

OFFICIAL



The Coming of the Holy Spirit, 1996
Soichi Watanabe (Japan, 1949–)

Day of Pentecost

Sunday 28 May 2023

Welcome to St Philip's

We acknowledge the Ngambri and Ngunnawal people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we worship, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present and emerging. We extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who worship with us.

St Philip's COVIDSafe Plan We are asking folk not attend church if they feel unwell, to be aware of their hand hygiene and to be mindful of social distance. Thank you. Masks are available for those who wish to wear one.

Pew sheet & Order of Service: the full Pew sheet with more news and reflections is available on our website. The QR code in the pews will direct you to the current edition, please use your phone/tablet and follow along. Service cards, Pew Bibles and Prayer Books are also available.

Offertory: at the offertory when our gifts are brought forward, there is an opportunity for you to make your contribution. A self-serve Eftpos machine is available in the foyer, you can use it before or after the service. St Philip's EFT details are also available if you would like to make a direct

transfer: 702-389 05202512. Giving cards are in the foyer if you wish to place something in the offertory bag after giving electronically.

Communion: if you are baptised you are welcome to receive communion. If you would like to receive a blessing please cross your hands on your chest as you come forward.

If you'd like to volunteer as a reader, sidesperson, welcomer or another role on the Roster, then please email rosters@stphilipsoconnor.org.au

St Philips O'Connor, ACT

www.stphilipsoconnor.org.au

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Rector: The Rev'd Martin Johnson



[@stphilipsoconnor](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipsoconnor)

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From the Rector

Dear Friends

Many thanks to Alison for updating the Parish Directory. This is in effect a Pastoral Roll to enable us to keep in contact with one another, reach out when needed and as an aid to prayer as we pray for one another. This document is strictly for our use, it does not find its way onto the website and copies are not left in the foyer. When we gather however there will be one copy in the foyer, this is for you to amend your entry if you wish. If you would like a copy of the Directory, please let Alison or one of the Wardens know. An electronic version in PDF format is also available and this will be updated as required, again ask Alison or a Warden if you would like a copy.

It is busy around the parish with baptisms, feast days, and seminars. If you glance at the diary, you will see that there are a number of 'Ember Days' this week these are special days for prayer and fasting during the liturgical year. They correspond to the four seasons, and they focus our attention on the blessings of nature. On these days, we give thanks for blessings we've received, but also remind ourselves of our need of forgiveness for the waste and greed, that mars our world. The roots of the Ember Days go back to the Old Testament. The Book of Zechariah describes an ancient Jewish practice of fasting four times a year (8:19). Christians adapted this tradition into what was referred to in Latin as "Quatuor Tempora," or "four times." Somewhere through the centuries the Latin "tempora" became "ember" in colloquial speech, and thus the name "Ember Days."

Blessings to you all, *Martin*

Eucharist for the Day of Pentecost

Introit Hymn 422(TiS) (10am)

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Inflame our souls with love,
transforming every heart and home
with wisdom from above.

Let none of us despise
the humble path Christ trod,
but choose, to shame the worldly wise,
the foolishness of God.

All-knowing Spirit, prove
the poverty of pride,
by knowledge of the Father's love
in Jesus crucified.

And grant us faith to know
the glory of that sign,
and in our very lives to show
the marks of love divine.

Come with the gift to heal
the wounds of guilt and fear,
and to oppression's face reveal

the kingdom drawing near.
Where chaos longs to reign,
descend, O holy Dove,
and free us all to work again
the miracles of love.

Spirit of truth, arise:
Inspire the prophet's voice:
Expose to scorn the tyrant's lies,
and bid the poor rejoice.
O Spirit, clear our sight,
all prejudice remove,
and help us to discern the right,
and covet only love.

Give us the tongues to speak
the word of love and grace
to rich and poor, to strong and weak,
in every time and place.

Enable us to hear
the words that others bring,
interpreting with open ear
the special song they sing

Come, Holy Spirit, dance
within our hearts today,
our earthbound spirits to entrance,
our mortal fears allay.
And teach us to desire,
all other things above,
that self-consuming holy fire,
the perfect gift of love.

Michael Lindsay Forster 1946-

Entrance Antiphon

'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,' says the Lord; 'and let the one who believes in me drink. For out of your heart shall flow rivers of living water.'

John 7:38

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God ✠ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all,

And also with you

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed.

Let us pray:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Spirit of truth comes to convict of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement.

Let us then open our hearts and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge,

**we have sinned against you in thought word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,
Who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon you ✕ and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the father,
 Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
 you are seated at the righthand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
 Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:
Almighty God,
at the feast of Pentecost
 you sent you Holy Spirit to the disciples,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
empower us with that same Spirit
to witness to your redeeming love
 and draw all people to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 the firstborn from the dead,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of Acts (2:1-21)

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they

were sitting.³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "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.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."
For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:26-36

Lord, how various are your works:
in wisdom you have made them all,
and the earth is full of your creatures.

**There is the wide, immeasurable sea:
there move living things without number,
great and small;**

There go the ships, to and fro:
and there is that Leviathan
whom you formed to sport in the deep.

**These all look to you:
to give them their food in due season.**

When you give it to them, they gather it:
when you open your hand
they are satisfied with good things.

**When you hide your face, they are troubled:
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to their dust.**

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

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

If he look upon the earth, it shall tremble:
if he but touch the mountains, they shall smoke.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live:

I will praise my God while I have any being.

May my meditation be pleasing to him:
for my joy shall be in the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (12:1-13)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. ¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual hymn 437(TiS) (10am)

Blessèd Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and minds be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your gospel pure and holy,
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

All our knowledge, sense and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded;
you alone to God can win us,
only you work good within us.

Glorious Lord, yourself impart,
light of light from God proceeding;
open lips and ears and heart,
help us by your Spirit's leading;
hear the cry your church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.

*Tobias Clausnitzer 1619-84
tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78*

Gradual (8am)

Alleluia,

Alleluia!

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Corinthians 12:13

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (20:19-23)

Glorify to you Lord Jesus Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples

rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead ✕
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

In our prayers we remember all in need, particularly: Ben, Hugh, Sarah, David, Otto, Bob, Noel, Deborah, Sue, Molly, Katherine, Matt, Wendy, David & Margot, those unable to gather with us, those in hospital or care.

We are continuing to offer support to the ABM project in Vanuatu following the recent cyclones and earthquake. Here is prayer for you to use:

Loving God, console and strengthen all who have been affected by recent cyclones in Vanuatu, those who have lost their gardens – the source of their food, those who have lost their homes, and the children whose schooling has been disrupted. Through the support and generosity of our churches in Vanuatu and Australia, may they find a way to recovery and rebuilding. We make our prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We commend to God the recently departed, those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Joyce Miller (28/5/2004), Thelma McCaskie (28/5/2015), Charles Parke (31/5/1936), Debbie Kinsey (31/5/2021), Jo Johnson (1/6/2004), John Carnahan (2/6/2017), the victims of war and tragedy, those whose memories are dear to us, and those who have no one to remember them.

We pray for Logan Sharwood to be baptised today here at St Philip's, for his parents Moria and Michael and his Godparents.

The Greeting of Peace

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

Cf 2 Corinthians 1.22

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn 414(TiS) (10am)

There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world!'

Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

There's a Spirit in the air,
calling people everywhere:
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

Brian Arthur Wren 1936-

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry, who raises the poor, who fills our praise,

receive all we offer you this day.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give out thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today we give you thanks
because in fulfilment of your promise
you pour your Spirit upon us,
filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth,
and uniting peoples of many tongues
in the confession of one faith.

You give us power to proclaim your gospel to all nations
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels,
and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells,
to proclaim the glory of your name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes ✕ in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do, this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:

Proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
we worship you,
in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
Be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The breaking of bread and communion

As this broken bread was once many grains which have been gathered together
and made one bread:

So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into our kingdom.

Jesus Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died
for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion Antiphon

**God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given
to us.**

Romans 5:5

The sending out of God's people

Let us pray:

Giver of life and love,

we thank you that in this heavenly banquet

you invigorate and renew us.
Living in the unity of the Spirit,
may we boldly use your gifts
to continue your work in the world.
Most loving God, **you send us into the world you love.**

Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit.

After the closing prayer we turn to the Paschal Candle.

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.

Blessed be God for ever.

Our individual candles are lit from the Paschal candle.

Closing hymn 398(TiS) (10am)

Come down, O Love divine,
seek now this soul of mine,
and visit it with our own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

There let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let your glorious light
shine ever on my sight
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
my outward garment be,
and lowliness become my inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace
till we become the place
in which the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

*Bianco de Siena d.1434
Tr. Richard Frederick Littledale 1833-90*

Commission

When all the candles are lit:

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 this community 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 him to be your guide?

By the Spirit's power, we will.

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

We will.

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other in need?

We will.

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

We will.

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

We will.

At 8am our candles are extinguished. At 10am the Paschal Candle is placed near the font and our candles are extinguished.

Conclusion

The Lord is here.

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.

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

Amen.

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

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.

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

News

The series of studies by The Revd Dr Colin Dundon called ***From Fear to Witness*** conclude today. I hope that you have found them to be inspirational during this season of Easter. If you would like a printed copy please let Martin know. We are indebted to Colin for sharing with us his wisdom and knowledge. This is a series to complement our Missional Spirituality Project.

At this year's AGM we were asked to consider a draft **Parish Plan for 2023-2025**. At the April Parish Council meeting the plan was adopted and will be integrated into our strategies and projects.

As a reminder these five elements were seen as central to our ongoing life together: spiritual, worship, missional, community and financial. At each meeting we will be using one or more of these 'nudges' to guide our discussions. In the pew

St John's Care is seeking the following for its pantry: Sweet biscuits, vegemite, 1kg plain flour, 1kg self raising flour, small packets of sultanas, Up & Go drinks. The website: <https://www.stjohnscare.org.au/> provides information on how we can help.

The updated **Parish Directory** is now available in hard or soft copy. If you would like a PDF copy (for your personal use only) please email or speak with Alison. If there are any updates required, please amend the copy marked as such in the front foyer of the church or let Alison know.

St Philip's Rosters We are always looking for volunteers to assist with the various rostered roles that support our worship services. We need more assistance in the sanctuary, this can be any of the following roles: Liturgical assistant, Crucifer, Server and/or Communion Server. Also looking for people who can operate the screen during a service, this is an easy job you can do from the pew! Training is available for any of the above tasks. Please chat to Martin or Leighton if you can assist in any way.

Thy Kingdom Come

The wait was over. Pentecost had arrived but whatever they had expected this wasn't it. Pentecost was originally a Harvest Festival. You can read about it in Exodus 23.

The Pentecost story is all about signs, and God uses the sign of the Harvest Festival to point to a new harvest: not of crops but of people. It is a theme that Jesus employed in the Gospels when He loved to use farming imagery. He so often used pictures people would understand to teach the truth of God's love and the urgent need of a response of faith to the good news He was bringing.

There are three signs for Pentecost: wind, fire, and languages.

The *wind* blew the infant church out of its comfort zone and into the streets of Jerusalem. The picture of the dove as a sign of the Holy Spirit is only ever used of Jesus at His baptism. The sign of guiding the holy, obedient Son of God is a gentle dove of peace. The sign for moving the church, which is so often comfortable in committee rooms discussing things that don't matter, is a powerful wind.

The *fire* speaks of holiness. It's a sign of God's holiness that goes all the way back to Moses and the burning bush. Fire to burn away past failures, resentments, sins, and fears. Living the Kingdom means a longing for the Spirit of God to make us more like Jesus, to enable us to be the people we just can't be in our own strength.

Languages. Most people in Jerusalem that day would have known enough Greek to get by, but it wasn't their mother tongue ... and that's what the languages or 'tongues' of Pentecost are all about. God gave the whole world the right to hear the Gospel without having to learn another language or a whole load of theological shorthand. So often our language is aimed at insiders, those who are already members of the club. Jesus didn't do that and Pentecost sends us to do the same.

Continue to pray that the precious people we have been carrying to Jesus in our prayers these last 11 days may respond to His great love and receive His new life. Pray that we may Live the Kingdom clearly and simply 'So the world may believe.' John 17:21.

Reflection

I am sure you realise that Christians have no real 'sacred' language? We might in our different churches have a preferred language for formal Liturgy, Old Church Slavonic, or Latin for example, but it is not any more useful as a conveyer of God's word than the vernacular language of a people.

To underscore this, at the inception of the Christian community at Pentecost, though we read that the Spirit descended on those gathered 'like tongues of fire', the unity of that first community was not found in a common tongue, the language of the Hebrew scriptures gave way to a variety of voices: 'And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim'.(Acts 1:4)

Instead, our unity was discerned in that of a deeper language, that of our 'oneness' as different but essential members of Christ's Body; this brought into birth by the Spirit at baptism and chrismation/confirmation and through historical time, continually built up by this self-same Spirit in our assembling for Eucharist, common acts of worship, in our private, intimate, prayer, our reading of Scripture and that love we show in looking after our neighbour. Paul puts it like this: 'For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit'. (I Cor 13:13)

Why did I begin with that comment about not having a 'sacred' language in Christianity? Perhaps because of change, for at this juncture in history the Church is being challenged as never before! Our world is in fearful danger, and the worst excesses of destructive force have nothing to do with

nature and everything to do with 'homo-sapiens'. We humans are responsible for so much inequality, despoliation of resources, warfare, annihilation of other species with as much right to live on this planet alongside us. I don't mean to be overly negative; but that first Pentecost was not only an outpouring of the Spirit, it was also an eruption of God's force into our lives so that we might act as part of Christ in it. If we read on from the alternative second reading of Paul to the Romans, he gives it to us unequivocally, the Spirit is about renewal of creation and we are the agents of that change! Listen carefully to what he says: 'for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God' (Rm 8:20-21). There it is, this world is now a place of sacredness because all of it is touched by Christ's resurrection and all is blessed and sustained by the Spirit who as the Byzantine liturgical prayer puts it so well, is 'present in all places and filling all things, the Treasury of blessings and Giver of life'.

If there are two things, we can take from John's Gospel this day it is simply that the Christ gives us peace and asks us to help that peace pervade the whole of the earth and to open ourselves to receive the Spirit, but this will make demands on us. First that we acknowledge we are, as Augustine points out, citizens of two places, the City here on Earth and the City of God, but that this need not cause us too much division, for the City of God, that Kingdom we talk so much about, is also present in the here and now through our membership of that leaven of the Spirit, the community of believers in the Church. Secondly to recognise that Covid has changed the world! Maybe you cannot see it, but it has and will continue to do so, already people are beginning to do and say things we might not have discussed before. New ways of worship are being explored by those who, not able to physically come to church have through the Pandemic discovered another form of church in the web, via zoom or what's app or video link. People are learning to share their understanding of scripture, insights into the spiritual life and its journey, to demand greater involvement for laypersons in the life of the institutional religious structures and no longer to think of clergy as particularly knowledgeable unless proven to be so, or a special caste apart. I believe Covid is also part of 'this' Pentecost, because it is helping to point us forward, not back, to see the Spirit at work in all things, not just what we are told is holy.

I have great hope because the barriers of an older order are coming down, whilst the ever-present truth contained in our experience of Christ through the Spirit is bursting out around us in all places and things! Like those disciples our upper rooms of fear and insecurity are being opened up, we are being called to 'get out there' utilise and encourage each other's variety of gifts and of our common vocations as a baptised 'Christ-bearer' and in His name, with the Spirit's help walk alongside those who need us in our world now. For creation has great need of us, as people of the Gospel, and as Christ's living body!

Fr Robin Gibbons

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/44832>

This week @ St Philip's

Today	<i>Day of Pentecost</i>
8am	Eucharist (followed by Breakfast)
10am	Sung Eucharist (followed by Morning tea)
1pm	Holy Baptism – Logan Sharwood
Tuesday 30 May	<i>Ember Day</i>
10am-Noon	Men's Group
2pm	Eucharist – Sir Leslie Morshead Manor
Wednesday 31 May	<i>Ember Day</i>
10am-Noon	Pandora's Sorting & Preparation
Thursday 1 June	<i>Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth</i>
10am	Eucharist (followed by Morning tea)
Saturday 3 June	<i>Ember Day, Martyrs of Uganda (d.1886)</i>
	<i>Janani Luwum, archbishop of Uganda (d.1977)</i>
	<i>John XXIII, bishop of Rome, reformer (d.1963)</i>
10am-1pm	Pandora's - OPEN
11am	Eucharist – Canberra Aged Care

OFFICIAL

Sunday 4 June

Trinity Sunday

8am

10am

Noon

Eucharist (followed by Breakfast)

Sung Eucharist (followed by Morning tea)

Baptism Elliotte-Bee Hollee Statton

Readings: Exodus 34:1-8, Song of the Three Young Men,
2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

Rosters

		28-May-23	4-Jun-23	11-Jun-23	
Sunday of Month		4th	1st	2nd	
Liturgical Season		Day of Pentecost	Trinity Sunday	Third Sunday after Pentecost	
Flowers		Flower team	Flower team	Flower team	
Celebrant		Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Scott	Rev'd Martin	
Preacher (if different to Celebrant)					
Sidespeople		Shane & Tim	Margaret & Russell	Alison & Alistair	
Liturgical Assistant	8am	Brian M (Lit assistant)	Susan J (server)	Ellie P (Liturgical assistant)	8am
Audio Visual Operator					
1st Bible reader - OT		Shane W	Margaret M	Alistair D	
2nd Bible reader - NT		Shane W	Russell M	Alison D	
Celebrant		Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	Rev'd Martin	
Preacher (if different to Celebrant)			Rev'd Scott		
Sidespeople & Welcomer		Sally A & helper	Fred A & Janene B	Helen & Hardy	
Liturgical Assistant	10am	Philippa W (Lit assistant)	Leighton (crucifer)	Rebecca K (Lit assistant)	10am
Audio Visual Operator					
Musician(s) & Singers/Soloist		Colin F	Colin F	Colin F	
1st Bible reader - OT		Sarah B	Brian M	Fiona D	
2nd Bible reader - NT		Colin D	Jos G	Kerry C	
Morning Tea		Helen P	Ann M & Barbara G	Janene B	
<i>Additional details/notes</i>			<i>Reconciliation Day weekend</i>		

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 27 May	2pm – 4pm	Missional Spirituality - Seminar 3
Saturday 24 June	2pm – 4pm	Missional Spirituality - Seminar 4
Saturday 29 July	10am – 1pm	<i>Pandora's Christmas in July</i>
Saturday 5 August	2pm – 4pm	Missional Spirituality - Seminar 5
Saturday 2 August	2pm – 4pm	Missional Spirituality - Seminar 6
Fri 8 - Sun 10 Sept		Diocesan Synod Canberra, Girls Grammar School
Sunday 1 October		ANU Choral Society concert @ St Philip's