



The Feast of Pentecost is often taken as the day on which the church began, and so today is frequently called 'the birthday of the Church'. This, of course, depends on one's understanding of what constitutes the Church: is it the calling by Jesus of disciples? Is it that moment on the Cross when Jesus commits his mother into the care of his beloved disciple? Is it the conception of Jesus, when Mary becomes the first to 'bear God' in and to the world? Perhaps the fact that there are so many possible 'birthdays' for the Church, so many times when the Spirit can be seen to be poured out on the Church, shows us that what we are dealing with here is not any 'fixed day' (or date – a fact that the date of Pentecost always depends on Easter underlines), but a constant outpouring of God's gracious goodness.

Certainly, the Feast we celebrate today gives us a chance to recall and celebrate that what continues to sustain the Church is the gracious gift by God of God's creating, empowering, loving, and warming Holy Spirit. As Luke tells it, the rag tag bunch of disciples, following Jesus' command as he departed from them to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, become empowered to confess all that they saw God had done in and through Jesus to a large crowd gathered in Jerusalem. The crowd was gathered for the holy feast of Pentecost, that day which, in Jewish faith, marks the 'Feast of Weeks' – or a form of Harvest Festival. But it also came to signify, by the time Acts was written, a reminder of the covenant God established with all creation when God spoke to Noah. It became, therefore, a time to remember when God renewed the whole creation after the flood.

There is, therefore, a lovely 'symmetry' that in this Christian festival we recall the gift of the Spirit and think about the power and work of the Spirit in renewing the whole creation. Furthermore, the gift of the Spirit to the apostles and other disciples described in Acts – that they could speak so that each member of the large crowd in Jerusalem could 'hear, each of us, in our own native language' (Acts 2:8) – shows a reversal of the Tower of Babel. Now, rather than different languages being a sign and cause of confusion and disunity between peoples, the Spirit transforms those 'differences', enabling the differences to be a sign of God's embrace of all creation, not a single group or tribe.

This gives us quite a bit to ponder as we gather as the Church in this place today and each Sunday. Are we allowing the Spirit to empower us; so that, rather than a 'rag tag' collection of people who may feel rather tired and worn out, after the ravages of Covid, are empowered to share the transforming love of God? Are we listening to the promptings of the Spirit, so that we, too, find ways of sharing the good news to those around us in ways they can understand? And, more widely, are we as a community and a nation allowing the Spirit to transform our differences and our view of those differences, so that, rather than causing hostility and confusion, we see them as signs of God's abundance? Above all, are we able to hear, see and feel the Spirit leading us into all truth: the truth of God's reconciling love for all people and the continual renewing of God's creation, in which God invites us to discern and then play our part?

MUSIC FOR TODAY'S 10.00AM SERVICE

Setting: *Christ Church Mass Philip Matthias TiS 757*

Hymns: 409; 411; 497; 398

Collect

Almighty God,
you sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love, joy, and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

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.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

“In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Acts 2:1-21

For the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 104:25–35, 37

8.00am

Response: Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
in wisdom you have made them all,
and the earth is full of your creatures. **R**

Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number, creatures both small and great.

There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made for the sport of it. **R**

All of them look to you:
to give them their food in due season.

You give it to them, they gather it:
you open your hand and they are filled with good things.

You hide your face and they are terrified:
you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust. **R**

You send forth your spirit and they are created:
and so you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever:
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.

He looks at the earth and it trembles:
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

R

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live:
I will praise my God while I have my being.

May these words of mine please him:
I will rejoice in the Lord.

Bless the Lord, O my soul:
Alleluia!

R

10.00am - TiS 65

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Church in Rome:

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope.

For who hopes for what is seen?

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness;

for we do not know how to pray as we ought,

but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:22-27

For the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

‘I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me,

“Where are you going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth:

it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer;

about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth;

for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears,

and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

All that the Father has is mine.

For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

John 15:26-27; 16.4b-15

For the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

INTERCESSIONS FOR THIS WEEK

For the Anglican Church

The Anglican Church of Melanesia; The Diocese of the Northern Territory; Ridley College; Holy Apostles' Sunshine Braybrook; St Stephen's Gardenvale; St Columb's Hawthorn; St Margaret's Eltham.

For all in need

Jenny, Sam, Milroy, Coral, David, Tony, Paul, Christine, Lei and her family, Keith, Peter, Leon, Erica, Josh, Tim, Vincent.

For the Faithful Departed

Those whose anniversary of death occurs this week: Hilda (Peg) Payne, Elizabeth Armstrong, Janet Lloyd, Percival Philp (Peter) Jackson, Elwood (Ted) Chandler, Betty Cuming, Margaret Courtney, Jean Frances Cramer, Harry Furlonger, William Mallinson, Jean (Jane) Gilchrist Garden.

Anthem: *Pentecost Hymn* Edvard Grieg (1843–1907), arr. Bradley Ellingboe

During the final hymn at 10.00 am, the ministers go to the Easter Candle.

The President says:

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.
Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word;
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.
With the new wine of the Spirit
they proclaim your reign of love.
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation
the way of light is made known.
Source of freedom, giver of life,
blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

My sisters and brothers,
for fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ
over the powers of sin and death.
We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and we have prayed that the power that
was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.
As part of God's Church here in Malvern,
I call upon you to live out what you proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future, trusting
the Spirit to be your guide?

All By the Spirit's power, we will.

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

All We will.

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the longings of God?

All We will.

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

All We will.

The Paschal Candle is then ceremonially extinguished.

Given that, by the power of the Spirit we now carry the Light of the Risen Christ to the world within us, the Paschal Candle will only be relit for baptisms and funerals.

The President says

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Today we have remembered the coming of God's power on the disciples and we invite that same Spirit to drive us out into the wild places of the world.

The President then blesses the people, saying

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into you the life he gives.

All Amen.

May the Spirit,
who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us,
make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

All Amen.

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire upon the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Deacon says:

Filled with the Spirit's power,
go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude: *Komm, Gott Schöpfer, Heiliger Geist* (Come, Creator God, O Holy Ghost)

J.S. Bach (1685–1750) BWV 667

THE WEEK AHEAD

is an Ember Week, in which prayers for the Ordained Ministry or the Church are appropriate. Pray, not only for the ordained in this parish (both present and past), but also for an increase in vocations to the ordained ministry and the religious life. Please consider using the following prayer as part of your daily prayers this week:

God our Shepherd,
in every generation you call ministers of your word and sacraments.
Equip them to preach the gospel, to care for your people,
and to show forth the fruit of the Spirit in their lives;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

Weekdays Monday-Saturday	9:00am 5:00pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
Monday, 24 May <i>John and Charles Wesley</i>		
Tuesday, 25 May <i>Bede of Jarrow</i>	8:45am – 3:00 pm	Cabrini Ministry
Wednesday, 26 May <i>Augustine of Canterbury, first bishop of Canterbury</i>		
Thursday, 27 May <i>Beginning of Week of Prayer for Reconciliation</i>	10:15am	Holy Eucharist
Next Sunday, 30 May Trinity Sunday	8:00am 10:00am 5:00pm	Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist with Hymns Eucharist with Meditation

Bible Readings next week

Isaiah 6:1–8
Romans 8:12–17

Feast of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity

Psalm 29
John 3:1–17

NOTICES

Congratulations to two parishioners: Fr Ray Elliott and Bryan Elmes

Today, the Feast of Pentecost, marks the 50th anniversary ('Golden Jubilee') of Fr Ray Elliott's ordination to the priesthood. There will be a special prayer offered for Ray and Anne at the 10 am eucharist, and we welcome The Reverend Canon Dr Stephen Ames, who was a student at Trinity and ordained with Ray, to our eucharist.

At the Cabrini volunteers service on Tuesday of last week, parishioner Bryan Elmes was awarded a service button in recognition of 20 years of service to the Cabrini pastoral service. This was done through St George's Cabrini Ministry team, of which Bryan has been a crucial member since the team began in the time of Fr Barry Smith. This ministry is unique to St George's (though Fr Barry hoped it might become a model of ministry by parishes across the Diocese to hospitals, this appears not to have happened). Bryan, in a characteristically modest way, permitted the publication of this award, only in the hope that it might draw attention to this ministry that the parish offers and encourage others to think of joining in this remarkable ministry. Nevertheless, we all congratulate Bryan, and rejoice in this appropriate recognition: 'Well done, good and faithful servant', as St Paul puts it. Please speak to Brenda or Bryan if you feel God may be calling you to offer time to this vital parish ministry to those being treated in our parish, at Cabrini Hospital.

Access to the church

A reminder that the church is now open from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm each day. You are encouraged to join the small group that gathers daily for Morning and Evening Prayer, but the church remains open for personal prayer, reflection, or just some stillness throughout the day. When you enter, please 'sign in' with the Covid 19 QR Code.

Covid 19 Normal Regulations

The restrictions and rules for services often change in these times of Covid19 pandemic, but this week there have been no changes to the guidelines for the last few weeks.

If you require any information, please consult earlier Pew Sheets, or Brenda. In future, we will only advise of changes to the current restrictions and rules.

Pastoral Care Group

The next meeting will take place on Monday, 24 May at 2.00pm in the North Room. Further meetings will follow before pastoral visiting begins, and it is not too late to express an interest in joining this group. We still seek any names of those no longer able to attend church regularly who might welcome pastoral visits.

Notices and information for the pew sheet

Please be advised that all notices and information for the pew sheet must reach Nisha by 9.00am on Wednesday each week, as they are printed later that day.

Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project

Sunday, 30 May is our next day for giving to The Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP). Owing to Covid restrictions, they are very short of all items listed on the flyer (please collect from the back of the church). Please take this with you when you go shopping or sorting through items you might have at home. Gift cards for Coles and Woolworths stores are also always appreciated.

Heart of Life

Spiritual accompaniment is an ancient Christian tradition whereby a trusted companion (a spiritual director) journeys with you to listen deeply to your life experiences and invites you to become more aware of how God is present in your everyday life. Heart of Life is currently offering monthly Spiritual Direction free of charge for people who will be accompanied by students of the Spiritual Direction Formation Program under the supervision of Heart of Life qualified supervisors.

If interested, please contact Heart of Life:

Tel: 9890 1101

Email: info@heartoflife.melbourne

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Monday-Friday

9:30am-12:30pm

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If visiting the office, please observe all protocols relating to Covid 19, including signing in and sanitizing your hands.

WARDENS

Jenny Weller-Newton

9570 7731

Judy Mallinson

0414 752 957

Ravi Renjen

0412 399 897

We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, acknowledge their continuing spiritual connection to Country, and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.