

The Little Flower Messenger

Year C – PENTECOST SUNDAY – 5th June 2022

Welcome to our Parish Community of St. Theresa of Lisieux

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Gospel: John 20:19-23

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you: receive the Holy Spirit.'

Mass book (P. 294)

1st Reading:

Acts 2:1-11

Psalms 103: 1. 24. 29-31. 34 r. 30:

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: (P. 297)

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

This Week's Good News

Dear Friends,

Pentecost literally means 50th. It is a feast celebrated on the 50th day after the Passover feast by the Jews and a feast celebrated on the 50th day after the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus by Christians. The Jewish Pentecost was originally a post-harvest thanksgiving feast. Later, the Jews included in it the remembrance of God's Covenants with Noah after the Deluge and with Moses at Mt. Sinai.

On the day of Pentecost: The Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary as tongues of fire. The frightened apostles were transformed into fiery preachers and evangelizers and were given the gift of tongues by a special anointing of the Holy Spirit. The listeners experienced a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit through the apostles' gift of tongues: they heard Peter speaking in their native languages. The early Christians became powerful witnesses and brave martyrs for their Faith in Jesus.

As an indwelling God, the Holy Spirit makes us His Living Temples (I Cor 3:16). 2) As a strengthening God, He strengthens us in our fight against temptations and in our mission of bearing witness to Christ by our transparent Christian lives. As a sanctifying God, He makes us holy through the Sacraments: Through Baptism He makes us children of God and heirs of Heaven. Through Confirmation, He makes us temples of God, warriors, and defenders of the Faith. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, He enables us to be reconciled with God by pardoning our sins. Through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, He gives us spiritual nourishment by changing bread and wine into Jesus' Body, Blood Soul, and Divinity, through Epiclesis. Through the Sacraments of the priesthood (Ordination) and matrimony (Marriage), He makes the Church community holy. As a teaching and guiding God, He clarifies and constantly reminds us of Christ's teachings and guides the Magisterium of the Church in presenting Christ's teachings correctly. As a listening and speaking God, He listens to our prayers, enables us to pray, and speaks to us, mainly



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through the Bible. As a Giver of gifts, He gives us His gifts, fruits, and charisms, thus enriching the Church.

We need to permit the Holy Spirit to take control of our lives: by constantly remembering His holy presence and behaving well; by praying for His daily anointing so that we may fight against our temptations and control our evil tendencies, evil habits and addictions; by asking His daily assistance to pray, listening to God through meditative Bible reading, and talking to Him by personal, family and liturgical prayers; and by asking the help of the Holy Spirit to do good for others and to be reconciled with God and others every day.

Deacon Des

Parish News

Confirmandi: Congratulations to our three Confirmandi Ethan, Emilia and Vivian who will be confirmed today, Sunday (5th June) at 4:00. p.m. Please pray for them.

Weekday Masses: Please note there will be no weekday Masses this week. They will recommence on Monday 13th June 2022. Weekend Masses will continue as normal.

Baptism Course: The next baptism course takes place next Wednesday (15th June) and also on Wednesday 24th July; at 7:00 p.m. To enrol on the course, please email the Parish Office stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Private Prayer: The church will be open for private prayer on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Sacrament of Marriage: People who wish to be married in the Catholic Church must approach Fr. Lee / Deacon Des, at least 6 months prior to the intended date of their wedding, and before setting a wedding date.

Visions Group: The Visions Group would like to invite anyone who wishes to share and grow their faith to join us every Monday at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Centre. All are welcome. Visit the parish website calendar or contact Isobel for details.

Pentecost

Pentecost, which we celebrate today, 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.



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The Day of Pentecost in the book of 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.

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.

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 recognizes 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 baptized (Acts 2:41).

Pentecost: The Birthday of the Church

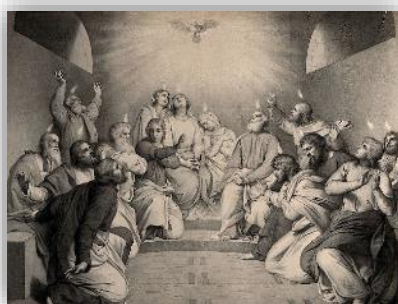
Pentecost is considered by many as the closest thing that we have to a birthday of the Church because from that point on the apostles carried the message of Christ to the whole world. The authority that Christ gave his Apostles through the Holy Spirit extends through the bishops today. The Holy Spirit 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.



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Mass Times and Intentions

PENTECOST SUNDAY – YEAR C		
Saturday 4 th June	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Elaine Smythe R.I.P. (S. Keith)
Sunday 5 th June	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass: 12:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Mass of Confirmation 4:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">For the Intentions of Eileen Ngeh (E.Ngeh)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">People of the Parish</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fr Neil Brett (L.Barker)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Confirmandi</p>
Monday 6 th June <i>Mary, Mother of the Church</i>	No Mass	
Tuesday 7 th June	No Mass	
Wednesday 8 th June	No Mass	
Thursday 9 th June <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest</i>	No Mass	
Friday 10 th June	No Mass	
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY – YEAR C		
Saturday 11 th June	Confessions: 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Mass: 6:00 p.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	Tom Lambe R.I.P. (M. Lambe)
Sunday 12 th June	Mass: 8:30 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i> Confessions: 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Mass: 10:00 a.m. <i>Livestreamed</i>	People of the Parish



PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF IT RESPONSIBLY. THANK YOU.



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