

MASS TIMES
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ST LUKE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

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Parish Website <https://stlukesburanda.com>

Pentecost Sunday, Year A

31 May 2020

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came around, the Apostles were meeting in one room. They suddenly 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, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya around 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.'*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

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 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

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.'*

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Bush Fire of Pentecost

As summer progresses in Australia, invariably great bushfires break out. Those who report the infernos speak not only of the flames, but often of a mighty roar like a great windstorm heralding the approaching fire.

The earth had quaked at the death of Jesus, but death had been conquered and the earth was supercharged with divine energy and vitality. Into all this the Risen Lord sent his Holy Spirit like a lightning strike. Divine energy was unleashed and St Luke portrays this particular event in our bushfire terms. The Holy Spirit, he says, was *'like tongues of fire'* and *'like the sound of a mighty wind'* accompanying the descent of the Holy Spirit on a gathering of a fearful group of followers of Our Lord.

The tangled undergrowth of fear, anxiety and timidity was cleared away. The new life of the church was germinated, took root and has been growing ever since, listening to the core message preached by St Peter: Jesus of Nazareth had conquered death and Peter and others were witnesses to the Risen Lord.

We could pause for a moment to pray for the successor of St Peter that he may preach the resurrection in a way which is understandable by people of every culture, every ethnicity, every language group around the world.

NOTICES

PENTECOST



We will never know exactly what happened in the upper room on the first Pentecost day but the effects were startling, dramatic and life changing.

Disciples who had been overcome by fear all of a sudden went out and boldly proclaimed the good news for all who had ears to hear, and at the cost of their own lives. Today we listen again to this extraordinary story of transformation - not because we are students of ancient history, curious and intrigued about a distant past but because this story assures us that the same spirit who transformed the life of the disciples is present and active among us today, calling us to holiness.

There is little doubt that the church in the Western world is experiencing one of its greatest crises. The secularisation, materialism and individualisation of our times has seen many walk away from the practice and experience of Faith. There is little doubt that among the young people of Australia there is a significant crisis of belief that has led to depression, drug abuse, promiscuity and a sense of hopelessness that sometimes leads to suicide.

On this Sunday it is very important that we pray for ourselves, our church and our nation that we might experience the "Ruah" or breath of God breathing life back into our communities and helping us to embrace the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in our own time. Most of all, amidst the same sort of fear and trepidation that gripped the disciples at the first Pentecost, we most of all need to become people of hope.

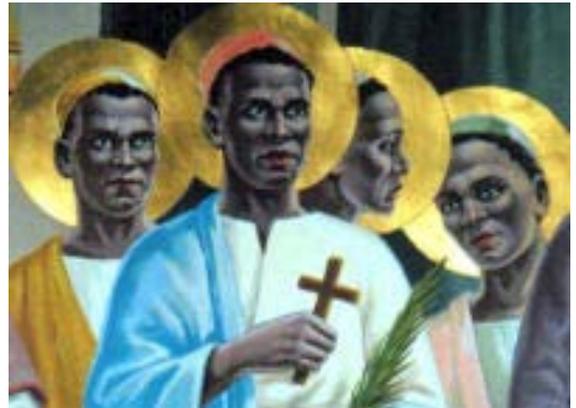
In his great encyclical *Nova Millennio Ineunte*, John Paul II urged us to "go forward in hope and to share the enthusiasm of the very first Christians" and he reminded us that "we can count on the power of the same Spirit who was poured out at Pentecost and impels us still today to start out anew sustained by the hope which does not disappoint."

In these strange days, as we learn to live and act differently, may the "Ruah" – the breath of God – revive us and bring to life in us all of God's gifts.

Monsignor Peter Meneely

If you have an item you would like considered for the newsletter please contact the Parish Office.

SAINT OF THE WEEK: St Charles Lwanga & Companions



Saint Charles Lwanga and his companions were African Catholics who died for their faith in Uganda in the 1880s. At the time Uganda was ruled by King Mwangi who persecuted Christians for their primary allegiance to God rather than their king. Charles Lwanga was the head of the royal page boys, some of whom he had baptised. One day all the pages were assembled and the Christians were separated from the group and arrested. Charles and his companions, many only boys, were martyred for their belief. The example of these passionate young Africans inspired many people who then became converts to Christianity.

WATCH MASS

You can watch Mass at home on Channel 10 at 6.00am on Sundays. Alternatively, join online for the live Mass broadcast via the Cathedral of St Stephen website: <https://www.cathedralofststephen.org.au/mass-times.html> at 8:00am and 12:30pm weekdays and at 8:00am and 10:00am on Sundays. You can also watch earlier Masses recorded on the same website.

CATHOLIC LEADER NEWS

The online edition of The Catholic Leader newspaper will be extended to all parishioners **for free** during this time. Keep faith with the Leader at www.catholicleader.com.au

DAILY INSPIRATION

Sign up to receive regular emails, including two-minute homilies, daily readings and updates from the Archdiocese by visiting archbne.org/dwlk

SUPPORT ST LUKE'S

Our faith will sustain us through challenging times. Please keep helping our parish community by continuing your weekly offering via direct debit. Call the Archdiocesan Development Fund at 3324 3777 to find out how.

Contact Local Safeguarding Representative

Mrs Sarah Martelli

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Anonymous STOpline | 1300 304 550