



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

Prayer during the coronavirus pandemic

God of Salvation,
We turn to you with a prayer for protection and healing as the coronavirus is spreading. Help those who are affected and have become sick.

Grant patience to those who live in quarantine.
Give strength to those who care for the sick.

Inspire scientists in their research.

Strengthen between us the sense of togetherness.

Let no one be abandoned, make everyone feel safe together and with You, because You are compassionate.

Through the intercession of Blessed Mary of the Apostles and Fr. Francis Jordan, we thank you, present and faithful God, You who live and love for ever and ever.

Amen.

Salvatorians



Thoughts of Fr Francis Jordan

Carry on your spiritual dialogue with the Saviour.
Sit, at His feet, humble and docile, and attend to His words.



29 May 202

Dear Parishioners,

Last Sunday when we celebrated the Ascension of the Lord, Jesus promised his followers that He would send them the Holy Spirit and that they would be filled with power from high. Theirs and our waiting is over. This weekend, with the whole Church we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. It marks the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles while they were fearful and hiding in the Upper Room following Jesus' resurrection. Through the Holy Spirit, the apostles were filled with the gifts they needed to lead the Church. The Holy Spirit gave the apostles new hope, new heart and new purpose. Their fear and silence was replaced by courage, enthusiasm and conviction. They left their hiding place and went into the streets to baptise and to proclaim the good news of the resurrection. They set out to fulfil the work they were given by Jesus and the missionary Church was born. That is why Pentecost is a joyous day and is known as the birthday of the Catholic Church.

continued next page...

For many of us, we have been like the apostles at that time, sheltered in our homes through this Covid-19 pandemic. Through our Baptism and Confirmation, each of us has been filled and anointed with the exact same Holy Spirit as the apostles received. The Holy Spirit is powerful, life-changing and energetic. I pray that each of us will be refreshed and renewed by the Holy Spirit. Just as the first followers of Jesus proclaimed the good news; we too are called to do the exact same today. We are invited to be transformed into energetic and outspoken witnesses of Jesus.

Whilst we still may not be able to go out with the current restrictions, I would like to encourage you to celebrate this birthday of the Church amongst your families in your home Church. We can use the seven gifts the Holy Spirit gives us: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord to live out our baptismal promises and grow in faith by our actions.

On the Monday after Pentecost, we celebrate the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church. This year, the feast day falls on Monday 1st June. Like Mary stayed with the disciples in the Upper Room, we must remember that Mary, our Mother, is always with us too.

I am delighted that from this day, Monday 1st June, 50 people will be able to attend our Church services. With these new changes, **we will no longer need to take bookings for our weekday Masses in both of our Churches, however we will continue to use Trybooking for our weekend Masses to ensure that we fulfil the requirements of the 50 people limit.** We look forward to seeing many more parishioners at these Masses. For those that are vulnerable or unwell or have missed out on a place, we will continue to livestream our weekend Masses at 5pm on Saturdays and 10am on Sundays so that all are able to join in Spiritual Communion with us. To join the livestreaming please visit our parish website <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater/news-events/parish-news/livestream-our-weekend-masses>

Each week we will open the bookings for the Masses for the following weekend on Monday mornings, until the restrictions have eased, and we will close the bookings at 4pm on Friday afternoon.

To book for our Weekend Masses at Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale please visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/BJPSE>

To book for our Weekend Masses at Maria Regina Church, Avalon, please visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/BJPSP>

If you don't have access to a computer and cannot access Trybooking, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office to book your place.

This coming Friday, the first Friday of the month there will be no communal anointing of the sick during the Masses at Maria Regina Church, Avalon or at Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale.

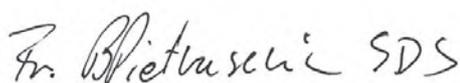
Please remember if you attend our Church for private prayer to register your attendance on the sheets at the Church entrance for the purposes of contact-tracing if it becomes necessary. There is no need for you to register your attendance if you have booked for Mass as your name will be on our attendance list.

It is very important that we adhere to the guidelines at all times by practising social distancing and using the sanitiser provided.

Please continue to spread the good news that the Churches are once again open and that you can register for Mass or come for private prayer.

On behalf of Fr Richard and myself, thank you for your prayers, well wishes, gifts and acknowledgments on the anniversaries of our ordination that we celebrated this week.

Peace be with you



Fr Bronek Pietrusewicz SDS

Parish Priest



Vinnies

Vinnies changes lives everyday.

Show your support and give to our annual appeal

For the needy, help is available by contacting the Brookvale Centre 9905 0424 during business hours.

Did you know that if you are new to our parish you can register your details through our website or if your contact details have changed you can update them. Simply go to www.pittwaterparish.org, click on the "Welcome" menu item and select "Parishioner Registration" from the dropdown menu. If you have any problems, please contact the parish office on 9157 0999.

LIBRARY

"Now that the restrictions have been lifted concerning the opening of churches, although at present only 10 people, we can access the Library. You are very welcome to browse the vast assortment of books and DVDs in the Parish Library at Maria Regina after the daily and weekend Masses." Books and DVDs will still be reviewed in the Bulletin." if you have an inquiry you may phone me on 99183973 (Home) 0401613643 (mobile).



Trish Newman

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions For May



For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

We Pray for Recently Deceased

Samantha Langford

If you would like the names of your relatives or friends and offerings included, please drop the envelope in to the Parish Office by Midday on Wednesdays. Thank You.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them O Lord, And Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.

May they Rest in Peace. Amen.
May Their Souls And The Souls Of The Faithful Departed, Through The Mercy Of God, Rest In Peace. Amen.

Deceased Anniversary

Denis Callachor
Monica Callachor
Zofia & Jan Kupczyk
Souls in Purgatory
Norma Poppleton

Prayers for the Sick

Tayla Riddle
Giovanni Returra
Bill Eyre
Manny Zarb
Philip Maddrel
Gail Reiher
Imelda Vince
Eric Domagas
Vicky Villaluz
Ben Castillo
Moira Howie
Carol Brennan
Jomar
Christine Hills
Donald McRae
Mary O'Connor
Sara Zofrea
Beryl Peo-Duncan
Joe Romeo
John Andrew Graham
John Charles Graham

The names on this list will be removed after four weeks unless otherwise requested or advised. Thank you

DVD REVIEW

The Reluctant Saint

The story of St. Joseph of Cupertino



The actors are Maximilian Schell and Ricardo Montalban. In the impoverished community of 17th century Cupertino a peasant boy named Giuseppe (Shell) finds himself in hot water most of the time. His mother, thinking she can improve him takes him to her brother, a priest (Montalban) who reluctantly accepts the boy into the monastery where we see one calamity after another. A true story to hold your interest all the way through.

Weekend Masses from our parish will be live-streamed :

Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm and Sunday Morning Mass 10am

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBpLC9Gn8yp4qW-TU0GDzsw/videos> or search Pittwater Parish on Youtube

or follow the link on our Parish Website

Please check our website for links to the other celebrations www.pittwaterparish.org or our facebook page for updates.



To ensure that we fulfil the requirements of the 50 people limit, we would like you to use the Trybooking website to book for our weekend Masses. There is no need to book for the weekday Masses. The bookings are now open and will close at 4pm on Fridays. Further weekend Masses will be added each week, taking into consideration any changes in government restrictions.

Here are some pointers that might help:

- Once you have selected the Mass you would like to book for, you will need to enter the quantity of tickets at the bottom of the page. Then click NEXT.
- Once you have read and agreed to the "Additional Information" you will need to select "YES" from the dropdown box that says "I Agree to the Terms Above"
- You will then need to enter the First Name and the Last Name of each of the Attendees. Then click NEXT.
- In the Checkout, you will need to complete all the fields, First Name, Last Name, Phone Number, Address, Suburb, Postcode and Email Address. Then click PURCHASE.
- If you have completed the transaction successfully, you will see "Transaction Successful" on the following page and you will receive an email with the "ticket" to the Mass you have selected.
- If you do not see "Transaction Successful" and you do not receive an email (please remember to check your junk email) then the items may still be in your cart and you may need to re-complete one of the steps.
- You do not need to print the ticket. We will have your name on the "Ticket Holder List" for each Mass.

To book for our Masses at Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/BJPSE>
To book for our Masses at Maria Regina Church, Avalon, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/BJPSP>
Please do not hesitate to contact the Parish office 9157 0999 if you need any assistance.

Watch the daily Mass on Demand at <https://www.youtube.com/user/cathnews>

We hope that this will help the faithful to celebrate the Holy Mass online wherever they are



If you are experiencing Domestic Violence, Ring 1800 RESPECT 1800 737 732

PLANNED GIVING

The money contributed to our parish via our second collection helps us to meet the running costs which our Parish incurs, including wages, electricity, telephones, insurances, rates, building and equipment repairs and maintenance, to name but a few. As we are unable to donate via our second collection at present, our parish will not receive the funds which are truly needed to cover our relentless stream of expenses. Whilst you are unable to attend Mass, if you are able to make your regular donation by way of automatic direct debit from your credit card, please complete the form included in this bulletin. **Or donations can be made on our website: www.pittwaterparish.org through the donations and giving tile.** If you would prefer not to give by credit card, please contact the parish office, 9157 0999 for other ways that you can contribute.



SAFEGUARDING

We the people of the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay and the Catholic Parish of Pittwater are committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and others in the community who are vulnerable. Our commitment is underscored by our faith in Jesus Christ.



The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

Planned Giving Direct Debit Agreement Form for Contributions Via Credit Card

- I am an existing Planned Giving contributor
- I am new to Planned Giving



Full Name			
Address:			
Telephone:		Email:	

Payment Agreement

<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Fortnightly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly
Debit Amount:	\$	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Until Further Notice

Debit from Credit Card

Card Number:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Card Holder Name:			<input type="checkbox"/> Visa			<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard					
Expiry Date:	/		CCV:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>					

This authorisation is to remain in force until notice is received in writing for it to be changed.

Signatory of Nominated Account:		Date:	/	/
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Thank you for supporting our planned giving programme.

Please return the completed form to the parish office or email to office@pittwaterparish.org

Terms and Conditions

I/We hereby authorise The Catholic Parish of Pittwater to debit my/our credit card account. Monthly debits occur on the 15th day of each month or the next business day. Weekly and fortnightly debits occur on the Monday of each week or fortnight accordingly. The administration of this agreement is conducted by The Catholic Parish of Pittwater. The Catholic Parish of Pittwater will not change the amount or frequency of drawing arrangements without my prior approval. It is my responsibility to ensure that I/We have sufficient clear funds in our nominated account to enable the direct debit to be honoured by our financial institution. If the Debit request falls on a weekend or public holiday, it will be processed on the next working day. I/We are advised to verify account details against a recent bank statement and if uncertain to contact our financial institution or The Catholic Parish of Pittwater. If our Direct Debit is dishonoured or returned by our financial institution, for any reason, The Catholic Parish of Pittwater reserves the right to re-present the Direct Debit for processing again on the next business day. The Catholic Parish of Pittwater will keep the information about our nominated account at the financial institution private and confidential unless this information is required to investigate a claim made in relation to an alleged incorrect or wrongful debt, or otherwise required by law. I/We may stop, cancel, alter or defer your Direct Debit Request at any time, by contacting The Catholic Parish of Pittwater I/we agree to notify The Catholic Parish of Pittwater if the account is closed.

Pentecost



Pentecost, which we celebrate this Sunday, is the liturgical season after Easter. It celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. Pentecost begins the eighth Sunday, or 50 days, after Easter Sunday. The descent of the Holy Spirit ushered in a new era for the people of God.

The Jewish History of Pentecost

“Pentecost” is from Greek meaning “fiftieth.” The name Pentecost was originally given to the Jewish Feast of Weeks which fell on the fiftieth day after Passover. On this day, the first fruits of the grain harvest were offered to the Lord (Leviticus 23:15-21 and Deuteronomy 16:9-11). The second chapter of Acts begins by noting that the Feast of Weeks had just passed.

The Day of Pentecost in Acts

In Acts 2:1-41 the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. This occurred ten days after Jesus’ Ascension. Jesus had asked his Apostles to pray, and their nine days of prayer can be considered as the first novena.

Let’s look at the biblical account of Pentecost in detail.

Miracles the Apostles Experienced

When the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles, they preached the Good News of Jesus Christ. Miraculously, people of many different languages and nations could understand the Apostles in their own languages. This miracle reflected God’s desire for the Gospel to be preached to all, and for all the peoples of the earth to be united in faith. The Collect (opening prayer) of the Pentecost Mass prays:

“Almighty ever-living God, who willed the Paschal Mystery to be encompassed as a sign in fifty days, grant that from out of the scattered nations the confusion of many tongues may be gathered by heavenly grace into one great confession of your name.”

Another wonder surrounding Pentecost was that tongues of fire appeared and rested on the Apostles. God left no doubt that Pentecost was an important event in the history of the Church and that the Holy Spirit was truly present.

The Most Important Effect of Pentecost

The miraculous tongues of fire, along with the Apostles’ ability to speak in different languages, may seem to be the most impressive signs of Pentecost. However, the most important and most lasting effect of Pentecost went deeper than that.

Peter, the leader of the Apostles, stood in front of the crowds and preached. He preached with boldness and conviction. Consider that up until this point the Apostles had not preached at all. Just 10 days before, the Apostles still thought that Jesus’ mission was to restore an earthly kingdom to Israel (cf. Acts 1:6). Now, however, Peter recognises the mission of Jesus and boldly preaches instead of remaining hidden in a room.

The boldness that the Holy Spirit gave the Apostles on Pentecost gave them the courage and wisdom to preach to many nations and peoples. This, in turn, resulted in the spread of Christianity and the conversion of thousands of people. On the day of Pentecost, about 3,000 people were baptised (Acts 2:41).

Pentecost: The Birthday of the Church

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church because from that point on the apostles carried the message of Christ to the whole world. The authority that Christ gave his Apostles through the Holy Spirit extends through the bishops today. The Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church. In fact, St. Augustine said that the Holy Spirit was the soul of the Church. Just as the soul gives life to the body, so also the Spirit gives life to the Church.

The Spirit Continues to Make Christ Present

Pentecost ushered in a new age of the Church through which Christ works in different means for our salvation.

“In this age of the Church Christ now lives and acts in and with his Church, in a new way appropriate to the new age. He acts through the sacraments [...]; this is the communication of the fruits of Christ’s Paschal mystery in the celebration of the Church’s ‘sacramental’ liturgy.”
Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1076.

In other words, although since his Ascension Jesus is no longer physically present on earth, Jesus has not left us alone. Indeed, he is still present to us in other

ways. Jesus has left us the sacraments through which the Holy Spirit conveys the grace of God in a physical and tangible way. Pentecost marks the beginning of this new, sacramental era in which we live today. It does so because the ministers of the sacraments (usually priests and deacons) have the power to perform the sacraments because the Holy Spirit acts through them. The Holy Spirit conforms the minister to Christ.

Pentecost Liturgy in the Roman Catholic Church

Today, we usually baptise catechumens at the Easter Vigil (the Mass the night before Easter). In the early Church, Pentecost was another popular day for baptism. This makes sense, because baptism is a sacrament in which the Holy Spirit fills the baptised person with supernatural life.

The liturgical color for Pentecost is red. Red can signify martyrdom, but in this instance it represents the Holy Spirit. It does so because of the tongues of fire associated with Pentecost.

One unique thing that happens at Pentecost Mass is the Pentecost Sequence (Veni Sancte Spiritus—“Come Holy Spirit”). This is a prayer to the Holy Spirit that is either sung or said before the Alleluia and the Gospel. The Sequence invites the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts. It includes many descriptions of the Holy Spirit. The sequence is a beautiful part of Pentecost Mass.

Celebrating Pentecost

Although often overlooked, Pentecost is one of the most important Catholic feasts of the year. As the birthday of the Church, it is truly a day to celebrate!





Most Rev Anthony Randazzo
Bishop of Broken Bay
Message for BBNeighbourhoods 26 May 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In a sermon on Pentecost Sunday given by Pope Leo the Great in the fifth century, the Pontiff and Saint reminded the faithful, "The Spirit's work is still continued in the Church".

He said that it is the Spirit who "sanctifies the whole Church and quickens every rational soul". The same Spirit "is the Inspirer of the Faith, the Teacher of Knowledge, the Fount of Love, the Seal of Chastity, and the Cause of all Power". (cf. Pope Leo the Great, Sermon 75)

These wise and sensible words are as valid today as they were in the fifth century. The great challenge that each one of us faces is to believe them and in so doing, to allow the Spirit to use us in His work of the renewal and the sanctification of our Church and our world.

The Spirit is at work in the community of the Church in Broken Bay and in each one of us, his faithful disciples. Sometimes, there is a temptation to make our faith something rather sophisticated by quoting rules and regulations or theological essays or articles. Do not get me wrong, I am not anti- education. I am the first to encourage people to read more about the faith, to study more deeply, what we believe. However, if our newly acquired knowledge tempts us to think that we are sophisticated in the faith, the temptation might also be to establish a false hierarchy of discipleship where some are perceived to be "better" than others. That is something to be avoided.

As we approach the great feast of Pentecost this Sunday, might we see these days as a time of preparation for faithful discipleship? I think that in a simple kind of way God desires to reveal to us, the living disciples of Christ, the action of His Spirit in us and in our community.

It is encouraging to remember that the Spirit is given to all people – men and women, girls and boys, young and old, weak and strong. Saint Paul reminds us that the Spirit will come to our aid in our human weakness. During his mission and ministry, Paul was constantly confronted with difficulties, challenges and resistance. And yet, he constantly emboldened the community by reminding them that the Spirit enlightens our minds and hearts so that we might hear the words of Jesus, and in this way we will be led – and we will also lead others – to the all-embracing encounter with God our Father.

Over these coming days, I pray that the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit will be with you and your families.

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD, JCL
Bishop of Broken Bay

As we celebrate the Year of Prayer in our parish... Pope Francis' Catechesis at the General Audience on 20th May 2020

"The mystery of Creation" (Psalm 8: 4-5, 10).



Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Let us continue the catechesis on prayer, focusing on the mystery of Creation. Life, the simple fact that we exist, opens the heart of the human person to prayer.

The first page of the Bible resembles a great hymn of thanks. The account of Creation is punctuated with refrains in which the goodness and beauty of all things that exist are continually reaffirmed. God calls into life with His word, and each thing enters into existence. With the word, He separates light from darkness, He alternates day and night, He alternates the seasons, He opens up a palette of colours with the variety of plants and animals. In this overflowing forest that rapidly defeats chaos, the human being finally appears. And this apparition causes an excess of exultation that amplifies satisfaction and joy: "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good" (Gen 1: 31). A good thing, but also beautiful: one sees all the beauty of all Creation!

The beauty and mystery of Creation generate in the heart of man and woman the first movement that stirs prayers (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2566). Thus says the Psalm 8, which we heard in the beginning: "When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have fixed, what is man that you are mindful of him, and a son of man that you care for him?" (vv. 4-5). The man or woman in prayer contemplates the mystery of existence around them, they see the starry sky above - which astrophysics shows us today in all its immensity - and wonder what design of love there must be behind such a powerful work! And in this boundless vastness, what is man? "Frail", almost nothing, says another Psalm (see 89: 48): a being that is born, a being that dies, a very fragile creature. Yet, in the whole universe, the human being is the only creature aware of such a profusion of beauty. A small being that is born, dies, is here today but not tomorrow, is the only one aware of this beauty. We are aware of this beauty!

The prayer of the human person is closely linked to the sentiment of wonder. The greatness of man and woman is infinitesimal in relation to the dimensions of the universe. Our greatest achievements seem to be very little... But we are nothing. In prayer a sentiment of mercy is overwhelmingly affirmed. Nothing exists by chance: the secret of the universe resides in a benevolent glance that catches our eyes. The Psalm affirms that we are made as little less than a god, crowned with glory and honour (see 8: 6). The relationship with God is the greatness of each human person: his or her enthronement. By nature we are almost nothing, small, but by vocation, by calling, we are children of the great King!

It is an experience that many of us have had. If the events of our life, with all its bitterness, at times risks suffocating the gift of prayer within us, it is enough to contemplate a starry sky, a sunset, a flower, to reignite the spark of thanksgiving. This experience is perhaps the basis of the first page of the Bible.

When the great biblical account of Creation was written, the people of Israel were not going through happy days. An enemy power had occupied the land; many had been deported, and now they found themselves enslaved in Mesopotamia. There was no homeland, no temple, no social and religious life, nothing.

And yet, just starting from the great story of Creation, someone began to find reasons to give thanks, to praise God for their existence. Prayer is the first force of hope. You pray and hope grows, it goes ahead. I would say that prayer opens the door to hope. There is hope, but with my prayer I open the door. Because men and women of prayer safeguard the basic truths; they are those who repeat, first of all to themselves and then to all others, that this life, despite all its fatigue and trials, despite its difficult days, is filled with a grace at which we marvel. And as such it must always be defended and protected.

Men and women who pray know that hope is stronger

than discouragement. They believe that love is more powerful than death, and that it will surely triumph one day, be it in times and ways we do not know. Men and women of prayer bear the reflection of light on their faces: because even on the darkest days the sun does not cease to illuminate them. Prayer illuminates you: it illuminates your soul, it illuminates your heart, and it illuminates your face. Even in the darkest times, even in the times of greatest pain.

We are all bearers of joy. Have you thought of this? That you are a bearer of joy? Or do you prefer to bear bad news, things that bring sadness? We are all capable of bearing joy. This life is the gift that God has given us: and it is too short to be consumed in sadness, in bitterness. Let us praise God, content simply to exist. Let us look at the universe, let us look at the beauty and let us also look at our crosses and say: "But, you exist, you have made us this way, for you". It is necessary to feel that restlessness in the heart that leads us to thank and to praise God. We are the children of the great King, of the Creator, capable of reading His signature in all creation; that creation that today we do not protect, but in that creation there is the signature of God who made it out of love. May the Lord make us understand this ever more deeply, and lead us to say "thank you"; and that "thank you" is a beautiful prayer.

Do you know someone who has a child with a Disability?

St Lucy's School is a Catholic school dedicated to students with disabilities. We are a community enriched by difference: inspiring learning for a life of purpose. We provide intensive instruction in: literacy, numeracy, social and emotional learning and independence skills in a dynamic and creative environment across Primary and now High School.



ST LUCY'S SCHOOL ENROLLING NOW FOR 2021

Please contact the School Registrar for a tour at enrolment@stlucys.nsw.edu.au or 02 8355 3157

VERITAS
ST LUCY'S

JOY | COMMUNITY | COURAGE | TRUTH

MASS TIMES

SACRED HEART CHURCH
1 Keenan Street, Mona Vale

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 9.30am

Wednesday 9.30am

Thursday 7pm

(Followed by Adoration and
Benediction at 9pm)

Friday 9.30am

First Friday of the Month,

Exposition of the

Blessed Sacrament,

Adoration,

Reconciliation

and Benediction

from 9.30am,

followed by Mass

at 10.30am

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am - 10.00am •

4.00pm Croatian

(1st & 3rd Sunday)

6.00pm (SOUL)

Reconciliation

4.00pm to 4.30pm Saturday

Baptism

4th Sunday - 11.30am

MARIA REGINA CHURCH
7 Central Road, Avalon

Weekday Masses

Monday 8am

Wednesday 8am

Thursday 10am

9am Exposition of the

Blessed Sacrament,

Adoration and Benediction

at 9.45am

Friday 8am

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 6.00pm

Sunday 9.00am

Reconciliation

Before Vigil Mass on Saturday

Baptism

3rd Sunday - 11.00am

Mary: Mother of the Church



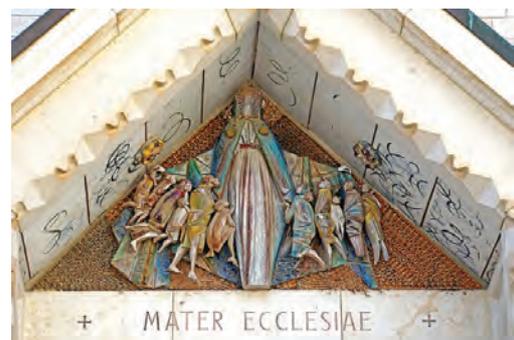
One of the things I love most about being Catholic is the sheer volume of details - names, places, images, practices, etc. - that make up our Church. It would take multiple lifetimes to investigate the half of them. Every so often, I like to dig a little bit deeper into one of these details. It seems that no matter what I investigate, I always come away with my faith deepened and understanding expanded.

My most recent side-project has been looking into the history of the title of Mary: Mother of the Church. It's a strange title for Mary for several reasons - although, really, which title for Mary is not strange? We're dealing with supernatural mysteries here! It's one of the most recently-awarded titles for her, only being proclaimed officially by Pope Paul VI in 1964. In Latin, the title is distinguished from another frequently-used Latin phrase by only one letter. "Mother of the Church" is Mater Ecclesiae, while "Mother Church" is Mater Ecclesia.

The image of the Church (rather than Mary) as mother was frequently employed by early Christian writers and artists. Perhaps the popularity of referring to the Church as mother led Bishop Sergio Méndez Arceo (Cuernavaca, México), during the debate over the title at Vatican II, to crack irreverently, "If the Church is our mother and Mary is the Mother of the Church, then Mary is our grandmother."

The origin of the official title goes back to the Second Vatican Council, where Mary was a contentious topic. During the second session of the council in 1963, the bishops voted 1,114 -1,074 not to dedicate a separate document to Mary alone, but rather to include the theme of Mary in the constitution addressing the Church (what eventually became Lumen Gentium). With a difference of just 40 votes, this was by far the most contentious vote at the Council.

Nevertheless, a year later, while promulgating the completed Lumen Gentium (or, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church), Pope Paul VI proclaimed Mary "Mother of the Church" in a discourse closing the third session. The pope thus made this title official, certainly to the delight of those on the losing side of the narrow vote, who generally supported expanding Mariological doctrine to its maximum extent.



Since Vatican II, elements celebrating Mary as Mother of the Church have been added to the Church's life and practice. For instance, the votive Mass of Our Lady, Mother of the Church, was added to the Roman Missal after the Council. Pope St. John Paul II had a monastery built on the grounds of the Vatican and dedicated it to Mary under this title. (This

monastery currently serves as the residence of Pope Benedict XVI.) He also added "Mother of the Church" to the Litany of Loreto, the great Marian prayer invoking her intercession under various titles.

The way in which the Church invokes Mary under the title Mother of the Church can be our guide into exactly what mystery this title means to convey. We can start with the text of Lumen Gentium itself, which claims that Mary cooperates with her Son in "giving back supernatural life to souls. Wherefore she is our mother in the order of grace." (LG 61) Clearly, a biological mother's function is to give life to her offspring. Mary physically gave life to Jesus, but her motherhood toward us members of the Church is of course different. Her motherhood to us is of a spiritual kind: she increases the life of grace in us.

So what does that mean? How exactly does the life of grace increase in us? Insofar as we are conformed to Christ's life, we grow in the life of grace. And which person participated in the mysteries of the life of Christ in a preeminent way? Mary, of course. It was she who carried Jesus in her womb. She stood by while He hung on the Cross. She was present in the Upper Room, praying with the first Christian community, awaiting the gift of the Holy Spirit for all believers (Acts 1:14). Finally, she was assumed body and soul into heaven in imitation of her Son. These four moments in Mary's life exemplify her close participation in the mysteries of the life of her Son.

What about the rest of us, though? Are we able to participate in Christ's life? Thankfully, the answer is yes. Pope Paul VI explains in his Credo of the People of God, "the Lord Jesus forms His Church by means of the sacraments emanating from His plenitude. By these she makes her members participants in the Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ, in the grace of the Holy Spirit who gives her life and movement." For us Christians, the life of grace begins with the sacraments. Jesus left the them to the Church as the means by which we may participate in, and therefore conform ourselves to, His life.

Mary understood better than anyone the benefits of being united to the mysteries of Christ. Mary desires that all humans receive what she received, so she works through the Church to give Her Son to us.

It is not as Bishop Méndez Arceo claimed. Mary doesn't give birth to the Church, which then gives birth to Christians (making Mary a "grandma"). The Church is Christ's Mystical Body, and Mary is the mother of the members of this Body. In a sense, the Church can be called a mother, too, because she provides the sacraments for her members. But the sacraments are provided by the members of this Body themselves. Priests provide the Eucharist. Spouses provide marriages. Bishops provide priests. This line of reasoning led the Church to the recent realisation that if the Church has the characteristics of a mother, insofar as she gives birth to new Christians, this characteristic is derivative from the motherhood of Mary. From this perspective, the title "Mother of the Church" is aptly bestowed on Mary.

Pope Paul VI declared his desires for the Christian people in the same 1964 discourse, "We trust then, that with the promulgation of the Constitution on the Church, sealed by the proclamation of Mary as Mother of the Church, that is to say of all the faithful and all the pastors, the Christian people may, with greater ardor, turn to the Holy Virgin and render to her the honour and devotion due to her." I hope that this dive into the title of Mary, Mother of the Church, will deepen your own faith and that you might entrust yourself to her in a way that helps the life of grace grow within you.

The Jesuit Post



WELCOME TO THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

The power of the Holy Spirit transforms us. That which the Spirit touches, the Spirit changes! Each baptised person is united through the power of the Spirit, and this is the same Spirit that dwells in Jesus. Prior to his ascension Jesus promised he would always be with us and sent the gift of the Spirit, to accompany us through life. We cast away all fear and take comfort in knowing the peace and love that is continually offered to us when we call on and are filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit; our Advocate, Paraclete and Comforter.



GOSPEL READING: JOHN 20:22

"He breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit'."

Read the full text at

<https://www.universalis.com/Australia/mass.htm>



REFLECTION:

"Jesus came to the disciples at the time of their great fear...He comes to me too, wherever I am locked in by fear, and he gives me his peace."

<https://www.sacredspace.ie/scripture/john-2019-23>

PRAYER:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Spirit Matters - Fr Trevor Trotter:

<https://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/newsletters-and-bulletins/columban-bulletin/archive/2020/ebulletin-vol-13-no-4/from-the-director-spirit-matters>

Standing Against Coronavirus with Faith, Hope and Charity - Jeff Cavins Podcast:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/podcast/standing-against-coronavirus-with-faith-hope-and-charity/>

SONG:

Burning in my Soul - Matt Maher:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGyYvGQAQI>

THIS WEEK:

Tell someone how special they are to you by sending a handwritten letter in the mail. Also, include in the envelope a bookmark of affirmation reminding them how special they are to God:

<https://www.morelikegrace.com/free-printable-floral-bookmarks/>

CHILDREN'S RESOURCES:

The Holy Spirit - Catholic Central:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUFdHxBXM44>

Pentecost Activities for Children and Families:

<https://tracimsmith.wordpress.com/2015/05/23/10-pentecost-activities-for-kids-and-families/>



PENTECOST FIND-A-WORD

The words below are taken from Acts 2, where we read the story of Pentecost. Circle the words as you find them.

P P R O S E L Y T E S A S S W
T A T N E P E R C Y R E N E I
H M E S O P O T A M I A A U N
O P E T E R E Y P I I T I G D
U H S S D F B L P B G P H N E
S Y G A L I L E A N S Y T O Z
A L V O L R V R D M N G R T I
N I J U D E A J O E I E A H T
D A R P E N T E C O S T P X P
R P O N T U S W I T H R E E A
O R O M E D E S A I S A X S B
L E G A U G N A L S E T E R C

PENTECOST
GALEANS
MEDES
MESOPOTAMIA
CAPPADOCIA
ASIA
PAMPHYLIA
LIBYA
ROME
PROSELYTES
ARABIANS

LANGUAGE
PARTHIANS
ELAMITES
JUDEA
PONTUS
PHRYGIA
EGYPT
CYRENE
JEWS
CRETES
DAVID

LORD
WIND
TONGUES
FIRE
REPENT
BAPTIZED
SINS
PETER
THREE
THOUSAND

<https://biblewise.com/kids/images/fun/pentecost.pdf>

MORE RESOURCES AT:
bbccatholic.org.au/connected



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The *Living* Word

Entrance Antiphon

Wis 1:7

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

First Reading

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

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

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.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

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

In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

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

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

Jn 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

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

Communion Antiphon

Acts 2:4,11

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

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Pentecost celebrates the fullness of the Spirit and the great gathering of nations. It brings the Easter season to its conclusion. The Risen Lord has been exalted to his rightful place next to God and he has sent his Spirit to fill the earth with God's power. The world is charged with divine energy; it needs but a spark to ignite it with life and with excitement. This vitality explodes into the extraordinary. Tongues are loosed and speech overflows its linguistic constraints; charismatic gifts flood the valleys of human habitation; barred doors are burst open and frightened hearts are calmed. The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world.

Once again we gather together for one reason, only to discover that God has gathered us for another. Through the Spirit of God, we are reconciled to each other and then together we spend ourselves for the common good. Through the Spirit of God the world is renewed, the community is revitalised, and we come to know the mysterious yet all pervasive peace of Christ.

The Spirit has been poured forth and works wonders wherever human hearts are open to its promptings. The earth is renewed each time rivalries are resolved, distinctions are recognised as merely expressions of diversity, peace is restored, comfort and solace are offered, and forgiveness is granted. We are immersed in the vigour of the Spirit of God. All we have to do is open ourselves to it and the reign of God will be born in our midst.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.**



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Liturgy for the Week

01/06 **Monday Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**
Gen 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14; Jn 19:25-34

02/06 **Tuesday Ordinary Time 9**
2 Pet 3:11-15, 17-18; Mk 12:13-17

03/06 **Wednesday Charles Lwanga & companions, martyrs**
2 Tim 1:1-3, 6-12; Mk 12:18-27

04/06 **Thursday Ordinary Time 9**
2 Tim 2:8-15; Mk 12:28-34

05/06 **Friday St Boniface, bishop, martyr**
2 Tim 3:10-17; Mk 12:35-37

06/06 **Saturday Ordinary Time 9**
2 Tim 4:1-8; Mk 12:38-44



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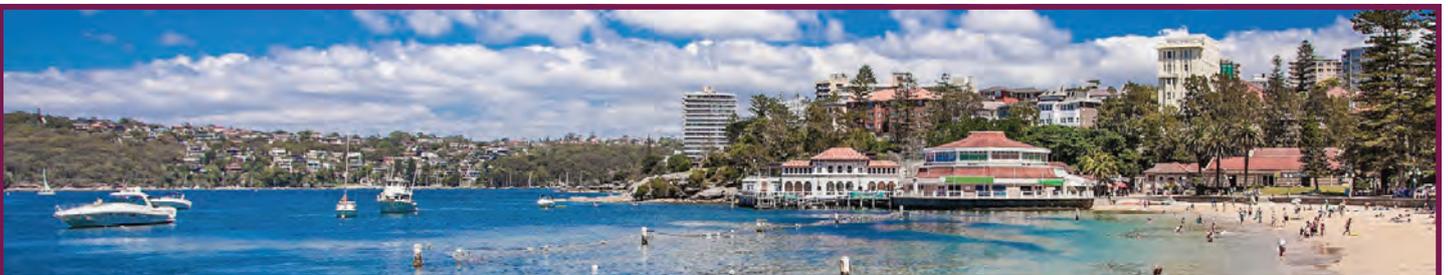
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