



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

"BE STILL AND KNOW I AM GOD..."

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Parish Priest : Fr Peter Taylor

St Mel's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Pentecost Sunday

Sunday 23 May 2021

Readings for
this week:



Acts 2:1-11
Galatians 5:16-25
John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

Readings for
next week



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



Liturgical Jottings

Fire - part 1

From the old Testament fire had symbolic value: God's presence in the form of fire (Exod 3; 13: 19; Dan 9; Wis 7). It is also a symbol of life, holiness, and joy.

In the New Testament: the Christ will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire; conveying the power of the new baptism. Later Jesus said "I came to set fire to the earth!" Luke 12:49. Fire is purifying and creative. The Holy Spirit appeared like tongues of fire at Pentecost.

We use fire at the Easter Vigil to dispel the darkness and light the Paschal Candle. Again on Pentecost in many places, including St Paul's in London, a globe of fire and bits of burning towel are let down from the roof to represent tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit. Some other churches have fire in a brazier.

Focus on the Readings

As with the Ascension last week, the account of Pentecost is given in the first reading, the Acts of the Apostles. Again the event is steeped in mystery and drama. The Second Reading on the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Gospel on the effects of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples: truth and glory complement our reading of the Pentecost event. It occurred in time but is timeless for our annual celebration.

By repetition St Paul emphasised the imperative to be guided by the Holy Spirit (verses 16, 18 & 26). Disciples must live accordingly showing the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. This impressive list is in opposition to the tendencies of the flesh that St Paul also lists.

The Holy Spirit is called the Advocate, the Paraclete, the Witness. The overtones of the legal system is not lost on the reader and the apostles for many a time they faced tribunals, courts and the Sanhedrin to give witness and defence of their Christian faith. "Thanks to the Spirit, the Word is still living in the world, being poured out and raising up new disciples everywhere ... so that the kingdom may come."

Words of Pope Francis

We need the Spirit to give us new eyes, to open our mind and our heart so as to face this moment and the future with the lesson we have learned: we are a single humanity. We cannot save ourselves by ourselves. No one saves him or herself alone. No one. Saint Paul said, in the Letter to the Galatians: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (3:28), united by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through this baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus announces. We know it, we knew it, but this pandemic we are living through has made us experience it in a much more dramatic way *Pentecost Message 2020*

Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians

Patron Saint of Australia is celebrated this Monday 24 May

On the Lighter Side

A class was studying the fruits of the Holy Spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22. A child asked which of the fruits is the greatest? It is like the lawyer's question to Jesus: "What is the greatest commandment?" Jesus replied: "Love God, ... and love your neighbour ..." Love is the first listed and perhaps the greatest of the fruits of the Holy Spirit!

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St Mel's Parish is

"A welcoming and caring community that helps all people grow stronger in our Catholic Faith."

REFLECTION - From Fr Peter

Receive the Holy Spirit ... The great and affirming words said at the Rite of Confirmation and today is given for us through Pentecost Sunday. This year Pentecost Sunday is celebrated before the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. Mass will be offered Monday at 9.15am for the patronage of Mary under this title for Australia. Following the example of an earlier Pope who had made Mary of the rosary a patron for the forces fighting successfully against the Muslim navy at the Battle of Lepanto, Pope Pius vii instituted the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians. Mary was offered as one whose intercession was seen as protection for the people and Church of the day.

The Pentecost story highlights the change in the lives of Jesus' disciples from timidity to courage. From this we have the birth and making of the Christian community. So Pentecost speaks of the mission people begin to see, like speaking their own language of hearing the Gospel in their own language. So we are drawn through the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit to a renewed solidarity of the Spirit's presence and the blessings the Spirit brings.

Through the title of Mary, Help of Christians we first see Mary's life as one open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Mary fulfills a companionship as queen of armies, patron through battles, a continuing sign off victory and as queen of peace.

Our experiences in life form and shape us in living the Pentecost event. So much of our life moments bring renewal through the actions of the Holy Spirit, causing us to reflect upon who we as a Spirit filled people! Mary as Help of Christians is one we see imploring our motivations removing fear and opening the horizons of our minds to a positive and fulfilling life. One of our great songs of the Holy Spirit is 'breathe on me o breath of God'. A hope we see is the breath we take in of the Holy Spirit keeps inflaming us in being mindful nothing we do or can achieve is without the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Fr Peter.

Responsorial Psalm : Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS ... Monday 24th May...Patroness of Australia



A little background... This feast day has been celebrated in Australia since 1844. The history dates back to the 1800's. The infancy of the Australian Church at the time was seeking a protection a way of 'being church' at a time when no priests were available and people saw the rosary as a prayer of keeping the faith alive. The title of Mary Help of Christians was proclaimed and Mary being the principle patroness of Australia.

In part the prayer for the feast day of Mary Help of Christians says..."Through Mary may God grant wisdom to our leaders, integrity to our citizens, so that under her protection Australia may be granted, harmony, justice and peace.."

Mass will be offered on MONDAY at 9.15am celebrating Mary, Help of Christians.

PRIEST JUBILARIANS 2021 Our jubilarians this year in Sandhurst are Monsignor Frank Hickey (70 years) and Fr Romuald Hayes (50 years). We congratulate these priests on their contribution to the parishes they have served, in particular to Monsignor Frank Hickey past Parish Priest of St. Mel's. I have forwarded a card with some monetary thought to help Monsignor Frank along the way in offering our Parish's best of good wishes to him. Fr Peter

MASS COUNT

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS 2021 - NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE

THIS WEEKEND EVERY PARISHIONER in attendance at Mass will be asked to tick the sheet on the way in to the Church. (If you have missed the form on the way in, please tick it on the way out.

(This week we are also asked to tick the box for your age group).

This count is extremely important for the Centre for Pastoral Research. Thank you,

Sacramental
Preparation



Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist ... Preparation

Has commenced!! Our candidates, according to our Co- Ordinator, Mel Shiels are doing really well. I'm not sure how many know, our candidates along with their parents / guardians are doing the meetings from home. This is challenging yet a great way for a personal approach in the conversations taking place. On behalf of the Parish thankyou

Mel for your enthusiasm and commitment in co ordinating the sacraments this year.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM ... Welcome to Noah Alfred Dann child of Stephen and Alexandra Dann. Noah will be baptized today Sunday 23rd May at 11.00am.

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE - Meets next on Tuesday June 1st at 5.30pm in the Gathering room

"THE SHEPPARTON INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL" Is pleased to announce that it is resuming its annual Ecumenical celebration held around Pentecost each year. In 2020 the event had to be cancelled because of the Covid lockdown.

This year it will be held at the Uniting Church, on the corner of Corio and Fryers Streets, at 5.00 pm on Sunday 13th June. All Welcome. For inquiries contact Frank Purcell

NATIONAL WEEK FOR RECONCILIATION... Commences this Wednesday 26th May (National Sorry Day) to Wednesday 2nd June. It is a good time to bring our thoughts for healing and where true reconciliation is seen for a more healthier Australian way of life.

Fr Peter

FAN THE FLAME - Towards Plenary Assembly One October 2021

Plenary Council Prayer Campaign: People across the country are invited to participate in the "Fan the Flame" prayer campaign leading up to the first assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. The assembly starts on October 3rd.

Campaign materials include resources for personal and communal prayer, reflections, musical suggestions and multimedia content. Find the resources at:

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheblade/



Plenary Council
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

THIS SUNDAY IS PENTECOST SUNDAY



*And all of them
were filled
with the
Holy Spirit
Acts 2:4*

ST BRENDAN'S MACKILLOP FAITH AND LIGHT GROUP

St Brendan's MacKillop Faith and Light are organising a Christmas market to fundraise for our L'Arche home. If you can support us in any way it would be greatly appreciated. We are looking for buttons, beads, hessian, string, felt and fabric. We are holding craft mornings at Unit 2, 16 Barker Avenue, Shepparton on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10.00am. You are welcome to come and join us. Also if you have a craft activity or idea to share, we would really appreciate it. We would love some ideas. Thanks. For more information please phone Denise on 0432 054003.

SANDHURST YOUTH MINISTRY – POSITION VACANT

Sandhurst Youth Ministry is seeking a vibrant youth worker to join the Diocesan team.

The successful applicant will be required to support parishes, schools and youth ministry initiatives in the Diocese of Sandhurst (Bendigo). They will be able to present the values and ideals of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church to the young people of the Diocese. Previous experience in active youth ministry leadership, or in working with young people is a desired attribute. Youth Ministry Worker- download a copy of the position description

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/positions-vacant/youth-ministry-worker-music-communications>. Applications close at 5pm, Monday 31st May and should be sent to ruth.lawlor@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

For any questions please contact Ruth Lawlor on Ph 0458 585 200

READERS / COMMENTATORS / SPECIAL MINISTERS - Next Sunday 30th May 2021

9.30am Sev Cortese (Commentator) Zoe Hamilton (Lector 1) Melissa Hamilton (Lector 2)

9.30am Special Ministers - Sarah Maloney and Maree McKenna.

5.00pm Tim Kelly (Commentator) Paul Bertoli (Lector)

5.00pm Special Ministers - Rosana Legalo and Lin Waite.



Recently Deceased: Laurie Phillips

Anniversaries: Ong Eng Pia, Susan Weir, Ida Landini,
Frank Murdoch, Virginia Callueng, Letizia Salamone.

Weekday Masses 24th May - 30th May 2021

Monday 24th May - 9.15am (Mary, Help of Christians)

Tuesday 25th May - 9.15am

Wednesday 26th May - 9.15am

Thursday 27th May - 9.15am

Friday 28th May - 9.15am

Saturday 29th May - 9.00am

Sunday 30th May - 9.30am and 5.00pm

