

## PENTECOST SUNDAY – YEAR B

24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015

### ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH STANTHORPE

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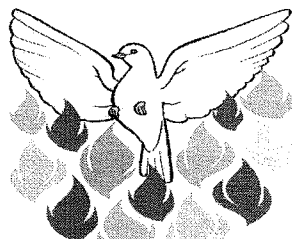
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**All of them were  
filled with  
the Holy Spirit!**  
Acts 2.4

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

Today we celebrate the **BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH**, when the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles on the Jewish feast of Pentecost, **fifty days after the Passover**. Filled with power and enthusiasm, Peter and the Apostles went out into the streets of Jerusalem to begin the preaching of the Gospel.

The feast of Pentecost is much more than just celebrating the birth of the Church. It is also a celebration of our **being Church** today. When do we see the Spirit alive and active in our lives, in our Parish community and in the Church today?

Take some time today to think about how the Spirit is at work in your life and in the Parish. St. Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control (*Galatians 5:22*). Try to produce these fruits of the Spirit everyday. Pray often the wonderful prayer:

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful;  
and kindle in them the fire of Your love.*

## ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

**Parishioners are invited to take part in the Ecumenical Prayer Service  
tonight (Sunday) at 6PM  
at the Vineyard Christian Church, 85 Connor Street.**

On this Birthday of the Church we join our brothers and sisters of the other Christian Churches to pray together and to rejoice in the faith that unites us. While institutional unity may still be well into the future and while we are not yet able to share at the same Eucharistic Table, we can and do share together at the Table of God's Word and we pray together and grow closer in heart, mind and faith with all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The good Pope John XXIII (1958-1964) was asked by a good friend, the leader of the Methodist Church, how long it would be before their Churches were again united. Pope John replied "*my dear friend it might take a long time to overcome the four centuries of disunity. But between you and me it is done*". Disunity is well and truly "done" when we pray with, form friendships with, join in common initiatives with our brothers and sisters of the various denominations.

**Say "*it is done*" by coming  
to the Ecumenical Prayer Service tonight (Sunday).**

# **SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PATRON OF AUSTRALIA**

***(Transferred this year from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May)***

The decision to place the Australian Church under the patronage of the Virgin Mary, invoked by the title Help of Christians, was made by the Bishops in 1844 at the first provincial Synod in Sydney. The choice was confirmed by the Holy See in 1852 and since then our national patron has been *Mary, Help of Christians*. (Since her canonisation the Australian Bishops have made St. Mary of The Cross MacKillop, a co-patron of Australia, together with Our Lady Help of Christians.) The early Catholics relied heavily on her help. Without a Priest or Mass, they would gather in their homes for Scripture readings, hymns and to pray the Rosary. As the Church has always done, they turned to Mary, the Mother of Jesus for help.



***Mary Help of Christians*** was adopted as patron of the new and developing Church of Australia at a significant time in our history. British settlement was just over fifty years old, the transportation of convicts was coming to an end, and the first elections in Australian history had been held in 1843. Issues of land, immigration and education had begun to surface and the Church was involved in these social problems. In 1843 Archbishop Polding inaugurated the first Catholic apostolic meeting with aboriginal people in Moreton Bay.

**In 2001, the centenary year of Federation and the beginning of the third millennium, the Australian Bishops gathered again in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, as they did in 1988, the bicentenary year of Australia, to rededicate our nation and Church to the care and protection of *Mary Help of Christians*.**

In 2015, we confront many of the same social problems of earlier times and the Church has the same need to witness to the values of the Gospel. The task of evangelising the Australian culture is more urgent and daunting than ever. Recourse to our national patron, *Mary Help of Christians*, (as well as to our own St. Mary MacKillop who is a magnificent role model for us all) is as relevant and necessary today as it has ever been.

*(Adapted from Liturgy Line, the Liturgical Commission, Brisbane)*

## **PRAYER FOR AUSTRALIA**

**Lord, You place deep in our hearts love of Mary Help of Christians.**

**Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity  
to our citizens.**

**Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Mary Help of Christians Patroness of Australia, pray for us.***

**PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION:** This last week the children and their families have had the second of a four week program of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The focus has been on the **faith of the Church** as they are introduced to the people who believed in Jesus and they are introduced to the Creed.

**Today at Mass** (and at home with their families) they will practice **renewing their Baptismal Promises**. We hold in our prayers the children to be Confirmed on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June at the 8.30AM Mass by Bishop McGuckin.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** At the 8.30AM Mass each Sunday Primary aged children are invited to go to the Children's Liturgy which is held in the Parish Hospitality room adjacent to the Church to reflect on the Gospel and enjoy some activities appropriate to their age. The children leave the Church after the Introductory Rites (before the Liturgy of The Word) and return prior to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Thank you to Mary Roberts who is coordinating the ministry. Anyone who may wish to assist with this ministry to our children, please contact the Parish Office.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO *Alain and Agnes Bourzali*** who were **married fifty years ago in France last Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May**. At the **8.30AM Mass** Fr. Brian will give Alain and Agnes a blessing for this happy occasion and joyous milestone in their lives. With all married couples celebrating special anniversaries this year, we give thanks.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** **Theresa Rees** (Daughter of Stanley & Gloria [Both Dec.], Sister & Sister-in-law of Kevin & Christine, Margaret, Allan & Erin – Graveside Liturgy: Tuesday 11AM), **John Raymond (Ray) Dewsbury** (Husband of Marj [Dec], Father & Father-In-Law of Kerrie & Leon McCosker, Lorraine & Bruce McAllister, Grandad to Mark & Natalee McCosker, Sandra & Steve Kay - Service of Thanksgiving, St. Paul's Anglican Church – Monday 10.30AM), **Patricia (Pat) Orreal, Adrianus (Arch) Van Dongen, Andrea Miotto, Manika Lama, John Nagya**

**TO REMEMBER:** Salvatore & Maria Raciti, Carlo & Giuseppina Zeppa, Antonio & Dorina Berlese & Dec Family Members (Italy), Fr. Francis Hall

**FOR THE SICK:** Vincenzo Di Raimond, Marie Hindmarsh, Frank Sciuto, Karen Anderson, Juan Pereira, Lisa Hopgood, Greg Keen, Trish Hancock, Julia Johnstone, Sarah Leonardi, Mario Costanzo, Marlene Holmes, Joe Costanzo, Danny Mahoney, Ken McQualter, Cathy Sullivan, Linda Vinciguerra, Debra Micallef, Ev Hayes, Rosemary Paget, Marie Keen, Bridey Kelly, Enid McCarthy

**Svetlana (Debbie) Wilmot** would sincerely like to thank everyone for their prayers for her. She has recovered from her illness and very much appreciates and thanks God for her health returning.

**VINNIES WINTER APPEAL** is now being conducted. *Envelopes are now available in the foyer.* **Donations can also be made at the local Vinnie's premises at 21 Creek Street.** There are posters in the Church advertising the appeal. Thank you for your support.

### **THIS WEEK:**

**MASSSES: MON:** 7AM; 10.30AM MASS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK AT BLUE CARE;  
**TUES:** 7AM; **WED:** 11.45AM; **THURS:** 9.15AM; **FRI:** 5.30PM; **SAT:** 7AM  
**SATURDAY VIGIL :** 6.30PM **SUNDAY:** 8.30AM

## **THIS WEEK Cont:**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Prior to Sat. Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass or anytime by contacting Fr. Brian 4681 2157 or Fr. Lino 4681 3653.

**FEAST DAYS:** **MON:** *SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS*; **FRI:** *ST. PHILIP NERI*

## **COMING UP:**

**WORKSHOP FOR MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:** On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 7PM in the **Hospitality Centre** (the front room with the gas heater) there will be a workshop for our current Ministers of Communion and those who will be preparing to join the ministry, conducted by John Briffa, the Diocesan Liturgy Director.

The Workshop will be for 1½ hours, with a brief break midway. This is an important opportunity to renew and deepen our understanding and appreciation of this important Ministry at Mass and for the sick and elderly in their homes and in care.

Could you please place your name on the sheet in the foyer, indicating your intention to attend.

**ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL PIE DRIVE:** St. Joseph's Parents & Friends Association are holding a **Homestyle Bake Pie Drive**, with orders closing **Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> May**. Pick up is at the **Bathersby Centre** on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 11AM - 12 Noon** and **3 to 4PM**. *Order Forms are available in the foyer.*

## **NOTICES:**

**SINGING / CHOIR PRACTICE:** Are you looking for some way you can give back to the Parish community or help enrich the liturgical life of the Parish when we all come together for our two Sunday Masses (the Vigil and Sunday morning). **HELP IS NEEDED** by way of a small group at each of our weekend Masses to lead the singing or at least lend support to the congregation. You don't have to be a top of the shelf singer to fill this role – just average! It does make all the difference in encouraging the congregation to join in the singing if we have a small yet audible group giving the lead. **THINK ABOUT IT – CAN I HELP IN THIS WAY?** There is choir / singing practice on a Friday night every fortnight from 7PM in the Church – to practice, improve, learn an occasionally new hymn or Mass parts. To know which Fridays there is practice or just to discuss how you might be able to help, please contact either Margaret Dickenson (4681 0475) or Rosemary Paget (4681 4422).

**With the departure of Peter Gasparin, there is also need for new organists/pianists. If you have any musical/playing skills and are willing to gradually be trained/assisted to become an organist/pianist at Mass in the future,** please also contact either Margaret Dickenson (4681 0475) or Rosemary Paget (4681 4422). *Many thanks.*