



Pentecost Sunday, Year B

19 May 2024

First Reading

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. **(R.)**

You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. **(R.)**

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sequence

Holy Spirit, Lord of light,

From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure;
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour thy dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die;
Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.



Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel

John 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
The Most Holy Trinity, Year B
1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
2nd Reading: Romans 8:14-17
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

MYSTERY OF FAITH
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Prayer Requests

Sick: Mary Bailey, Eunice Benn, Lorraine Cooper, Phuong Ho, Ron Hebbe, Austin Hoffman, Noel House, Taylor Lojszczyk, Warren Markham, Bob MacDonnell, Indira Nanda, Jen Phillips, Olga Roberts, Selene Maree Stanholm-Atkins and Sharon Wood. **Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.**

Anniversaries: Lorraine Edwards, Nell Meyn, Jimmy McAleer, Patrick Slattery, Margaret Trunk. **Having returned to the Father, may they rest in peace.**

Recently Deceased: Sr Patricia Adams RSM. (Mercy Chapel Mon 20 May, 10.30am) and Raylie Barrett (St Brigid's Fri 24 May 11am). **May they rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon them.**

The prayers for the sick list will be cleared at the end of May. If you wish for a name to remain on the list, please contact the Parish Office.

Due to Privacy Laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest	Rev Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	Mrs Erica Janssen	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au Web: www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au
Facebook	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton	Promoters of Safeguarding Contact via the Parish Office	Singleton Parish: Niamh Marzol Branxton Parish: Lydia Gorczyca
St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Singleton	St Patrick's Church	Queen Street Singleton 2330	
Broke	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Wollombi Street, Broke	
Glendon Brook	St. Paul's Catholic Church	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	
St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Branxton	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	
Greta	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	
Schools in our Parishes			
St. Catherine's Catholic College	Acting Principal: Ms Lauren Carlson	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School	Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	Director: Ms Alex Stafford	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	Director: Ms Stella Danks	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 26 MAY 2024

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	J Dries	J Dries	G McMillan
Commentator		L Gorczyca			SCAE LEADER REQD	
Readers	C Harvey S Trunk	M Ingold	S Bates VOLUNTEER NEEDED	R James D Cantrall	H Rapp C Brackenrig O Brackenrig	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	E Thomas	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	A Skardon	
Offertory	C & A Trunk	C Anderson L Harrison	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Rosary Leader		C Miller				

Faithful and compassionate God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy; hear the prayers we offer, that in the ministry to which you have called us, may we serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

WEEKLY MASS DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
20 May Mary, Mother of our Church	21 May St Christopher Magallanes & Companions	22 May St Rita of Cascia	23 May	24 May MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS	25 May St Bede the Venerable St Gregory VII St Mary Magdalene de Pazzi	26 May THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, YEAR B
OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN		
<u>8.00am</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> LOTW St Patrick's Singleton <u>5.00pm</u> SCAE Glendonbrook	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> SCAE St Patrick's Singleton
	NO MASS		NO MASS		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta

St Brigid, St Catherine, St Patrick, and St Paul – pray for us

Weekly Notices

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We welcome visitors from all faith communities to our Parish Mass. If you are new members of our Parish, we ask that you take a Welcome Pack from the back of the church, complete and return the Member forms and one of our welcoming team will contact you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Wonnarua people, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Information brochures are available in the entrance to the church. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult, contact the Office of Safeguarding 02 49791390 or childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au for more information and resources.

Mass Changes During May

Fr Thomas will be taking leave during May to return home to India. This weekend we have Fr Greg Arnold celebrating Mass and next weekend Fr Anthony Coloma will be here. There will be no weekday Mass said in Greta or Branxton for the month. Please check the **Weekly Mass Diary** for any changes. Next week the Parish Office will be open ALL week!

Mass Count During May

The Council of Priests recently reviewed the results of the most recent Mass count which was undertaken in 2021. It was determined that these figures were significantly affected by COVID and do not accurately reflect our current reality. A review of Pastoral Ministries in the Diocese has resulted in a renewed focus on mission and evangelization so Bishop Michael and the Council are of the view that a Mass count reflecting our current reality would be beneficial at this time. The count will take place of the four Sundays of May. This notice is to make you aware that the count will be taking place and that you will be asked which age group you fit into when attending Mass on those Sundays. Thank you for your cooperation.

Annual Pilgrimage to MacKillop Place

This year's pilgrimage to MacKillop Place will be on Friday 23 August 2024. Cost is \$80.00 per person. Bus will leave Branxton at 6.15am and picking up at Greta, Lochinvar, Rutherford and East Maitland at 7am. Cost includes bus, morning tea, museum entry and Mass in the chapel at 12pm with Fr Thomas. You will need to buy your own lunch at North Ryde RSL. Bus will leave Sydney at 3pm. Numbers must be finalised by 12 July. Names to Mercia via the Parish Office or see Mercia at Mass. We encourage everyone to join us for the trip as it is a spiritually rewarding day.

Diocesan Cursillo - Save the Date

Come journey with us! A beautiful weekend of renewal prepared by the Diocesan Cursillo team, laypersons, religious and priests. The weekend is held at The Catalina Conference Centre, 171 Dorrington Rd, Rathmines from 7.30pm Thursday June 13 and concludes with Mass on Sunday afternoon June 16. The cost is \$360 which includes 3 night's accommodation, all meals/morning and afternoon teas, lovingly prepared by our catering team and all resources you'll need on the weekend. Please contact the following for a registration form: **Mike and Linda Norris** - mikelinda4@hotmail.com or **Gerard McMillan** - gimcmillan51@gmail.com

It's Nearly Tax Time!

If you are one of our regular planned givers either via envelope or direct debit, you will find a tax receipt request form at the back of the church. Please complete and return either to the parish office or by placing in the collection plate. The form also asks if you would like to keep using envelopes for 2024-25.

If you would like to start to give to the Second Collection via envelopes or direct debit, please contact the Parish Office for more details.



Laudato Si' Week 19-26 May 2024

Laudato Si' is an encyclical written by Pope Francis in May 2015. Translated as 'praise be to you', the letter addresses the Catholic Social Teaching, Care for Our Common Home. Pope Francis focuses on the social and ecological crisis that exists in our world today and what we can do to ensure we preserve our planet for future generations. In the encyclical, Pope Francis emphasises our responsibility to respond to both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Through Integral Ecology, Pope Francis teaches that 'everything is connected'. By taking action caring for creation, we are also caring for the poorest and most vulnerable in our world.

Keep an eye on the Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton Facebook Page and the News section of our website this week to find ways you can help care for our common home. Families can also find ideas in the booklets at the back of the church.

National Volunteers Week 20-26 May 2024

This coming week we celebrate all of our volunteers!



A huge shout out to all those in our parish who volunteer their time to help at Mass, keep our properties tidy, keep our cemeteries for families to visit their loved ones, assist on committees, help in the church with varied ministries and with our Sacramental formation programs.

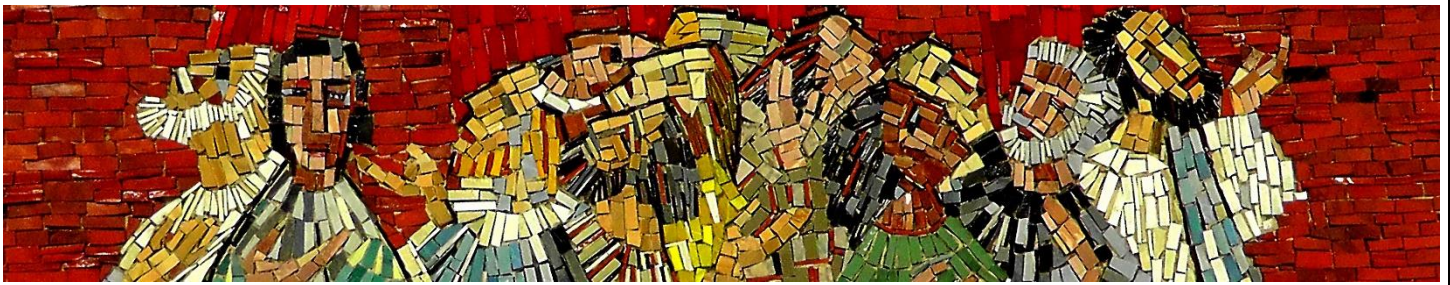
You are all appreciated, and your generosity is amazing!

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office for how you can help! There really is 'Something for Everyone'! And many hands make light work!



When Jesus appeared to his disciples he gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. Draw a flame above the head of each of the disciples below.





10 Questions about Pentecost

Officer Worship and Prayer Fiona Duque answers some questions about Pentecost.

What is Pentecost?

Pentecost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. It occurs after the season of Easter. It empowered the apostles to go out, as Jesus had commanded them, to be missionary disciples and thus it marks the beginning of the Christian church's mandate to pursue God's mission to the world.

Pentecost can be an invitation to all people to open their eyes to the mystery of life and love.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God which fills all of creation. The Holy Spirit is present with us, guiding us towards goodness and truth. Christians understand the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity (Father, Son, Spirit). The Holy Spirit is often referred to by other names in scripture such the paraclete and advocate and is often spoken of in the feminine.

What is in the Bible story about Pentecost?

Jesus' has ascended into heaven. The disciples feel lost, so they come together to talk and pray about what has happened. Then, to their surprise, a strong of wind fills the room and then it turns into flames. Tongues of flames settle on top of their heads. They were then, shockingly, gifted with being able to speak other languages. They used this gift to spread the Good News of Jesus. Amazingly 3000 people are baptised this day and were also filled with the Holy Spirit. And so, it continues today.

PS: It is important to remember that Catholics do not read the scriptures as a literal historical account. The story of Pentecost reveals a deep truth about God's promise to be with us always.

Why is it sometimes referred to as the 'birthday of the church'?

Who doesn't love a birthday party! However, not wanting to burst your balloon, this is not a helpful or even accurate image. Again, we are looking for a deeper truth. That is that the Church only exists in and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit there is no Church. Perhaps more accurately we would say that the Church comes into being in the life, death and resurrection of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

How important is Pentecost Sunday to the Church?

Pentecost Sunday is the last day of the Easter Season. For the Catholic Church, Mass on this day is a solemnity. A solemnity is a feast day of the highest rank celebrating a mystery of faith. The observance begins on the evening before the actual date of the feast.

What is the liturgical colour of Pentecost?

The tradition of the Catholic Church is to dress the church in red. The colour red used at this Mass recalls the tongues of fire that descended upon the apostles when they received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

What are the main symbols of Pentecost?

The more notable symbols of Pentecost are wind, fire, and a dove. However, perhaps the most profound and yet unrecognised symbol of Pentecost is the diverse languages of the apostles when they spoke after they had received the Holy Spirit. The Spirit enables a variety of gifts within the community. God's vision for our unity through our diversity.

What was the historical significance of Pentecost for the Jewish people?

Pentecost is known to the Jewish people as Shavuot, the seven weeks (Feast of Weeks) after Passover. It was known as the Harvest Festival. You can find out about it in Leviticus 23:15-16. Pentecost is a Greek word for that holiday, meaning fiftieth (Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē).

Why did the Holy Spirit come at Pentecost?

Jesus promised to send an advocate who would be with us always. The Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of that promise. In the Bible it reads that there were many Jews from every nation 'under heaven' in Jerusalem for Shavuot at that time. Remembering that the Holy Spirit gave the apostles the gift of languages, so they were able to proclaim the Good News about Jesus in languages that the people could understand.

I am not Catholic, what might Pentecost mean to me?

Sorry, this day won't fast track your second language studies. By receiving the Spirit of God, the followers of Jesus became one in purpose, as brothers and sisters in the one human family. It strengthened their community. What communities do you belong to that you need to reconnect with? Or, maybe you are being called to do more in your community. Also, a Church dressed in red is certainly a beautiful sight to behold. You should check it out.