

## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508 Contact: St Columbas Ballarat North: 5331 1012  
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Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*  
Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

### SUNDAY – May 19<sup>th</sup> 2024 Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost (Whitsunday), with Christmas and Easter, ranks among the great feasts of Christianity. It commemorates not only the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and Disciples, but also the fruits and effects of that event: the completion of the work of redemption, the fullness of grace for the Church and its children, and the gift of faith for all nations.

#### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Dr Cyril Checchi, Nando Rosini, Maureen Mahony, Leon Martin, Barb Grant/Wood, Mary Byrne, Norm Bain, Jenny Cuthbertson, Geoff Tucker, Fr Barry Stickland, & Lorna Pearce.

#### **PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Tony Collins and all those in need of prayer.

#### **ROSTER:**

##### ***Introduction & Reading***

:Today: Bernadette Franc  
May 26<sup>th</sup>: Sue Mahony

##### ***Prayers of the Faithful***

Today: Therese Jess  
May 26<sup>th</sup>: Maureen Schirmer

##### ***Assembly Leaders***

June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

##### ***Special Minister***

June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Gail Hall

##### ***Music***

Sue Mahony

##### ***Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers***

May 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>: Genevieve Johnston  
May 26<sup>th</sup> & June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Colleen Briody

##### ***Church Grounds***

May 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>: Clarrie Johnston  
May 26<sup>th</sup> & June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Gerrard Briody

##### ***Newsletter***

May: Carmel Milenkovic 0407 320 759

#### **MASS TIMES**

**Next week: May 26<sup>th</sup> Mass 8.30 am**

#### **SUNDAY MAY 26**

Baptism will be celebrated for Edward Robertson

#### **MASS COUNTS CONTINUE FOR MAY**

The Annual Diocesan Mass Counts will take place over 4 weekends in May.

#### **ANNIVERSARY of the BALLARAT DIOCESE:**

Please note we will be lighting our Anniversary Candle during our Lay Led Assemblies.

***May this anniversary year be a season of renewal for our diocese, our community of communities from the Murray to the sea.***

***Pope's intention for May – for the formation of men and women religious and seminarians: Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their vocational journey through human, <sup>pas-</sup>toral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel. Lord, hear us.***

#### ***National Volunteer Week: May 20-26, 2024***

##### ***Prayer for Volunteers***

We pray for all those who volunteer in our parishes. May we value the many talents and gifts that God has given to these people.

We thank them for generously offering their time to parish ministries.

For all these gifts, given out of your love, we thank you, God of all goodness. Amen.

The purpose of Pentecost is to remind every Christian that even though Christ died for our sins and that by baptism we accept the forgiveness of our sins, there is something else each one of us needs to do. We need to receive the Holy Spirit so we can do the work of discipleship that awaits each one of us.



You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires.

Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

### GOSPEL

Jn 15: 26-27; 16: 12-15

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

*The Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness.

And you too will be witnesses, because you have been with me from the outset.

I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now.

But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth,

since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt;

and he will tell you of the things to come.

He will glorify me,

since all he tells you

will be taken from what is mine.

Everything the Father has is mine;

that is why I said:

All he tells you

will be taken from what is mine.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

PENTECOST SUNDAY / B

19 MAY 2024

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Today's first reading begins with the words: 'When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place.' (Acts 2:1). Earlier in 1:13-14 we learn that with them 'were certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers'. They were constantly devoting themselves to prayer (v. 14). It is in this context of a community in prayer that there arose the sound of a powerful wind and something like tongues of fire came to rest on them as they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately they were changed, boldly proclaiming the good news in language understandable to all. Our reading finishes with the list of places people had come from. A very pertinent question is asked in the verse following today's reading: (v. 12) 'What does this mean?' It is a question as much for us as for them.

Paul's Letter to the Galatians entreats us to live lives 'directed by the Spirit' – lives in which the fruits of the Spirit unfold and blossom, the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and goodness.

John's Gospel names the Spirit 'the Advocate' and 'Spirit of Truth' who issues from God. Believers in the risen Christ are not alone. The Advocate who witnesses to the truth of Jesus Christ, will lead believers to the complete truth: 'And you too will be witnesses'. From then till now believers are filled with the Holy Spirit and are to be witnesses to the truth of Jesus and the Good News. Our lives will be recognisable by the fruits of the Spirit.

### FIRST READING

Acts 2: 1-11

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.*

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles 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.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

### RESP PSALM

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

**R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. (or Alleluia!)**

1. 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. **R.**

2. 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. **R.**



3. 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. **R.**

### SECOND READING

Gal 5: 16-25

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians**

*The fruit of the Spirit.*

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course.

Dr Rosemary Canavan