

St. Peter's Parish

Communities of Linton, Skipton, Smythesdale and Snake Valley



Pentecost

31st May, 2020

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Readings next week: The Most Holy Trinity

Exodus 34:4-6. 8-9 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 John 3:16-18

The Parish acknowledges that the Aboriginal people of Australia are our first nation peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

Recent deaths: Des Fitzgerald, John Grant, Br Kevin Woodruff CFC

Please remember in your prayers:

Margaret Cooper, Fr. Dennis Dennehy, Winifredo Ferrer, Lucas Mactingrao,
Leonie Street, Sr. Patricia Vagg

PUBLIC LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Mass Options and Resources for Prayer

As we gradually re-open, the following opportunities for Mass and prayer are also available:

Ballarat Diocese Mass options:

<http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/>

Daily Mass:

11.30am St John of God Hospital Chapel can be

viewed via

<https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9> or

<http://stpatscathedral.weebly.com/>

Masses with Bishop Shane Mackinlay:

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/>

Please refer to Parish website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/ for any updates

Reconciliation Week (27 May - 3 June) this year is:

This year the theme is '**IN THIS TOGETHER**'. We are asked what it means to say to our friends or fellow Australians, 'We are in this together'. Easy words, but not so easy to put into practice. In our time of isolation, however, we have vivid images of what it looks like to be in it together in the selfless commitment of doctors, nurses and other medical staff, through the simple ways in which people look after others in need by buying for them, ringing them and in many similar ways.

Reconciliation cannot be a papering over of past actions and injuries but the recognition and coming to terms of them. It means acknowledging that the history of our past relationships has been marked by dispossession, violence and discrimination.

To read more go to <https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/article/in-this-together>

Plenary Council ~ Assemblies set for 2021 and 2022

The two assemblies for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia will now take place in October 2021 and April 2022, following the disruption of the original schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference last week decided to postpone the opening assembly by 12 months, with it now to be held in October 2021. Adelaide remains the venue for the first assembly. The second assembly will be in Sydney in April 2022. [The Media Release can be read here.](#)

Complimentary Trinity Resource

The Trinity is one of the great mysteries of our faith. For many, making the Sign of the Cross is the first and simplest prayer we learn. However great scholars have written volumes in trying to unravel this mystery.

Trinitarian scholar, Anne Hunt will not demystify the Trinity, but she will give insights into this central tenet of the Catholic faith and provide material for reflection, prayer and discussion. You may obtain a free Faith Guide to use and share this with your friends, family, parish and school communities, as we prepare to celebrate Trinity Sunday on the 7th of June.

Your Free Trinity Faith Guide can be found via https://www.garrattpublishing.com.au/pdf/FG-TheTrinity_May2020.pdf

Gospel Reflection

(Acts 2:1-11; John 20:19-23)

By Veronica Lawson RSM

Pentecost Sunday is often called the birthday of the Church. The earth itself features powerfully in the imagery associated with this feast: harvest, mountain, earthquake, thunder, fire. For the ancient Israelites, Pentecost (meaning 'fiftieth') was a harvest festival celebrated fifty days after the opening of the harvest. When the Jerusalem Temple was built, this harvest festival was transformed into a pilgrimage feast to celebrate the covenant that Israel had made with God on Mt Sinai. Several decades after the death of Jesus, the early Christians reflected on their origins and chose this feast to mark the birth of God's new covenant with God's people. In today's first reading (Acts 2:1-11), Luke tells the new Pentecost story in symbolic language that evokes the story of Moses and the people of Israel receiving God's Law on Mt. Sinai. Just as God's presence to Israel was marked by earthquake and thunder and fire, so God's Spirit enveloping the people of the new covenant in the upper room appears in a mighty rush of wind and tongues of fire. Luke's account also evokes early rabbinic teaching that the voice of God on Sinai divided into seventy tongues and all the nations received God's Law in their own tongue. For the teaching at the heart of the new covenant, we turn to the gospel reading from John 20:19-23. The resurrected Christ appears to the disciples who are huddled behind locked doors. He offers the simple greeting: "Peace be with you," the greeting we have been in the practice of offering each other with a simple gesture at every Eucharistic celebration-until Covid-19 challenged us to find other ways of communicating the peace of Christ. Jesus sends his disciples on a mission of peace in continuity with his own God inspired mission. He breathes on them the gift of the Holy Spirit and tells them that God will forgive those whom they forgive, and will "retain" or "seize hold of" the transgressions of those whose sins or transgressions they "retain". To seize hold of wrong-doing is to expose it and deal with it. Sometimes it is best to forgive and simply allow everyone to move on. In other situations, an easy amnesty only exacerbates the problem. Much of the enduring conflict in our world derives from the inability of ordinary people and of both church and civic leaders to know how to deal with transgression. The Holy Spirit is the unique source of our capacity to deal with the perpetrators of violence. The Holy Spirit is likewise the source of our power to forgive, of our power to refrain from vengeance and our power to ensure restoration and healing. In our times, the earth itself cries out for forgiveness, for restoration and for healing. As we celebrate this feast of the Holy Spirit in a time of pandemic, we might consider engaging in a "values inventory" by looking at how much of our personal and collective resources we invest in the things that make for peace.