

## 'THE HOLY SPIRIT & PRAYER, COMPLIANCE & LOVE'

Pentecost Sunday – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

We begin today in unity with other parishes in praying for vocations.  
The Archdiocese has forwarded a prayer for today.  
Let us pray.

*Loving God,  
With one voice we lift up our hearts  
to thank you today  
for our lives, our vocation and all your gifts to us.  
Inspire us all to know and live our vocation.*

*Give courage to young people,  
to listen and follow the call,  
to serve you in the Archdiocese  
as your priests, religious and lay ministers.  
Bless us, your family of Brisbane.*

*Help those you call to listen  
to what your Holy Spirit is saying to us.  
Guide them to serve in your vineyard,  
that they may fulfill your holy will and make all things new.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen*

### PENTECOST SUNDAY & THE HOLY SPIRIT

This Pentecost Sunday we focus on the Holy Spirit in our lives.  
And how we listen to the Holy Spirit.

#### A PRAYER NOVENA

Yesterday afternoon, after receiving a recent request for assistance,  
I began a prayer novena of nine days, asking the Holy Spirit

- to bless a particular group of people overseas in great need,
- to bless those in the church there who have cared for them over the years and through church advocacy for their rights and dignity
- to inspire them to find a way out of the terrible darkness and into the light
- to show me in what way, God wants me to be in solidarity with them

## WE TRUST THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL SHOW US THE WAY FORWARD

We know from the infancy story in Luke's Gospel how Zechariah and Mary responded differently to God's revelation. Zechariah doubted, Mary trusted. We trust that the Holy Spirit will show us the way forward.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will lead us a step at a time. Sometimes it takes a while to understand that the Holy Spirit is prompting others in different ways to complete the fullness of our common prayer.

Our responses are but a small part of a wider vision of solidarity in the Spirit with others.

We don't pray that we are the centre of the prayer. Through the Holy Spirit, God is the very centre.

May Jesus lead us on.

We pause now to pray for the Holy Spirit to show each of us an understanding of where God is calling us now.

[pause]

## YEAR 5 - ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year Fives at Mass on Friday reflected on Pentecost and themselves.

They looked around but couldn't see any tongues of fire on anyone's head. Yet they knew the Holy Spirit could help them to help others.

They decided to write to and pray for the Year Three students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation this October.

And to pray for the Year Four students and others receiving Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time last Sunday and today.

## CHERISHING THE SACRED & THE LIGHT OF JESUS

Last Tuesday night parents of students preparing for Confirmation shared in a preparation session with one of the Bishops for this year's Confirmation.

Bishop Bill Morris led us in ways of understanding the Sacred, and in bringing the light of Jesus to others.

Members of the catechumenate (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - RCIA) and of the Tuesday Prayer Group also joined the session.

## COMPLIANCE, SAFEGUARDING, DIGNITY & LOVE

Compliance has many facets.

For example:

- Annual compliance in Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults
- Annual Compliance in Work Health and Safety
- Annual Compliance in financial practices
- The Archdiocesan Reconciliation Plan is currently before Reconciliation Australia awaiting the final form for implementation in our Archdiocese
- Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Councils have manuals to follow
- Policies and procedures to follow include Privacy and other areas

## INTERNAL & EXTERNAL AUDITS, COMPLIANCE & COVENANT

This Thursday will be an external audit of the parish in Safeguarding children.

On May 31st was our internal audit.

Yet compliance is part of a wider dimension – that of covenant.

A covenant of love, where we are called by God to love and safeguard the dignity and lives of all.

To love God and to love our neighbour.

## THE EARLY CHURCH & COMPLIANCE

Two weeks ago, in the New Testament, in the Acts of the Apostles Chapter 15 we learn about early Christian community decision-making on major issues.

We learn of the decision made about Gentile Christians and how the leaders set about compliance to that decision by writing a clear letter of instruction and by providing a small respected team to visit the local community, and explain and discuss the instruction and what it would mean in daily life.

Compliance was part of a wider covenant of faithfulness to Jesus with a change of culture and change of heart.

## SAFEGUARDING: RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Safeguarding is the Responsibility of the whole community.

On page 2 and page 4 of the parish newsletter are important notices on Safeguarding.

These will be explained at the time of notices after Communion.

As usual, parish updates are in the Parish Folder below the Safeguarding Policy near the front door of the Church.

## GOSPEL OF JOHN 14: 15-16, 23-26

Two weeks ago we read from John 14:23-29.

Today we return to John 14.

With so much to pray about, let us listen as Jesus explains our relationship to the Father and to the Holy Spirit, the Advocate.

*'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.  
And I will ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate,  
to be with you for ever.*

*Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them,  
and we will come to them and make our home with them.  
Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;  
and the word that you hear is not mine,  
but is from the Father who sent me.  
'I have said these things to you while I am still with you.  
But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,  
will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.'*

#### WE PRAY

We pray for this Thursday's audit of our community.

We pray for vocations.

We pray for over 70 children in our community who receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time last Sunday and today.

This Pentecost, let us pray to the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, to help us keep the Word of Jesus, and to guide us in the many ways the Spirit calls us.

Amen.

Fr. Gerry

[Readings:<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/060919-day.cfm>]

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