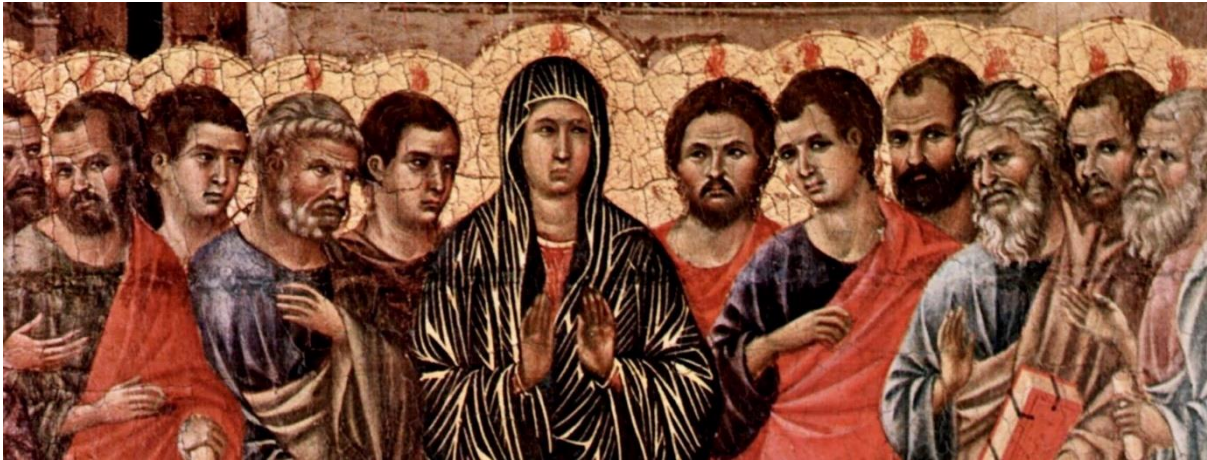


## THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CHURCH COMMUNITY

*Pentecost ~ 31 May 2020*



*Pentecost by Duccio di Buoninsegna, 1308 | public domain*

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL

As we celebrate the birth of the church at Pentecost, we proclaim how central the Holy Spirit is

- to our identity,
- to our mission in life,
- to our spirituality,
- and to our communion with God.

Happy Birthday.

And we add other commemorations, celebrations and invitations.

Our celebration of the [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#) in Australia concludes today.

Our commemoration in Australia of [National Reconciliation Week](#) concludes this Wednesday.

Our ecumenical reconciliation commemoration service in Brisbane will be livestreamed from our church on the parish Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephsbrackenridge/> at **7pm Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**.

Added to the livestreaming service will be pre-recorded reflections on the meaning of Reconciliation from

- students at [St Patrick's College Shorncliffe](#),
- students at [St John Fisher College Bracken Ridge](#), and
- four staff from [Ngutana-Lui Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Studies Centre](#)

We continue our celebration of *Laudato Si' Year* with the nine Senior Student Leaders from St John Fisher College leading us today in a pre-recorded reading of the goals of *Laudato Si' – The Earth: Our Common Home*.

Thank you to all nine leaders:

Rahema - College Captain

Abby - Bridgeman house leader

Grace - sport leader

Alisha - communications leader

Dhwani- Quinn house leader

Brigitte- cultural leader

Victoria - McAuley house leader

Sofia - Rochester house leader

Emma – the social justice leader

At the conclusion of today's homily, the reading by the student leaders we begin.

Thank you to the members of the **ROCK Group**, our parish secondary school youth group. They reflected on the Holy Spirit and prepared today's Prayers of the Faithful with an audio recording.

Greeting to our friends in the **villages of South Sudan**, in **Blackall Tambo Parish** in central Queensland, in **Burnie Wynyard Parish** and **Burnie** community in North West Tasmania and to all of you, wherever you are today, as we join together in prayerful celebration of the Eucharist. Welcome.

### [2019 PENTECOST HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS](#)

We are called to live in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit changes our lives.

Last year in his [Pentecost homily](#), Pope Francis compared the responses of the disciples before and after the Holy Spirit rested upon them.

What an incredible change!

They had been in seclusion and self-isolation for fifty days.  
A journey from uncertainty to trust.

We read the words of Pope Francis slowly.

*'Pentecost arrived, for the disciples, after fifty days of uncertainty.  
True, Jesus had risen. Overjoyed, they had seen him,  
listened to his words and even shared a meal with him.*

*Yet they had not overcome their doubts and fears:  
they met behind closed doors (cf. Jn 20:19.26),  
uncertain about the future and not ready to proclaim the risen Lord.  
Then the Holy Spirit comes and their worries disappear.  
Now the apostles show themselves fearless,  
even before those sent to arrest them.*

*Previously, they had been worried about saving their lives;  
now they are unafraid of dying.*

*Earlier, they had huddled in the Upper Room;  
now they go forth to preach to every nation.*

*Before the ascension of Jesus,  
they waited for God's kingdom to come to them (cf. Acts 1:6);  
now they are filled with zeal to travel to unknown lands.*

*Before, they had almost never spoken in public,  
and when they did, they had often blundered,  
as when Peter denied Jesus;  
now they speak with parrhesia to everyone.*

*The disciples' journey seemed to have reached the end of the line,  
when suddenly they were rejuvenated by the Spirit.  
Overwhelmed with uncertainty, when they thought everything was over,  
they were transformed by a joy that gave them a new birth.  
The Holy Spirit did this.'*

#### THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2:1-11

Pope Francis used the words **before** and **now**.

Let us listen to today's reading from the 5<sup>th</sup> Book of the New Testament – The Acts of the Apostles.

It relates how the uncertainty of the disciples **before Pentecost**,  
turned into the confidence and trust **at Pentecost now**.

*"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.  
And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind,  
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.  
Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.  
All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak  
in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.  
Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.  
And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered,  
because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.  
Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?  
And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?  
Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia,  
Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,  
Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,  
both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—  
in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' "*

We note from this sacred account that the Holy Spirit '*rested on each of them*'.

*'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak*

*in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.'*

And some of the many nations and ethnic groups of the wider region are listed. Gifted by the Holy Spirit, Pentecost is the international birth of the church community. Gifted by the Holy Spirit, Pentecost is the multicultural birth of the church community.

*But how does the Holy Spirit give us ability?*

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 12:4-13

We turn to St Paul who taught the Christian community of Corinth in Greece about the ability which the Holy Spirit gives to us.

We listen to 2 passages from Chapter 12.

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 12:4-11

*'Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;  
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;  
and there are varieties of activities,  
but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.  
To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.  
To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom,  
and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,  
to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,  
to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy,  
to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues,  
to another the interpretation of tongues.  
All these are activated by one and the same Spirit,  
who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.'*

There are a variety of gifts, of services, of activities.

And none of them are just for ourselves, for as St Paul says:

*'To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.'*

Our abilities are for the purpose of serving the common good.

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 12:12-13

The second quote from Chapter 12 explains:

*'For just as the body is one and has many members,  
and all the members of the body, though many, are one body,  
so it is with Christ.  
For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body  
—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.'*

As a community, we are one body.

All drink of the one Spirit.

This raises a few questions worth exploring during the week ahead.

## QUESTIONS WORTH EXPLORING FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

*How do I drink of the one Holy Spirit?*

*How does our local Christian community drink of the one Holy Spirit?*

*How do I serve the common good?*

*How does our local Christian community serve the common good?*

*What are the gifts, services and activities that I use for the whole body of Christ?*

*What are the gifts, services and activities that we share for the whole body of Christ?*

The Second Reading unifies us across our cultures

*“For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body*

*- Jews as well as Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”*

## GOSPEL OF JOHN 20:19-13

Whereas there are two biblical writings of Luke –

Luke’s Gospel is Part One about the ministry of Jesus

and The Acts of the Apostles is Part Two about the early Christian Community,

John’s Gospel, without a Part two, places the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Gospel itself.

It reads:

*“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week,*

*and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews,*

*Jesus came and stood among them and said,*

***‘Peace be with you.’***

*After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.*

*Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again,*

***‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’***

*When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,*

***‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ “***

Today’s Gospel highlights the words of Jesus

***“As the Father has sent me, so I send you”.***

This Pentecost, during the COVID-19 Pandemic, let us discover new ways

for the Christian community to live fully, the invitation of Jesus to follow Him.

May we follow the prompts of the Holy Spirit to wherever the Holy Spirit sends us.

Thank you.

Let us pray.

Amen.

Fr Gerry

Readings: <https://universalis.com/Australia/20200531/mass.htm>

[YouTube video Pentecost Sunday Mass, 31 May 2020](#)

Includes JAFa singing Amazing Grace video at conclusion – at 57-minute point.