

WOW!! AN UNEXPECTED ANSWER TO PRAYER THIS PENTECOST  
PENTECOST – 23 MAY 2021



### PENTECOST

We celebrate the birth of the church at Pentecost.  
Today we proclaim the Holy Spirit in our lives.  
We proclaim our identity, our mission, our spirituality  
and our communion with God.  
Happy Birthday.

### LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2021 & QUANDAMOOKA COUNTRY

We celebrate Laudato Si' Week in the church around the world.  
In Australia, National Reconciliation Week begins this Thursday  
with the ecumenical reconciliation service in our church at 7pm.

On Friday I travelled to Quandamooka Country on Minjerribah  
for the community farewell of Aunty Dorothy.

Moreton Bay looked spectacular with several colours of water,  
depending on depth of water and the sunlight behind occasional cloud cover.  
The breeze was creating small white waves, and its strength was quite fresh.  
It was a special way to celebrate Laudato Si' Week.

Returning in time for the parish prayer vigil in the evening,  
it was good to remember the day and the sharing with people,  
the experiences of creation and the bonding of relationships,  
and then simply to place the memories with God.

### CELEBRATING FIVE BAPTISMS & A WEDDING

On Saturday we celebrated five joyful baptisms in the morning,  
and in the early afternoon, Lauren and Alexander celebrated their wedding ceremony.  
At the baptisms, we gazed at the photos above the church entrance -  
photos of our children who have received the Holy Spirit in Confirmation in past weeks.  
Friday and Saturday were a celebration of the interconnectedness of life in God.

## REACHING EVERY CATHOLIC IN THE WORLD WHO WISHES TO BE CONSULTED

We have been in the process of Plenary Council in Australia now for a while. With a delay due to COVID-19.

One of the viewpoints has been –

*'The Spirit is calling us to significant change,  
but what can we implement as we are only one country?'*

Now comes the unexpected answer to prayer! Wow!

It will not only be Australia or Germany or a small number of nations. This Pentecost, Pope Francis has announced the process for the next world Synod in October 2023.

The Catholic Church in every country is to be involved.

It will have THREE phases

1. Diocesan Church
2. Continental Church
3. Universal church

The Pope will be present for the opening experience in Rome on the 9th and 10th October this year.

The following Sunday, the 17th October, each Diocese begins its journey. Imagine a movement of the Spirit to consult every interested Catholic in the world.

A way to do this will be provided with a preparatory document, proposals and a questionnaire.

Others will be consulted including

- international lay movements,
- Unions of Superiors and Major Superiors
- Universities/theology faculties
- Curia in the Vatican

Multi focus media platforms will be important, given meeting difficulties during the COVID Pandemic.

*So, when does it begin?*

Before this October, each diocesan bishop appoints a representative to liaise with the Bishops' Conference.

Each diocese is to have a process, culminating in a Pre-Synodal Meeting.

Then these contributions are forwarded to the Bishops' Conference.

After discernment, a summary or synthesis is to be forwarded to the Synod Secretariat in Rome. By April 2022, this part of the process is to be completed.

An international working document will then be prepared and forwarded by September 2022.

From September 2022 until March 2023 will be **STAGE TWO – THE CONTINENTAL PHASE**.

In March 2023 each continental bishops' conference will forward their report

to the Synod Secretariat in Rome.

A second international working document will be prepared and issued by June 2023. This is to be used in preparation for the October Synod in 2023.

*A question – How does this affect the Australian church in phase one, given that we are already in Plenary Council process?*

More details to come.

We need to keep praying for guidance by the Holy Spirit. As we read the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament, we become aware of the movement of the Holy Spirit in the early church. We become aware to the resistance to change by some, and the perseverance of those who listened to the Holy Spirit.

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

Let us listen to today's first reading.

The disciples moved from uncertainty to confidence and trust in the Holy Spirit. 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.

*“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’.*

We note that

*‘All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.’*

Let us pause and pray for guidance in the Holy Spirit.

**[pause]**

## LAUDATO SI' WEEK REFLECTION

As we celebrate Laudato Si' Week, let us listen to a young girl's first words and her grandparent's reflection on Laudato Si'.



### "WOW!" ....A LITTLE GIRL'S WORD OF PRAISE IN LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2021

"Wow" was one of the first words our granddaughter learnt to say. And it was the way she used that word that made it even more special.

She would stop and point to a bird flying past or sitting in a tree and say, "Wow".

She would do the same when she saw a butterfly or leaves fluttering in the wind or a kookaburra laughing.

You could see the pure wonder and awe in her eyes as she was caught in the moment.

Seeing how the beauty of God's creation could hold a one-year-old so totally enthralled, it struck me that "Wow" could easily be another title for Pope Francis' beautiful encyclical "Laudato Si".

"Laudato Si" means "Praise be to you", from "The Canticle of Praise" by St Francis of Assisi. In wonder and awe and gratitude, St Francis prayed, "Praise be to you, my Lord".

Our granddaughter's innate response to God's work was "Wow!"  
I wonder if praise can be any more pure than that?

Pope Francis, in writing [Laudato Si' \(On Care for Our Common Home\)](#), took St Francis' praise for God's creation as the starting point for his message teaching all people of good will how we should respond to the serious challenges we face in caring for God's creation today. Our first step is simply to be grateful to God for the gift of Creation, and then the Pope calls us to take up our responsibility to be caretakers of this gift as we respond to the "cry of the Earth, and the cry of the poor".

We all face choices in this response but Pope Francis offers frank advice about the loss of biodiversity, the loss of all types of habitats from the mountains to the oceans.

He says in Laudato Si':

"Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see, because they have been lost forever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence, nor convey their message to us. We have no such right."

The Pope encourages us not to lose hope, because we do have choices, and our choices do make a difference.

He assures us:

"In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to him!"  
[written by a Grandparent in our parish]

#### **PENTECOST | THE INVITATION OF JESUS**

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. Let us pray.

Fr Gerry

readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/052321-Day.cfm>

Further information:

Grandparent's Reflection printable at: <https://bit.ly/WOWLaudatoSi23052021>

[Vatican News](#) article on Synod of Bishops:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/.../synod-of-bishops-will...>