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

26 May 2024	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Myra, Paul & Lori	Gabriel & Ofa	Geoff & Margaret
Altar Servers	Berna, Ralph & Kenneth	Orly, Claire & Fisilose	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Suzanne M & Margaret	Tess & Aida	Sheenalyn & Leah
Refreshments	Beatrix & Volunteer	Maria, Jeanne & Jessica	Leah & Patricia
Altar Linen		CLOTW: Rebecca & Lee	
Flowers	Lorraine & Effie	Church Vacuuming	Vergara Family
Counters	Louise & Lina	Foyer Cleaning	Suzanne & Beatrix

Our Parish Notices:

Community Notices

Parish Rosters are being prepared at the moment and will be distributed when they are complete. There is a desperate need for more people to volunteer to help with church and foyer cleaning. If you can help with vacuuming and cleaning for an hour once a month, contact the parish office asap.

Our new parish youth group has an official name! To all aged 12-17, come along to ASCENT YG on Friday 24 May at 6.30pm for another night of food, fun & faith in the parish hall as we #arisetothetowardsheaven. Follow us on Instagram @ascentyouthgroup and contact Julie for more info at 0432874282.

Property Committee Update: Our plans for renovation have stalled and we are presently accepting tenders from interested builders who can undertake our foyer renovation project. The prospectus can be obtained by contacting the parish office.

Working Bee will be held on Saturday 22 June for gardening, general maintenance and Fiesta preparation.

Called and gifted workshop on Saturday May 25 from 9am—2pm. For all parishioners—volunteers and those who are discerning their God-given gifts, it's now time to discover and uncover the power of what God has given you for strengthening of faith and of your service to others. May the Spirit of God ignite us more and more for his glory and for his Church. Please register at the parish office.

ALPHA Meeting on Wednesday 29 May at 7.30pm for all past participants who are able to support the ALPHA program this year.

Fundraising news: Our major raffle tickets are available from the foyer after all masses. Please take a book home and sell to family and friends.

The draw will take place at our Fiesta on 14 July 2024.

Save the date: "Dress to Impress" Gala Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday 29 June from 7pm. Bookings will be essential and tickets will be available in June.

Fiesta update: The preparations for our Fiesta on 14 July have begun. For information about how to get involved please call the parish office or check our parish website. **The next meeting will be held on Monday 20 May at 7.30pm.**

Marriage Encounter Weekend 28 – 30 June 2024 at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Book online at www.wvme.org.au or contact 0490 774 419.

Corpus Christi Procession: Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Demetrius Rd, Rosemeadow will be hosting the Corpus Christi Procession in honour of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 2 June 2024 at 2.30pm. It will include Scripture readings, Rosary, Procession and Benediction. All are most welcome to join us in prayer and witness to our Eucharistic Lord among us.

Corpus Christi – Young Adults (18 - 35 years) This year the Parish will be trying a new initiative of offering young adults a Retreat Morning on the day. It will involve catechesis on the history and Church teaching about the Holy Eucharist and the Real Presence of Jesus. There will also be a social aspect of bringing together young adult Catholics to celebrate their faith and belief. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Commencing at 10.00am the day will conclude with the Corpus Christi Procession at 2.30pm. Enquiries, phone Elise on 0449 991 716. For catering purposes please register at <https://www.trybooking.com/CRSFQ>

menALIVE MAX national Conference – Varroville 19 - 21 July

Many men have benefited from the challenges, encouragement and faithful brotherhood that comes from menALIVE. Here's a chance for men from all round Australia to come together- be renewed in faith for action, for good - and it is happening in our Diocese- so don't miss this. It's time to book you spot and stoke the desire to become fully alive as the men we have been created to be. For more information and to book go to <https://menalive.org.au/events/max-weekend-2024> or contact jude.hennessy@dow.org.au or Mob: 0408 236 191

The Journey, Podcast this Week: Fr Joshua Whitehead says that Pentecost points us to the reality that faith can be extraordinarily experiential. Mother Hilda says that our God has a broken heart. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Pete Gilmore, and Deacon Josh Clayton. The podcast is at www.jcr.org.au.

Want your community to grow? Try Faith Circles Faith Circles is a weekly resource to help individuals but mainly small groups to come together in Parishes. In doing so it assists in the development of faith and community, a strong desire expressed in our Diocesan feedback from the National Church Life Survey. The weekly Faith Circles resource is available for free to download. It is easy to use with simple questions and prayer points. It is available to download at www.dow.org.au/media-resources/faith-circles/ or have it sent to you each month via email subscription.

A vocation view Pentecost Sunday Peter and the Apostles preach with a power and conviction that can only be attributed to the Spirit dwelling among them. Is God calling you to speak for Him in our day and age? (Acts 2:1-11). If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au.

Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese; Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at dow.sh/stayingconnected or visit dow.sh/weeklybulletin.

SAVE THE DATE



Sunday , 14th July 2024

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

FEAST DAY

From 10 am onwards



Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-23

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.'

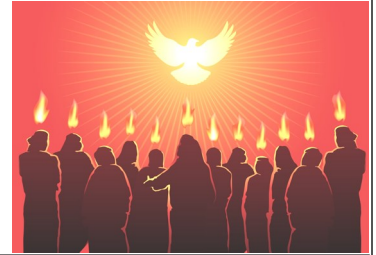
After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'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.



SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Jewish feast of Weeks, also called Pentecost because it was celebrated seven weeks after Unleavened Bread, was a major pilgrim festival. This explains why devout Jews from every nation were in Jerusalem at this time. The external manifestations that accompanied the outpouring of the Spirit were all phenomena associated with a theophany, an experience of God. They were audible and visible while the actual outpouring of the Spirit was not. However, as those in the room were filled with the Spirit, they began to speak in other languages, a feat that could only have some supernatural origin. The exact nature of this is less significant than is its meaning. It was clearly a manifestation of the universal presence and power of the Spirit.

The psalm depicts God as the creator and sustainer of all life, robed in majesty and glory, wrapped around with radiant light. The splendour that the psalmist beholds is an indication of God's presence. In other words, God is perceived through the glories of creation. The natural world is not only marvellous in its appearance, it is diverse in its manifestations as well. God is also extolled as the one who cares for all living things. The act of creation and power of the creator are perceived in the constant renewal of life that unfolds before our eyes. Finally, the claims that the spirit of the Lord can bring about a new creation. This is reason enough to bless the Lord.

In his letter to the Corinthians (1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13), Paul makes a bold statement when he declares: 'Jesus is Lord!' Lord (*kýrios*) was the official title of the Roman emperor. With this statement, Paul sets up a rivalry between the followers of Jesus and the ruling political authority. In the Septuagint, the word 'Lord' is a substitute for God's personal name. To use it for Jesus, is to ascribe divine attributes to him. Paul next expounds on the varieties of functions within the Christian community. He insists that all come from the Spirit and were given for the benefit of the entire community. He compares the diversity found within the community with the complexity of the human body. Each part has its own unique function, but all parts work for the good of the whole.

In Gal 5:16-25, Paul insists that Christians must decide between following the desires of the flesh (everything that pertains to physical existence or life in this world) and following those of the spirit (the noble aspects of human life). Paul recognises that choosing the way of the spirit over the way of the flesh is a life-long process. For him, a spiritual life is a life lived in the Spirit of God, and the fruits of such a life are the fruits of the Spirit. Before the coming of Jesus the law pointed the way to righteous living. Now, those guided by the Spirit have no need of the law's directions. Paul exhorts the Galatians to follow this Spirit.

In John's gospel, 20:19-23, the bestowal of the Spirit occurred on the same day as the resurrection. It is clear that the entire reckoning of time has been altered. The first day of the week suggests that the focus of the believers is on the beginning, on the future. The wish of peace, a prayer for eschatological blessings, proclaims the arrival of the time of fulfilment. Jesus breathes the Spirit on them, just as God breathed life into Adam. The disciples are commissioned to go forth, to declare salvation and judgment, to 'bind and loose (or forgive)'. They are to exercise the authority of Jesus. With the bestowal of the Spirit, the disciples are authorised to continue the mission of Jesus.

It is only in the Fourth Gospel, John 15:26-27; 16:12-15, that the Holy Spirit is called the Advocate or Paraclete. The Advocate proceeds from the Father. Although the Father is the source from whom the Advocate proceeds, it is Jesus who does the sending. The Advocate then bears witness to Jesus. The basic outlines of Trinitarian theology have been drawn: the Father is the divine source; the Son shares in what the Father has; and the Spirit reveals the mysteries of the Father and the Son. The disciples failed to comprehend much of what Jesus revealed to them. It will be the role of the Spirit of Truth to glorify Jesus and to lead the disciples to ever deeper understanding of and further insight into Jesus' revelation.