



MAY 30 & 31, 2009 – PENTECOST SUNDAY

Issue Number 311

PENTECOST: BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH

We really don't know what happened. Luke describes it in Acts as being like a powerful wind and "tongues of fire" that separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. Luke uses vague terms like, "what sounded like" and "something appeared to them that seemed..." This imprecise language is consistent with a literary device used by authors to fire the imagination and send a strong message that what follows is important and out of the ordinary. Having set the scene, Luke names it; they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

While we are unsure of what precisely happened, what we do know is that the apostles, including Mary according to some traditions, were holed up together in a sense of solidarity and concern that they would be targeted because they were followers of Jesus. Their charismatic and fearless leader, for no good reason, had been put to death by the Roman authorities. Judas had suicided. The Jesus movement was at a cross roads. Should the group quietly disband or continue the mission despite well orchestrated and committed opposition? Luke states: they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

The first thing to note is that the apostles found a new confidence. They lost their fear and, with enthusiasm, went out and preached the good news of Jesus the Christ. Enthusiasm is a good word to describe their situation because it is a religious word, or like so many words, comes out of a religious context. Its Greek derivation means

"in God", or having a God within, or even better, being possessed by God.

We are told that this happened when Pentecost day came round. We have continued with the name 'Pentecost' for this feast for a number of reasons. Firstly, it is a Greek word which means the 'fiftieth day'. The 'fiftieth day' commemorates the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which fell on the 50th day after the Passover. This was



Pentecost - Duccio di Buoninsegna (1308)
Tempera on wood
Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Siena

the time for celebrating the first-fruits of the corn harvest. It was later combined with a celebration to mark the giving of the Law of Moses. On Sinai, the mountain, burning like a furnace, trembled; there was thunder and lightning: a terrifying spectacle as recorded in Exodus Chapter 19. Luke's account in Acts parallels this Exodus account. Since this happened on the fiftieth day

after the Resurrection, the name was applied by the Church to the feast celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit.

In earlier times Pentecost was seen as the second most important feast, after Easter, in the Church's year. It was much more important than Christmas. We have documents describing the celebration of Pentecost in Jerusalem from the fourth century. It was the next occasion where baptisms took place after Holy Saturday. Older Catholics will remember that the Sundays in Ordinary Time were reckoned as Sundays after Pentecost. In the period between Easter and Pentecost no fasting was allowed and prayer was prayed standing, not kneeling.

Luke's account states "they were all filled with

the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.”

The coming of the Spirit on the apostles is clearly a reference to the biblical explanation of why we have different languages. The account is found in Chapter 11 of Genesis. “Throughout the earth men spoke the same language, with the same vocabulary” we read. They wanted to “make a name for themselves” and build a tower with its top reaching heaven. But God confused their language because of their pride. The town’s name was Babel. Notice that Pentecost was the opposite to Babel. At Babel, people were dispersed “all over the earth”. At Pentecost, God gathered the people, though they came from different cultures, speaking different languages. The differences were not obliterated. The story of Pentecost shows that the Church was born to be universal. The Spirit brought all the scattered peoples to unity.

The universality of our Catholic Faith will be expressed at mass today in St Bernadette’s within the Prayer of the Faithful. Today’s Prayer of the Faithful will be read by people ‘speaking foreign languages’ to use the words from Acts.

Our congregation is like that first Pentecost. I am sure that when you look around you would recognise the modern day Parthians, Medes and Elamites, the people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia.

The readings of Pentecost point to new life, a birthday if you like. As the children preparing for further initiation into our Church come to see me, I am reminding them of the first sacrament of initiation, their baptism. I show them the place and date of their own baptism. In baptism they began a new life with the Catholic Church. In some countries, the date of baptism takes precedence over the celebration of birth.

Without Pentecost, Christ’s work would have been incomplete. I think it is worth remembering our date of baptism and perhaps having a bit of a party, inviting a few friends around. If for no other reason than we are passing through tough economic times, we should be looking for occasions to celebrate. Make our baptism date one of those. Rather than blaming the global economic crises for driving us to drink, make it a religious reason like the celebration of the remembrance of our date of baptism.

Pentecost is not just a personal feast, however. It has a communal dimension. It is on this day, almost 2,000 years ago that the Church began. It is the Church’s birthday.

Fr John.

LITURGY CORNER

Pentecost Sunday is the last day of the Easter Season. Red is the primary colour for it often associated with the Spirit (and with Confirmation). Red symbolises the intense love or ‘fire’ of the Holy Spirit. Other symbols of the Spirit are tongues of flame, wind and a white dove. Each conveys something of the mystery of the Spirit of God which is beyond human understanding. With the bestowal of the Holy Spirit certain gifts are said to be given: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and the fear of the Lord (CCC#1831). From these gifts ‘flow’ fruits of the Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity (CCC#1832).

The Summit

Today’s Readings



First Reading: Acts 2:1-11. In this story of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit becomes the guiding force in the lives of the early Christians.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13. In his letter to the church in Corinth, Paul acknowledges the diversity of each person’s gift, but says we are united in the one Spirit.

Gospel: John 20:19-23. Soon after the resurrection, Jesus appears to the disciples. He offers the greeting, “Peace be with you”, and breathes the Holy Spirit upon them.

Next week: Trinity Sunday - Year B

Deut 4:32-34,39-40, Romans 8:14-17, Matthew 28:16-20

HOLY HOUR WITH BENEDICTION this Thursday from 8.00 to 9.00pm including Rosary, prayers, hymns & scripture reading. All welcome!

Feast Days this Week

St Justin - Monday, 1 June

St Boniface - Friday, 5 June

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION this Friday following 6.45am Mass until 9.15 and following 9.15 Mass until 11.45am.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place this Friday, June 5 at 12 noon followed by a light lunch in the Marian Centre. All welcome. If you can help with transport (drivers needed) or by providing sandwiches, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Marion Heron on 9659 9385.

CATECHIST REFLECTION All Catechists are invited to attend a Reflection in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 16 June at 7.30pm presented by Sr Judy.



MORNING TEA AFTER MASS

There will be a morning tea following the 9.15am Mass on Thursday 11 June to give all those who attend that Mass a chance to meet with fellow Mass-goers.

BLANKETS FOR THE NEEDY: The second morning tea for 2009 will be on Wednesday 17 June at 10.00am in the Marian Centre. Approx. 20 blankets have already been completed this year for St. Vincent de Paul Society. All welcome! Bring your knitting/crocheting and enjoy good company and refreshments. Transport available if needed. R.S.V.P. Jo 9634 5961 or Hilary 9894 5913

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS 09/10: Your current edition expires TODAY. Get your new edition now and enjoy another year of great savings. At \$55 for Parramatta/Hills edition or \$65 Sydney North & Sydney, these books are the best value ever! Check out the sample books in the foyer and see for yourself. All editions will be available after all masses on the 20/21 June weekend or can be purchased from the Parish Office during office hours. Funds raised support our Life Teen Youth Ministry – "Leading Teens Closer To Christ".



THE BOOK OF THE GOSPELS has arrived back from Spain with a new cover. It is in memory of one of St Bernadette's former altar servers, Chris Gangemi (1971 to 2007) who was inspired by the Word to work for the Church and spread the Gospel as a teacher in the Catholic school system. May he rest in peace.

GARAGE SALE AT WINSTON HILLS TODAY: The Knights of the Southern Cross invites you to its Annual Garage Sale at St Paul the Apostle, Buckleys Rd, Winston Hills today (Sunday) from 8.00am. Bargains galore!

HOLLYWOOD IN THE HILLS: Gilroy Catholic College Council invites parents and friends of students, past, present and future, to join them for a Party Night at Baulkham Hills Bowling Club, Jenner Street, (off Old Northern Road) on Saturday, 13th June, from 7.00pm – Midnight. Enjoy a three course buffet dinner with lots of fun and merriment. Prizes for "Best Dressed Film Star" and "Lucky door" guest! \$75 per couple. Enquiries: Pam Bell: 0409 304 849 or Loretta Wilson 0419 260 637.



SEASONS FOR GROWTH is a five week program to assist people in working through their experiences of loss and grief. The Solo Parent Ministry is offering this Program for those whose partner or spouse has died. It commences on Tuesday 9th June, at 10.30 am, and will be held in the Centacare rooms at the Parish Centre, Allawah St, Blacktown. If you would like to join this small group for learning and sharing over a five week period Sr Eileen Quade 9890 2968 or equade@bigpond.com.



What would YOU do with \$1000?

Anyone in Years 9-12 who comes along to our **LIFE Night** tonight will be given \$1000 to spend on whatever they like! Don't miss out on your \$1000 Life Teen stimulus money! In the Parish Hall with supper from 7.15pm after the Life Teen Youth Mass!

Into LIFE There is no Into LIFE tomorrow (Monday 1st June). Into LIFE will be back on next Monday from 7-8:30pm for anyone in Years 7 and 8 at high school. Bring \$2 for supper.

Winter Camps for LIFE Nights and Into LIFE are fast approaching. Lock in the following dates: LIFE Nights Winter Camp July 10-12 and Into LIFE Winter Camp July 13-15. Information and registration forms will be available soon!

The Matt Maher Experience: Matt Maher and his band will be in Sydney July 3 and 4 for workshops and two live concerts. He is currently one of the leading songwriters in contemporary Catholic music today having started his career at the original Life Teen parish in Arizona. See him at De La Salle and Bethlehem College Hall, Ashfield. Tickets are \$10 and limited. If you would like to book as part of St Bernadette's Parish group please email youth@stbernadette.org.au

www.lifeteen.com is a great website for all teens and young adults. Get more out of our Catholic faith – the real answers and facts - along with the latest music and movie reviews and even some random facts!

SCHOOL DINNER DANCE: St Bernadette's P&F invites the Parish Community to join them for their annual Dinner Dance to be held on Saturday 4th July in the Sovereign Room at Castle Hill RSL. The evening will commence at 7pm and conclude at 12 midnight. Cost is \$65 per head. Organise a table of 10 people or a table can be arranged for you. Any queries please contact Vanessa Wadih on 98947776 or 0438393536.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED for a responsible 19 year old Catholic country boy from Denman (Hunter Valley) working as an electrical apprentice in Dural. Priest's reference available. Phone Joseph Hopkins on 0417 060655 if you can help.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION 2009

- **Last Session:** THIS Tuesday 2nd (4pm & 7:30pm) and Saturday 6th June 3:30pm in the Parish Hall for parents and children.
- All Confirmation details must be finalised. If we have not received your child's confirmation name or sponsor please email (sacraments@stbernadette.org.au) or contact Alice at the parish office asap.
- Please ensure you have booked your 'Tour of the Church' – these will be held next week.
- Don't forget to book your meeting time with Fr John. Please contact the Parish Office.

St Bernadette's Parish Community
Parish House, 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Telephone 9634 2622 Fax 9899 3511 Email: admin@stbernadette.org.au
 Web page: http://www.stbernadette.org.au

Parish Staff

Fr John Boyle, Parish Priest
 Fr Eugene Szondi, Assistant Priest
 Fr Sunny Michael, ms, Assistant Priest
 Sr Judy McLeod, rsm, Pastoral Associate
 Mrs Alice Bradshaw, Sacramental Co-ordinator
 Mr Adam Chioatto, Into LIFE Youth Minister
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)
 Mr Michael Watson, Maintenance Co-ordinator
 Mr Darren Edwards, Maintenance

Mass Times for this Week

Sunday Sat 6.00pm
 Sun 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am &
 6pm Parish LIFE TEEN Youth Mass

Weekdays Mon 6.45am
 Tue 6.45 am,
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15am
 First Fri 6.45am, 9.15am, 12 noon
 Sat 8.00am

Mass on Public Holidays at 8am

Reconciliation Sat 8.30am-9am; 4.30pm-5.30pm

Baptisms and Marriages: By appointment only. Contact the Parish House. Please note the Church law: Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867 §1]

Sacramental Preparation Program 2010: Information nights for families seeking First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion are 3 & 4 August, 2009.

St Bernadette's Parish School: Mr Paul Colyer, Principal 9634 2898

Please pray for John Fransen, Cubby Gooden, Henry Wajon, Lorna Cartwright, Angelo Lucchese, Rosemary Davis, Joy Mary Tate, Indira Bansropun, Enid Aneli, Sr Gemma Stapleton, Maria Briones and Raymond Chapple who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Phillip Camilleri, Janos Drcar, Ben Morgan (May 27), Frank Holtom, John Cunningham (May 28), Kathleen Pearce and June Macky (June 2), Doris & Frank Brauer.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – June 6 & 7

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Stephen MacMahon S2	Kristine Murgatroyd Cheryl Braisby Jenny/Albert Agius	Joanne Barrett, Carol Cividin, Esther Coleiro, Beverley Curtis, Lucille Wilson, Maureen Fearnside, Richard & Cheryl Koen, Warren Hiser
7.30AM Philip Myers S3	Catherine Seddon Paul Hennessey Peter Ferguson	Lina Josue, Albert & Gladys Tsang, Colleen & Eric Woodhead, Jo Wickens
9.00AM Melvyn Myers S4	John Obeid Katrina Obeid Lina Josue	Karen & David Askey, Christine & Hubert Jenneke, Cathy & Greg Piggott, Trevor & Joanne O'Shea, Lena Madry
10.30AM Terry O'Mara S5	Michael Abrahams Kerry Myers Anthea Hannan	Anita Christy, Pauline Camilleri, Dorothy Finucane, Elizabeth Fogolin, Philip & Yolanda Golamco, Margaret Hawkes, Winnie & Henry Li

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - June 7

Adult Servers Marc Clasquin Gillian Pak	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Adam Chioatto Mitchell Waters Belinda Lee Darren Edwards Ian Pomeroy		Musos	
Lectors Stef Musgrave Jen Austin Raquel Lobo			Bass Erich Gracias Flor	Singers Aarti D'Cruz Darian Jessup- Lonsdale Cassie Knezevic Alice Bradshaw Sara Ang Julia Calixto Tim Bywater
Altar Servers S1	Projectionist Larissa O'Callaghan		Piano Alice Bradshaw	
Gift Preparation Michael Piggott	Ushers Alfonso Aguilera	Welcomers Tony Muscat Tina Muscat	Guitar Michael Smith Daniel Ang	
			Horns/Strings/ Winds Matthew Ashton Ashley Adams	

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Gerard Kearney Jan Pearson	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Margaret Griffin, Margaret Sanders, Faye Goldsworthy, Maree Greenwell	COUNTING (2nd Collection) John Loftus, Mila Mina, Joe Busittil, Joseph Collorafi
FLOWER ROSTER Margaret Jones	COUNTING (1st Collection) John Faehrmann Ken Goldsworthy	BOOKSHOP Carmel Adams / Rose Huby / Bernadette Logue / Dora Saleh / Patricia Smith