



Sunday 19th May 2024

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priest:** Fr Ananda Maddineni MSFS

Parish Pastoral Associates: Sandy Starbuck & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

The Partnered Parishes of:

St. Mary's

204 Grimshaw St.,
Greensborough, 3088

Parish: 9435 1543 **Presbytery:** 7036 9329

Email: Greensborough@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam1.org.au/greensborough

Secretaries: Lisa & Libby

Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 5.45pm-6.15pm before evening
Mass

Parish School Principal

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**
principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

Sacred Heart & St Peter's

25 Gipson Street,
Diamond Creek 3089

Parish: 9401 6361

Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

Secretary: Pat Guatta

Mass Times

Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am

St Peter's: 1st Saturday 7.15pm

Sunday: Mass 9.00am

Reconciliation Times

Friday: 9.45am to 10.15am

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Gina Murphy **Ph:** 9438 1590 **or Email**
principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au

St. Thomas the Apostle

251 Diamond Creek Road,
Greensborough Nth 3088

Parish: 9434 7373

Email: greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth

Secretary: Lisa Leahy

Mass Times

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday: Mass 10.30am

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am

Acting Parish School Principal

Mrs Jo Nolen **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**
principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

Please send any bulletin contributions to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend bulletin. Thank you

On the first Friday of every month, at St Thomas Parish at 7.00pm we will have Eucharistic Adoration along with confession, everyone welcome.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH.

Today we celebrate the great day of Pentecost, when Christ filled the Church with the power of his Spirit and sent his followers out into the world to bring his peace, joy and mercy to all.

Pentecost Sunday Year B.

<https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/reflections-pentecost>



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

www.cam.org.au

St Mary's Facebook page

facebook.com/stmarysgreensborough/

Our Partnered Parishes respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY STUDY ON THE JOURNEY TO SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

“Lay members of the Catholic Church have scored lowest on a range of child safeguarding measures compared with those holding other roles, new ACU-led global research shows. Clergy recorded the strongest results when it came to their positive attitudes and taking personal responsibility for safeguarding children, as well as their awareness of policies, procedures, and cultures that support safety.

The research, led by ACU’s Institute of Child Protection Studies (ICPS), involved 184 participants from ministries in Australia, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Ghana, India, Poland, and a tertiary institution in Italy, who were grouped into roles – clergy, postgraduate students, lay people, and school staff and safeguarding officers.

*People in each group rated their beliefs about their organisational culture of safeguarding and **awareness** of policies and procedures, their **confidence** to act, their **attitude** to prevention and the agency of children/ young people, and their situational prevention **knowledge** and education out of a maximum score of five.*

Lead author and ICPS Senior Research Officer Douglas Russell said the research, using ICPS’s Safeguarding Capabilities Survey, showed people working in different roles within churches and church-affiliated institutions including schools and hospitals were at different stages of their safeguarding journey.

“This research shows us that safeguarding initiatives globally must focus on lay people in churches as well as clergy and designated safeguarding leaders to ensure widespread culture change and a safe environment for children and young people,” Mr Russell said.

... Professor Higgins said the research found varying levels of awareness, confidence, attitude, and knowledge, showing more needed to be done to keep children safe.

“When we compared these results to other Australian data we have already collected, the participants in this study scored higher in their knowledge and confidence, but lower in their attitudes and awareness,” he said. “But we know having positive attitudes is at the heart of effective safeguarding.”

Mr Russell said the results also showed participants from countries in which there have been inquiries into institutional sexual abuse, including in Australia and the UK, had more positive attitudes towards the importance of safeguarding compared with countries that had not.

“Conversely, participants in countries such as Ghana and India scored higher in their confidence to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse, however such perceived confidence must be aligned to knowledge and skill,” he said. “Knowledge and awareness in countries where there have not been national inquiries needs to be improved to achieve culture change across Catholic entities globally.”

The conclusion at which I arrive, based on this study and observing the reluctance by some in our parish communities to fulfill requirements for Safeguarding by having volunteers have valid ‘Working With Children’ checks, and where appropriate, ‘Police Checks’, and for parish groups to prepare ‘Risk Assessment’ forms for their events and meetings, is the importance that we need to all place on creating a culture of a keen awareness of protecting children and vulnerable adults in our communities. There is also a requirement that volunteers must complete the online Essential Training. There is a link to this training on the Parish website under ‘Induction Module’. You can seek assistance from the ‘Partnered Parishes Safeguarding Committee’ or the secretaries of our parishes if you have any questions. I ask for your patience and resolve to enable us to be compliant with the Safeguarding requirements for our communities.

On your behalf, I would also like to express gratitude to the members of our Safeguarding Committee for the extraordinary and arduous work it does on our behalf.

With gratitude to all who dedicate with generosity their time and skills for the life of our parishes,

Fr. Steven Rigo

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

FAMILIES IN SPIRITUAL HARMONY



Calling all tweens, teens, young adults and families with children preparing for First Eucharist and Confirmation. Are you looking for a place for you and your children to meaningfully connect with other Catholic families? We have the pleasure of introducing Families In Spiritual Harmony (**FISH**). This group has been created by families for families; with the objective of creating a spiritual safety-net for our youth and fostering our catholic community. It is open to everyone, and is for the benefit of all three of our parishes.

We will focus on and encourage faith formation, reflection and discussion in these sessions – all whilst having some fun! These sessions will be held every Friday, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.

On the first Friday of every month, we will also have The First Friday's Devotion, along with confession, and all are welcome to join in.

We hope to see you all soon.

Fr Ananda Maddineni

Join us for Fiat—A Weekend of Prayer Friday 31st May—Sunday 2nd June 2024

For the second year running, our local communities of grace across the Archdiocese of Melbourne will unite for a weekend of prayer from Friday 31 May to Sunday 2 June 2024.

Beginning with the Feast of the Visitation on Friday and concluding with the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on Sunday, parishes, movements and communities are invited to host a time of prayer.

Fiat may be a time to explore various forms of prayer, particularly with Mary and the Eucharist. ***Your 'How to' guide to the Year of*** <https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/documents/Year-of-Prayer-guide.pdf>



A PARTNERED PARISHES EVENT

There is much unrest in the world – Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, the traumatic and senseless stabbings in Sydney, protests across many countries, the lingering presence of COVID and long COVID resulting in ongoing health concerns for our communities, the damage we continue to inflict on our earthly home and the list is growing. The impact of this reality has each of us unsettled, afraid, searching for signs that will bring change – for the common good – signs God has not forsaken his people. Perhaps this feeling of uncertainty and vulnerability is similar to how the disciples were feeling the night of Pentecost.

They too were experiencing a sense of abandonment, their Teacher was gone, what were they to do?

They called upon God to come to their aid – through their prayer God's Holy Spirit came upon them and their whole being filled with a powerful burning desire to go out and reassure people – God is with US! – His Son and our Savior is with us! Let us do the same – beginning with Prayer. With the support of the Partnered Parishes Pastoral Council of Sacred Heart, St Thomas' and St Mary's, I am asking those who would like to join me in planning our local "Fiat" in this Year of Prayer to say YES!. This event will be across our 3 communities and I would welcome an opportunity to meet with MANY! who will bring their creativity, their Spirit filled gifts to plan a wonderful prayer service for Peace.

Please contact me through the Parish Office – 9435 1543 or email me sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au and we will find a time to meet convenient for all.

Towards Wholeness

– From Fear to Love

Come for a weekend retreat (non-residential) on Jungian psychology and Ignatian spirituality at Campion Spirituality Centre 99 Studley Park Rd, Kew.

Saturday 25 May (9:30 am – 4 pm)

- Sunday 26 May (10 am – 1 pm)

Jungian psychology helps our understanding of the Ignatian practices of Imaginative Contemplation and the Examen, and Christian Meditation, as ways to discover our deeper, true self and God.

Cost: \$55 for Saturday or
\$75 for both Saturday and Sunday
(Saturday lunch provided)

Contact: Susie Hii

Email: susiehii.hc@gmail.com

Mobile: 0410 981 080

RSVP: 20 May



Facilitator: **Dr Susie Hii** (spiritual director, master of spirituality, medical practitioner)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART & ST PETER'S



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Thursday 10.00am-1.00pm, Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-2.30pm.*

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: we pray for Andre, Charlotte, Jackson, and Mia who will be welcomed into our community in May.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: Agenda items from 9th May meeting included: Letter from Partnered Parishes Plenary Facilitators Group. Sacred Heart Weekday Mass Roster: 9.15am Wednesday Fr Steve and 9.15am Friday Fr Raj while Fr Ananda is away. Sacred Heart School/Parish Mass at 9.15am on Friday 7th June for Feast of the Sacred Heart. Reports tabled were Women's Dinner, School, Communion to the Sick. Invitation to Parishes Unite Event. Safeguarding/Risk Assessment Discussion. Next PPC meeting is on 13th June. Suggestion box in church or email: ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com

WOMEN'S DINNER: Thank you to all the generous donors including:

- ◆ Mitre 10
- ◆ DC Meats,
- ◆ Priceline
- ◆ DC Bowling Club
- ◆ Infinity_360 Health & Fitness
- ◆ Veronica's Pantry
- ◆ onar Hair & Beauty
- ◆ Alive Pilates Studio
- ◆ Hairhouse Highpoint
- ◆ Hear to Help – Jasna Bruce Audiologist
- ◆ Manhattan Music
- ◆ Jellis Craig and anonymous parishioners.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK: Please contact the Parish Office if you, or anyone you know, would appreciate Communion at home.

MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE: the beautiful patchwork was won by Carole Bell. Thank you to all who participated.

SACRED HEART MEMORIAL GARDEN PLAQUES: The cost of supply and installation is \$350. Please contact Marg Farrell via email at ppcdiamondcreek@gmail.com or leave a message with Pat in the Parish Office if you would like a loved one remembered in this way.

SENIOR MOMENTS: Wednesday 15th May 12pm Lunch & Scrabble in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 5th June Lunch 12pm Diamond Saigon Vietnamese Restaurant

HALL HIRE: Sacred Heart Hall is for hire. For all enquiries regarding cost and terms and conditions contact Alison Pieper on 0417571535 or alisonpieper52@gmail.com

ROSTERS:

Cleaning: Week 21st May L. Armiento, M. Dunn, A. Ridsdale

Sunday 19th May Sacred Heart 9am

Reader: Y. O'Brien **Commentator:** R. McEvoy **Eucharistic Ministers:** A. Pieper, P. Keenan

St Peter's Saturday 1st June 7.15pm

Reader: A. Perera **Commentator:** E. Gittins

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

Mary O'Dea, Bernie Bourke, Lucy & Pat Cassin, Mervyn Bourke, Antonietta Nesci, Grace Wein, Chris Padget, Pam Collins, Katie Pittle, Catherine Leonard, Joan Moran, Bridie Burke, Thomas Keenan, Jacob Draper, Kath Rickard, Maureen Jenkins, Tony Watson

Recently deceased:

We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of May that they may enter

joyfully into God's Kingdom: Dorothy Pittle, Glenn Hurley, Michael Berriman, Peter Beaumont, Frank Perversi, Noela Atkinson, Mary Camilleri, Henry Van Oosterom, Kevin Rogers, Eddie Schellens, Andrew March

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

Vision Statement "To be a vibrant Christian community engaging with the world"

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday 11am-3pm, Wednesday 8am-12.00pm, Thursday 9am-3pm, Friday 11am-3pm*

SANDY'S OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Wednesday 9.00am-5.30pm and Friday 9.00am-5.30pm*

Please send any bulletin contributions directly to greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au or greensborough@cam.org.au by 12noon Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin. Thank you



SACRIFICIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES AT ST MARY'S: In order to make it easier for the counters, could you please write the amount on the front of the envelope.

The envelopes are made to accommodate the larger notes, please don't fold the notes.

Also if you miss some weeks, just put in one envelope with the total amount and throw away the other envelopes.

LADIES AUXILIARY: Our next stall will be a "Book Sale" on the 1st weekend 1st & 2nd of June.

The next Ladies Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th June at 10.30am in the gathering space.

Enquiries to Maureen 9435 5906 or Lucy 9435 6990.

WANTED: Plant pots, plastic or other. Any size (not seedling pots) can be left on seat behind Parish House, or phone Phil 94345 4506

WORKING WITH CHILDREN'S CHECKS: It is important that all volunteers have an up to date WWCC, as our parish records are currently being audited.

MASS OF ANOINTING: A Mass of the anointing will be celebrated at St Mary's Parish at 11.00am on Thursday 30th May, followed by a light lunch.

For catering purposes if are attending could you please contact Geraldine on 0438 148896. All welcome.

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The prayer shawl ministry meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enquiries: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326.

A LOST PROPERTY BOX is on the lower shelf of the bench in the gathering space.

Be informed, inspired and entertained



During May the Library is displaying a selection of books and DVDs about Our Lady.

They include books of theology, history and devotion related to Mary. To find other similar books on the shelf go to 232.91.

cloud.collectorz.com/247780



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Baptisms:

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

Peter Mejak, Barbara Fernandez, Christos Pittas, Jocelyn Tibayan, Margaret Schreenan, Olivia MacDonald, Helen Quigley, Lorraine Alexander, Harley McAleer, Pat Milczakowsky, Rosie Bray, Peter Miles, Leon Gray, Amparp Sarmiento, Fr Terry Kean, Carlos Manabat, Maureen Carr, Garry York

Recently Deceased: Elizabeth Mancuso

We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom: Ellen Kiernan, Mercy Hoffman, Ruza Vuleta, Christine Minogue, Clydagh Lundie, Jim Morrissy, Eileen Morrissy, Keven Cooke, David Sutton, Norman DeGuzman, William Conroy (Snr), Francis Peter Vanvelzon, Valda Phillips, Noela Phillips, Jan Bielasz, Frank Miles, Tasman Hogan, Eileen O'Sullivan, Mary McCorkell, Paul Carr, Brian Hogan, Otto Nechwatal, Pablo Juan Carlos Rios, Martin Moran, Margaret Newman, Harold Downey, Margaret Delaney, Eileen Vine, Therese Teycheney, Jackson Robinson, Eugenio Melo, Pat Dalton, William Rule, Caterina Terminelli, Desmond Boyd, Margaret Mahoney, Jacqueline Duncan, May Claudius, Elsie Watts, Madeleine Schuster, David Meagher, Vic Profitt, Walter Buckley, John Brain, Win Hanlon, Stan Cichorski, Natalino Grech, John Gallaher, Eileen Murphy, Joseph Darcy, Jessie Gomes, Heidi Beard, Daniel Tucker, Barry Rosewall, Querino Bonotto, Nancy Moran, Henok Mulat, Margaret Cooper, Ronald Duncan, Bill Hill, Barry Rosewall, Ron Duncan, Sydney Hope, Geoff Hedger

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



PARISH OFFICE HOURS: *Tuesday & Friday: 8.00am-4.00pm Wednesdays 12.30pm,-4.00pm*

Thursdays 8.00am-11.30am (**Wednesday 8.00am-12.00pm & Thursday 12.00-3.00pm St Mary's**)

Please send bulletin contributions by 12.00pm on Wednesday. Thank you

BAPTISMS: Please keep in your prayers Mallory, Theodore and Leo who are being baptised later this month.

BUILDING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP: As you may be aware, we have been having monthly informal gatherings for coffee and a chat. At our last gathering, we decided to have a change of venue and time.

It was decided that from now on, we will meet in the Parish Meeting Room at 12.30pm for a light lunch on the 4th Thursday of each month .

Lunch will be provided at our next gathering, on Thursday 23rd May and we have purchased a coffee machine.

We are asking for a donation of \$10. Please come and join us for a friendly chat and lunch next Thursday.

To assist with catering, please RSVP to Sue McMahon sueandkevinmcmahon@bigpond

or message 0418 173209 by Tuesday 21st May.

Kind regards

Sue McMahon



Roster for Weekend 25th & 26th May

Saturday 6.00pm

Reader: H. Fernando

Commentator: T. Holland

Eucharistic Ministers: L. Carty, T. Holland

Set Up: Volunteer

Sunday 10.30am

Reader: M. Kenny

Commentator: L. Hobson

Eucharistic Ministers: C. O'Brien, A. Kerr

Set Up: J. Kerr

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH

This year in August we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of our beloved Church St Thomas the Apostle. This significant milestone calls for a memorable and joyous celebration befitting our shared faith and community spirit.

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is seeking interested parishioners to form a small committee to bring together a celebration during and after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 18th August 2024.

This committee will be supported by the PPC and Liturgy Team and will be responsible for planning and organising the small festivities during and after mass on this special occasion. If you are interested and eager to contribute your talents and ideas to create a memorable event, we invite you to put your hand up to assist.

Let us come together as a parish community to honour the rich history and enduring spirit where we gather at St Thomas the Apostle. Please contact Lisa or Tim stthomasppc@cam.org.au if you are interested in getting involved.

Please contact Lisa or Tim at: stthomasppc@cam.org.au if you are interested in getting involved.

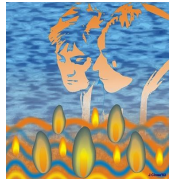
St Thomas prayers are asked for the following Parishioners:

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

Miran Kasalo, Peter Kernjak, John Geretschlager, Dominic Cambareri, Fr Terry Kean, Dawn Ellis

We pray for those who have died recently including Dawn Ellis (Sister to Brian Bedford) and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of May that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Domenica Picollo, Kath Mumford, Theodora Ellul, Maura McGauran, Stephen Ruzic, Marg Watson, Ray Money, Gaetano Palazzolo, Raymond Bowman



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny: In the readings for the feast of Pentecost there are some interesting connections between fire and water. In the gospel for the Vigil the Spirit is described as 'rivers of living water' flowing out of the hearts of believers. In the Acts of the Apostles the experience of the Spirit was likened to 'tongues of fire'. In liminal moments like this, when natural logic is confounded, the boundaries between seeming opposites are blurred and new meanings emerge.

Pentecost Sunday, Year B

19 May 2024

First Reading Acts 2:1-11

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.'

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

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 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 Jn 20:19-23

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.'*

or Ad libitum for Year B

Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

The Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth.

Jesus said to his disciples:

*'When the Advocate comes,
whom I shall send to you from the Father,
the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father,
he will be my witness.
And you too will be witnesses,
because you have been with me from the
outset.*

*I still have many things to say to you
but they would be too much for you now.
But when the Spirit of truth comes
he will lead you to the complete truth,
since he will not be speaking as from himself
but will say only what he has learnt;
and he will tell you of the things to come.
He will glorify me,
since all he tells you
will be taken from what is mine.
Everything the Father has is mine;
that is why I said:
All he tells you
will be taken from what is mine.'*



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The feast of Pentecost celebrates the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples and energising them to set about their mission of continuing the ministry of Jesus. The gospel reading is one of the post-resurrection appearances by Jesus when he breathed the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. The actual events of that first Pentecost are recorded in the book of Acts and are recalled in this week's first reading. The use of this post-resurrection gospel account is a reminder that Jesus had already imbued the disciples with the Spirit but, as so often throughout his ministry, they were a bit slow to catch on to the significance of what he had done. It seems that they needed a more tangible experience to jolt them into action and Acts records the very physical experience of the Spirit entering their midst as a roaring wind before settling upon them as tongues of flame. Jesus had breathed the Spirit upon them but it took the roaring wind to make a real impression on the disciples. There are frequent references in the gospels to Jesus being 'filled with the Spirit'. It is this Spirit with which he was filled that he breathed upon his disciples; it is that same Spirit that we receive sacramentally in Confirmation.

For the weeks following the death of Jesus the disciples had lived in fear and confusion, not fully understanding what had happened and not really knowing what to do. When they realised that the Spirit Jesus had breathed upon them was really present and urging them to action they finally had the courage to begin the mission that Jesus had entrusted to them: to spread the Good News of Jesus and continue to realise his message in the world.

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