



St Bernard's Parish

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19th May 2024

Pentecost Sunday, Year B

Reflection

'At Pentecost,' says Pope Francis, 'the Spirit made the apostles go forth from themselves and turned them into heralds of God's wondrous deeds.' The Pope mentions this in *Evangelii Gaudium*, his Apostolic Exhortation focused *'on the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world.'*

In it, he points out that *'Jesus wants evangelisers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God's presence.'*

Highlighting that we are called *'to pray and work,'* the Pope is concerned to encourage Christians to joy-filled action. Pentecost is not only about what we receive, but what we do in response.

However important or useful our interior prayers and personal pieties might be, any authentic response to the Spirit should make us look beyond ourselves. *'Mystical notions without a solid social and missionary outreach are of no help to evangelisation,'* the Pope suggests. We are not called to be passive receptacles, storing up fuzzy feelings.

Action, therefore, is crucial for Christian living. While acknowledging the worthiness of initiatives like regular Eucharistic adoration, the Pope stresses that the Christian calling should never become *'a privatised lifestyle.'* Our prayer should direct us to sharing the love of Christ with others, especially those in need.

'In union with Jesus,' the Pope says, *'we seek what he seeks and love what he loves.'* So, at Pentecost we recall that having received the Spirit we are not meant to retreat from the world, but rather become Spirit-bearers to and in it.



Nick Brodie

Our community prays :

For those who are unwell:

Paul Shanahan
Sofia Sulistyo
Joan Hepworth
Riley Swander
Christie Raj
David Butler
Iris Appleton
Rita Croft
John Orders
Frank Whyte
Frances Butler
Marion Andrew
Katherine D'Arcy
George Koch
Melissa Bann
Lila Moorfoot
Josephine Mariah
Vanessa Eldridge
Judy Robertson
Colin & Linda Boyd
Lynette Stott
Margaret Walker
Maria Pereira
Gerry O'Donoghue
Brittany Schultz
Rev Alan Ansell



Laudato Si Week Prayer

God of all creation, Thank you for the gift of our lives and for the world in which we live.



We thank you for the warmth of the sun in winter, and a cool breeze in summer. We thank you for the great diversity of life, Seeds of Hope which fills us with wonder and reminds us that we too are creatures.

We pray that we will grow in respect for all life, and for the Earth itself. That we will use your gifts with gentleness and wisdom, not with greed and selfishness.

We pray that our minds and hearts will lead us to an active hope, as we respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor in our time.

May our hope transform humanity, to take bold action to protect our world. At this time of Pentecost may we call on the Holy Spirit to kindle in us the fire of God's love and renew the face of the Earth.

May we all be part of that renew. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

We welcome for baptism

Alfie Beauglehall
Flynn Fairfield
Sylvie & Goldie Horbury



May Mass Count

Each Sunday in May, the archdiocese requests that we count every person attending mass. These figures help with pastoral planning.

Divine Energy and being Catholic

The term '*Holy Ghost*' is an unfortunate rendering of '*Holy Gust*', the divine wind, the breath of God, the Holy Spirit which can come into the lives of individuals and communities, sometimes as the merest whisper of a breeze, sometimes at gale force.



This is what happened at Pentecost. St Luke, writing the Acts of the Apostles, grasps for imagery to portray the force of the Holy Spirit's descending on Mary and Peter and other disciples. This divine flaming Gust cleared away the undergrowth of timidity and anxiety imprisoning those disciples in the upper room. Then they became like seed pods germinating in the ashes, allowing a new community to take root, a community where barriers of language, ethnicity and race were overcome.

The primary task of St Peter, then as now, is to present the Resurrection in a way understandable by people of every language group around the world. Everything else his successor does is secondary to his preaching 'the marvels of God'. Pope Francis is doing this by word and deed.

We could take a moment to pray for forgiveness for the wind breaks which we, individually and as a parish or larger church community, erect to shield us from the Holy Spirit gusting into our lives. Let us ask for the courage to allow ourselves to be a windswept people ignited by Divine Love.

Fr Michael Tate

Pilgrimage to Holy land showed the best way forward

Ten years ago, 12 of us, four Jews, four Christians and four Muslims, men and women, went on a pilgrimage, led by a rabbi, a Catholic priest and an Imam. We travelled to Jerusalem, a city named after peace but which has seen so much war. We also visited Bethlehem, where, we are told, the angels sang of peace, but which has seen so much conflict.



The pilgrimage was brilliant and pioneering. We visited each other's sacred sites, studied each other's sacred texts, shared meals and discussed many issues, learning to appreciate the truth and goodness that lay in each of us. In fact, our growing friendship enabled us to confront the sombre moments in the history of our traditions, both in the past and in the present moment of which we are keenly aware.

Back in Melbourne, we gave a great number of talks about our trip. As a result, others were inspired to organise their own '*Joint Journey to Jerusalem*'. Many of us have been further involved in interfaith activities in Australia and overseas. Our journey to the Holy Lands has had a ripple effect.

Our friendship has continued, and we still meet three or four times each year, either in person or online. We are enthused by our different views; we learn to agree or else gently agree to disagree. Even in these troubled times we still enjoy each other's company.

At a time when there is so much division and so many theatres of war, so many crimes against humanity around the world, we wish to share the story of an abiding and realistic friendship. It is the best way forward.

Fr John Dupuche. Edited extract Cathnews

Reflection

Pentecost brings the Easter season to a close, celebrating the fullness of the Spirit and the great gathering of nations. The plan of salvation has been brought to its conclusion. The Risen Lord is exalted in his rightful place next to God and has sent his own Spirit to fill the earth with God's power. The world is charged with divine energy; it needs but a spark to ignite it with life and excitement.

If this has all really happened, why does our world look the same? Why is there so much religious and ethnic rivalry? Why do we continue to make distinctions between Jew and Gentile, slave and free, woman and man, distinctions that favour one at the expense of the other? Why is there so little peace, or comfort, or solace? Why do we refuse to forgive or to be reconciled? Is Pentecost merely a feast that we celebrate in red vestments? Has the face of the earth really been renewed?

The answer is yes! Resoundingly, yes! The Spirit has been poured forth and works wonders wherever human hearts are open to its prompting. The earth is renewed each time rivalries are resolved, distinctions are recognised as merely expressions of diversity, peace is restored, comfort and solace are offered, and forgiveness is granted. We are immersed in the vigour of the Spirit of God; all we have to do is open ourselves to it and the reign of God will be born in our midst.

Dianne Bergant CSA

Laudato Si' Week 19 to 26th May

Laudato Si' Week is a celebration held annually in May to mark the anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, on caring for creation. Sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, this global celebration unites Catholics to listen and respond together to the cry of creation, rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing *Laudato Si'* to life, and intensify our efforts through the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform.



This year, the theme of *Laudato Si'* Week, "*Seeds of Hope*," calls us all to be those seeds of hope in our lives and in our world, rooted in faith and love. The theme is inspired by the *Season of Creation 2024* symbol, "first fruits."

Laudate Deum (Apostolic Exhortation to all people of good will on the climate crisis, 4 October 2023) reminds us of the urgency of the *Laudato Si'* message and the need for personal and cultural transformation in the midst of our ecological and climate crises. Our commitment stems from the conviction that, even in times of ecological and climatic crises, each of us has the power to make a difference and contribute to building a more sustainable future.

Together, as seeds of hope, we can cultivate a world where harmony between humanity and nature is a tangible reality. '*There are no lasting changes without cultural changes ... and there are no cultural changes without personal changes*' (LD 70).

Each year, *Laudato Si'* Week gives us an opportunity to renew our commitment to respond to the cries of the earth and the cries of the poor.

Laudato Si' in action

- The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference encourage all Australians to tap into the ecological wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia (as mentioned in Decree 8 of the Australian Plenary Council of 2022) and Indigenous Peoples everywhere. Visit www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au (Laudato Si' Week - Office For Justice, Ecology and Peace) to find information on some of the ecological problems faced by Indigenous Peoples and the work Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are doing to heal country.
- Even in times of ecological and climatic crises, each of us has the power to make a difference and contribute to building a more sustainable future:-
 - * *Sustainable Transport*—reconsider your mode of transportation. Why not use more environmentally friendly alternatives such as public, shared, or even electric transportation?
 - * *Sustainable Food*— imagine a world where each of us chooses a more plant-centered diet and reduces our meat consumption. This could make a big difference in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - * *Renewable Energy*: we urge you to take concrete action by promoting the use of renewable energy.
 - * *Waste Reduction* - imagine the impact if every person in the world replaced one disposable plastic bottle with a reusable bottle. We could prevent millions of tons of plastic from entering the oceans each year. With small personal changes, big cultural changes happen.
 - * *Water Conservation*— Did you know that water is a vital resource increasingly threatened by overexploitation and pollution? Consider promoting water conservation by implementing conservation practices in your home or community.
- Ecological Examen—Ignatian Reflection on Care for Our Common Home
Visit www.ecologicalexamen.org

LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2024 | HEEDING INDIGENOUS VOICES

References:- *Catholic Earthcare, Caritas Australia, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development*

We pray for Mohammad

We pray for Mohammad that he be comforted while he awaits a decision on his application for a visa.



For the people of Israel, Palestine, Ukraine & other war torn countries.
May there be peaceful resolutions.

St Bernard's community ...

Mill Market donation and Book Fair drop off

Peter will be back at Clairvaux Hall, to welcome your donations for the Book Fair or Mill Market, **on Saturday 8th June 9am-10am.** He is having a well-deserved break following another very successful Book Fair.

The Geelong Community ...

Saturday 18th May 2pm to 4.30pm. **Faith and Light Geelong**, a Christian community for people with Disability The theme will be: *The gifts of Pentecost.* Gathering is Hall open 1.00 for preparation Our Venue is St Mary's parish, Pioneer Room, Level 1 (by lift) @ 150 Yarra Street. Enter by Little Myers Street. Enquiries Tricia on 0414672267. Faith and Light Is a worldwide organisation, began in Lourdes, in 1971. www.faihandlight.org

Wanted Singers to join a Male singing group that sing Golden Oldies to Elderly citizens. Would suit retired singers. Enquiries Les 0414442471

Saturday 1st June 9.30am - 1pm **Winter Woollies and Other Wonders Market**, Christ Church Cnr Moorabool & McKillop St Geelong

'Come, Holy Spirit', or its Latin, Vene Sancte Spiritus, has become the basis of countless prayers and hymns over many hundreds of years.

To this day, it remains a powerful invocation that can be used in prayer or meditation. Three simple words convey a wealth of meaning. The invitation for the Spirit to 'Come' indicates recognition of the need for the Spirit's intervention and openness to accept the guidance that the Spirit brings. It is a powerful, simple prayer that can be used at the outset of any significant undertaking or whenever you find yourself in need of inspiration.
Liturgy Help

As you go out, the Holy Spirit goes with you. The Spirit of questioning will lead us to fresh understanding. The Spirit of persistence will save us from discouragement. The Spirit of compassion will call us to caring. The Spirit of adventure will have us leave routine in the dust. The Spirit of community will give us joy as we work with others. We know the Holy Spirit goes with us: Rely on the Spirit.
GPBSeNews

Child Safety at St Bernard's

Call Victoria Police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for a child's safety



'In the spirit of reconciliation, St Bernard's Parish acknowledges the Wadawurrung People, the Traditional Custodians of country and their connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.'

Mass Times this week

Saturday: **6pm**
Sunday: **9am & 10.30am**
Tue & Fri: **12 noon**
Wed & Thurs : **9.30am**

*The **Rosary** is prayed after each weekday Mass*
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament held **First Friday** of each month after 12pm mass

To receive the **bulletin** by **email** please subscribe via the parish website:

<https://stbernards.org.au/>

Contact the Office - 52 432 739 to arrange :

**** Communion at home (Friday am)**
New volunteers welcome to assist with this ministry.

**** To receive an emailed worksheet for children**, linked to the Sunday readings.

Sunday Mass on Radio :

7.00am Light FM 89.9
10.00am Pulse 94.7 FM (*St Mary's*)

Sunday Mass on TV :

Channel 10 6-6.30am
Channel 31 or 44 11am *St Patrick's Cathedral*

Sunday Mass Streaming

chris.monaghan@passionists.com

Parish Office hours

Mon: 9am—4pm
Tues: 10am—3pm
Wed: 9am—4pm
Thurs: 10am—1pm
Fri: 9am—4pm

*** St Bernard's Play Group** Every Tuesday of school term 9-10.30am Gold coin donation

*** St Vincent De Paul** Membership enquiries : through Parish Office

*** Men's Group - 2nd Tues** of the month 10.30am Church cafe

*** Charismatic Prayer - 1st and 3rd Tuesday** of each month at 10am in the church.

*** Ladies Coffee and Chat Group, 3rd Mon** of the month, 10.30am at **FULL Circle**, Belmont opposite Car Wash, cnr Roslyn Rd.

*** Mill Market donation & Book Fair drop off**
Will resume on 8th June



To assist the Manny communities :

direct bank trf to :

BSB : **BSB 083347**

ACC# **358514559**

Ref : **surname & support project**
i.e *Hall or education or General needs.*

Please note new account details

Readings this week : Acts 2:1-11 ;
Ps 103:1.24.29-31.34 ; 1 Corinthians
12:3-7, 12-13 or Galatians 5:16-25 ;
John 20:19-23 or
John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Next Week's Readings : Deut 4:32-34. 39-40 ;
Ps 32:4-6. 9.8-20 ; Rom 8:14-17 ; Matt 28:16-20

