

Reflection by Greg Sunter

The feast of Pentecost celebrates the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples and energising them to set about their mission of continuing the ministry of Jesus. The gospel reading is one of the post-resurrection appearances by Jesus when he breathed the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. The actual events of that first Pentecost are recorded in the book of Acts and are recalled in this week's first reading. The use of this post-resurrection gospel account is a reminder that Jesus had already imbued the disciples with the Spirit but, as so often throughout his ministry, they were a bit slow to catch on to the significance of what he had done. It seems that they needed a more tangible experience to jolt them into action and Acts records the very physical experience of the Spirit entering their midst as a roaring wind before settling upon them as tongues of flame. Jesus had breathed the Spirit upon them but it took the roaring wind to make a real impression on the disciples. There are frequent references in the gospels to Jesus being 'filled with the Spirit'. It is this Spirit with which he was filled that he breathed upon his disciples; it is that same Spirit that we receive sacramentally in Confirmation.



For the weeks following the death of Jesus the disciples had lived in fear and confusion, not fully understanding what had happened and not really knowing what to do. When they realised that the Spirit Jesus had breathed upon them was really present and urging them to action they finally had the courage to begin the mission that Jesus had entrusted to them: to spread the Good News of Jesus and continue to realise his message in the world.

PARISH HAPPENINGS

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday 21 May

- 6.00pm SVDP – AQ Room
- 7.00pm Italian Prayer Group – Church

Tuesday 22 May

- 9.30am Playgroup – Hospitality Area
- 9.30am Scripture group – Library

Wednesday 23 May

- 10.00am Wedding – Church/Hospitality
- 7.00pm Legion of Mary – Library

Thursday 24 May

- 9.30am Playgroup – Hospitality

Friday 25 May

- 1.30pm Wedding – Church

Saturday 26 May

- 2.00pm Wedding – Church

Let us remember in prayer all those who are sick David Zemek, Vilma Gouse and those whose anniversaries occur around this time Una Kenny and the recently deceased Alan William Williams, Mary Hammill and Terry Mackenroth.

Communion Ministers to the Sick

At weekend Masses we observe the sending out of a very dedicated group of ministers – those who take Christ to those who cannot join the community for Mass. As we hear in the words of their sending, they not only distribute Communion, but also take time to read scriptures, share faith and provide companionship through conversation and sharing of news with those who are prevented by age or illness from accessing the Church. The work of this group is barely visible beyond their sending, yet it reaches out into our community in such an important way. We would love to hear from you if:

1. this is a ministry you have considered joining, with a commitment of one week per month (or more);
2. you are aware of members of this parish community, or your family, who are not able to get to Mass but would like Communion.

To respond, please call the office on 3398 2977, email on ologcc@bigpond.net.au

Seeking Transport Coordinator

Another important ministry in our church is the Home Transport Ministry. Denis Honen, who has run this ministry for many years now is ready to step down from his role as he no longer lives in the area. With that said, we are seeking someone to coordinate the roster for Home Transport. If you think you might be interested or you are unsure of what is involved, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

Corpus Christie Procession

It is that time of year again where we have the Corpus Christie Procession at 2pm, on Sunday 3 June in the city. A bus has been organised again to leave and return to Our Lady of Graces. The bus will leave 1.15pm sharp for the Cathedral, fares are \$5 return single or \$15 return for a family. If you would like to travel with the Parish please write your name down on the folder at the back of the Church. If you have any queries, please contact Bill on 3157 2452.

Sacrament of Eucharist – Date Claimer

Children Confirmed at Our Lady of Graces in May 2017 soon commence activities to help prepare them for the important final step in their initiation - the Sacrament of Eucharist [First Holy Communion]. A Parent Meeting for parents of children this group will be held in the church at 7pm on Wednesday 27 June.

Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter & Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church are hosting **The 5 Love Languages**.

Date: June 9th, 2018

Time: 9am-5pm

Venue: Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary School all, Norfolk Street, Coorparoo

Enquiries: 0403 514 454 Lolita Norris

Bookings: <https://trybooking.com>

One Family - Planned Giving

Over the next couple of weeks members of our parish family will hear a lot about the 2018 Parish Planned Giving campaign. This is necessary because this year our projected expenses will exceed our dwindling income. We know that from managing our own household budget expenses higher than income cannot be sustained. Prudent financial management requires the parish budget if possible to be in surplus or at the very least balanced.

Since our last successful campaign in 2014 contributions to the planned giving program have dropped markedly. Is now time to renew our previous commitment. We ask also that members of our parish family who have not previously participated commit to join the program.

Over the next few weeks please consider prayerfully what you can give. We would also ask you to consider making your contribution through a direct debit or credit card, by doing so the parish can more effectively manage its finances. However if you prefer to contribute via the weekly planned giving envelopes that too will be fine.

The Sequence of Pentecost

What is it we are doing this weekend after the second reading?

It may come as a surprise to some that the poetic, or meditative hymn known as the *Sequence* is obligatory in our liturgy on two occasions in the year – Easter Sunday and Pentecost. The words of the Sequence focus on the feast, and were intended to embellish the Gospel acclamation. Look out for it, and join in with gusto this weekend!

New Feast - Our Lady, Mother of the Church

About the new feast:

A new memorial has been introduced to the General Roman Calendar: the commemoration of Mary, Mother of the Church. It will be celebrated not on a fixed date but on the Monday after Pentecost Sunday using texts which are already in the Missal under Votive Masses (see page 1411). There is a proper Preface.

The Second Vatican Council insisted that its treatment of the Virgin Mary should be placed within its document on the Church, giving our theology of Mary a profound ecclesiological significance. Placing the new memorial beside the feast of Pentecost recalls the presence of Mary with the apostles in Pentecost day and her motherly care of the new-born Church. The commemoration further reminds us that by water and the Spirit we are part of the Body of Christ whose Mother is Mary.

Celebrating Mary, Mother of the Church helpfully shifts the focus away from the many titles and celebrations encompassed by popular piety which seem more particular and individualistic. Instead our veneration of Mary is placed in the broader context of the mystery of Christ and the Church.

BED Trivia Night

A big thank you goes out to everyone involved and all those who attended the BED Trivia Night last Saturday! It was a huge success with massive 25 tables in attendance! The night saw us raise just under \$6000 which will go towards BED Scripture groups, Alpha programs, Social Justice and more. We would like to thank in particular the volunteers who helped either by planning the night, setting up and helping out on the night you all know who you are. We would also like to thank St Martin's for allowing us to use the Dominic Centre and for their parent helpers.

Our Lady of Graces would like to congratulate St Peter's and Pauls Bulimba for winning the trophy (again)! It was a close finish with a few points separating 1st and 3rd. If you attended the night and you have any feedback it will be most welcome, if not see you next year!

Plenary Council 2020 – Listen to what the Spirit is saying.

Pope Francis has approved the Australian Bishops' decision to hold a Plenary Council in Australia in 2020 and 2021. It is a significant moment for the Church in Australia to make decisions about the future.

To prepare the agenda for the Plenary Council, all of God's people are invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" Find out more about the Plenary Council 2020 at the new website now online: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

San Sisto College Open Day – Sunday 20 May from 1 pm until 4 pm

We invite you to meet our students and teachers while exploring our stunning campus and state-of-the-art facilities.

Enjoy guided tours, student performances, faculty demonstrations and displays at Open Day 2018. These provide a unique snapshot of what it feels like to join the San Sisto community. Displays including those from Languages – Japanese and Italian, HPE – Sport and Physical Enrichment, Drama, Textiles, Art, Humanities and Science are always popular, and there will be dress-ups in the Rose Retail Shop. Our café, coffee cart and barbeque will provide refreshments for those keen to take a rest and enjoy the Cecilia Square student entertainment activities. Music and voice presentations of all kinds will be on offer, from ensembles to busking. With the smell of food and the sound of music in the air, there will be plenty to see, experience, do, taste and listen to at Open Day 2018.

Register for Open Day 2018 and discover the San Sisto difference. To register, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/OpenDay2018

Archdiocese Alpha Training

Mt Carmel Coorparoo is hosting an Alpha training workshop on behalf of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. This workshop will cover how to lead an Alpha Small Group so that guests feel safe to share openly and honestly. Thursday 24th May 7.00pm - 9.00pm in Community Room under the church. All welcome: Please register at <https://ebab.weebly.com/alpha-seminars.html>

Iona College Open Day

Iona College will hold Open Day on Monday 4 June 2018 from 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

Contact the College Registrar, Sharon Young on 3893 8801 or at enrol@iona.qld.edu.au for further assistance.

Become a part of the parish Planned Giving Program to help your Parish grow.

We thank, sincerely, all Parishioners who contribute to Planned Giving. Your ongoing commitment and contribution assists the parish to budget for operating expenses (wages, rates, electricity, phones, maintenance etc) as well as parish pastoral planning (faith education, sacramental preparation, resources etc). To obtain Planned Giving Envelopes or to contribute by direct debit, complete this form and place on the plate, or contact the Parish Office. Planned Giving contributions are not Tax Deductable.

Surname: _____ **Given names** _____

Address _____ **P/code** _____

Phone _____

Email _____