



Saint Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish

Birkdale · Thorneside · Wellington Point

(This Parish is Child Safety Aware and also complies with Australian Privacy Laws)



Pentecost Sunday - Year A - 31st May 2020

We need to be Spirit-filled Christians.... In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later." "Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?" The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouth. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now." The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded." The second insisted, "Well I think there is something, and maybe it's different from life here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore." The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life." "Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us." The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists, then where is she now?" The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of her. It is in her that we live. Without her this world would not and could not exist." Said the first: "Well I don't see her, so it is only logical that she doesn't exist." To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and listen, you can hear her loving voice, calling down from above."

Today is Pentecost: The Church's birthday! The last Sunday of Easter season. "Before Pentecost, the disciples were unsure of what they were to do next, and spent most of their time in hiding. After Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, they understood their mission to spread the Good News of Jesus. They had the courage to come out of their hiding and speak openly about Jesus. There is much in our universe that is real but is not visible to the naked eye. Actually what we see with our eyes is only a fraction of our physical world. The Holy Spirit is part of the spiritual world, and it is no surprise that we cannot see the Spirit with our eyes. Yet, there are helpful ways of imagining the Holy Spirit. St. Paul uses an image drawn from nature, speaking about the fruits of the Spirit. He is talking about the visible impact of the Spirit on one's life. We may not be able to see the Holy Spirit, but we can see the impact of the Spirit in our life, just as we cannot see the wind but can see the impact of the wind on people and objects of various kinds. St. Paul is saying that wherever we find love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control, the Spirit is there at work. The Spirit becomes visible in and through these qualities and virtues. The Holy Spirit is essentially the very life of God, and that life is a life of love. The Spirit is constantly at work in our lives, making us more like Jesus. We can recognize the Spirit's presence in the common happenings of everyday life. The spiritual is not something other-worldly; it is humanity at its best.

So dear friends, today is a great day to ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the spirit of new life and enthusiasm, the fire of God's love. Let us repeat Cardinal Newman's favourite little prayer, "Come Holy Spirit:"

"Come Holy Spirit

Make our ears to hear

Make our eyes to see

Make our mouths to speak

Make our hearts to seek

Make our hands to reach out

And touch the world with your love. Amen."

Blessings,

Fr. Dantus Thottathil.



This Week's Readings:

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11 – They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages.

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

Second Reading: 1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13 – In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

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 – As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

*We all have burdens in life,
but the burdens aren't the problem....
It's how we choose to carry them.*

Next week's Readings

First: Exo 34:4-6, 8-9

Second: 2Cor 13:11-13

Gospel: John 3:16-18

Mass Times: Weekend Masses Cancelled until further notice

Reconciliation: Cancelled until further notice

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am to 2pm.

Parish Council Members: Chris Mahoney, Therese Evans, Cathy McGrath, Lorraine Kumar, John Spillane

Pastor: Fr Dantus Thottathil thottathild@bne.catholic.net.au

Associate Pastor: Fr Prem Rethnamony

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A VOCATION VIEW:

"There are different gifts, but the same Spirit." Each of us has been graced with certain gifts of the Spirit. And they are active, if we utilise them for the building up of the Church.

Name the way the Lord has gifted you

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Parish Primary School

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Please be mindful of our sick & all who care for them: Henk Hoonhout, Pat Cochrane, Kevin Kranz, Patricia Briscoe, Alicia Black, Tessa Gorogo, Mick Gauci, Paul McKean, Geoffrey Whall, Kevin Harrop, Judy Mullan, Charles Lilley, Ann Brown, Sally Legarda, Gemma Paxman, James Thomas, Cindy Cummins, John Bacon, Winifred Linton, Jodie Bromiley, Casey Whitby, Trish Swan, Ian Splatt, Jan Hurst, Steven West, Ava Loda, Joan Thorpe, Patricia Haines, Belinda Wheeler, Cely Salisbury, The Bade Family, Carol Parker, Brian Crimmins, Brian Johnston, Medi Camelli, Hazel Foster, Dan Mullan, Stana Matic, Page Brosnan, Dot Abrahams, Amelia Ramsay, Jeanette Moore, Nola Murphy, Christiana Becker, Cathy Leane, Pauline McNamee, Pat Crimmins, Gina Mather.

May God embrace all who have recently died: Jack Cochrane, Dolour Barnes, Peter O'Donnell.

Anniversaries & Remembrances May: Josephine Romero, Babs Gilhooley, Amber Rose (birthday) daughter of Celina and David McGovern, Michael Czapkowski (birthday), Anastacia Wieland, Bill Cluck, Matha Cluck, Flo Conway, Aristeo Avenia, Denis Glanville, Edward Bartlett, Barbara McGhee, Denise Hodgson, Alma Maclean, Jessie Maclean, Kerry Powell, Norma Cowsell, Simon Bromley, Giovanni Ragagnin, Betty Avenia, Sr Anne Pulling RSH, Dr Salolatore Vitali, Laureen Smith, Maureen McNab, Nell Elliott, Bede Ryan, Aldo Bandiera, James Harrison, Ann Hockings, Nellie Modral, Saul David, Alberto Bandiera, Patricia Watson, Noel & Role Gablonski, Luigi Basso, Irma Moroney, Moira Peterson, Margaret Knights, Jessie Maclean, James King. .

Please record any further names in the Anniversaries & Remembrance Diary at the Welcome Desk

Private Prayer in the Church the Church will be open for Private Prayer on Mondays from **1:00pm to 1:45pm** and Wednesdays from **11:00am to 11:45am**. Numbers will be limited to 9 people (increasing to 19 people on 12th June). You will need to contact the Parish office by email birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au or phone 3822 2139 to register. You will also need to adhere to the same restrictions as with Mass Celebrations (see next item). The number of participants cannot exceed the limit of 9 people so please **ensure you register before you attend!!**

Mass Celebrations We will be able to celebrate Mass with 9 people in attendance (plus the celebrant). People who attend will need to adhere to the following guidelines:-

You must NOT

- have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have a fever or symptoms of a respiratory infection such as a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath

You must

- maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between people
- refrain from handshaking and hugging
- clean your hands with the alcohol-based hand rub provided in the Church when you enter and leave the Church
- Record your name and contact details in the register at the entry of the Church
- Sit in the chairs which are numbered 1 – 9 in the church

Attendance at these Masses will be on a roster basis. If you would like to be included on this roster, please contact the parish office via email birkmmack@bne.catholic.edu.au or phone 3822 2139.

Keep in touch with your parish We are here to support you. If you or someone you know needs pastoral care, help to stay connected with the parish community or more information about sacraments please contact the parish office. **Our planned**

giving bank account details for direct deposits are as follows:

BSB: 064 786 Account No: 100017027 Account name: Birkdale Parish Planned Giving

Kindly reference your deposit with your surname and your planned giving number/envelope number if you have one.

Thank you very much for your generous financial support and prayers for our Parish. The Parish Office – open on **Tuesdays and Fridays (excluding Public Holidays) between 9:00am and 2:00pm** until further notice. The preferred contact method is by phone 3822 2139 or email birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au. If you require a priest IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY ONLY please phone 3396 0742

The Swag Magazine We will be offering your parishioners free online access to a Page Turner and a PDF of the Winter 2020 edition. Go to www.theswag.org.au and on the home page click on the yellow box.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

First Reading: 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.'

Second Reading: A reading from the 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.

Gospel: 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.'