

Voice from the Vicarage 13th May 2021

Dear All,

PENTECOST PRAISE! Sunday week, the 23rd

I'm so looking forward to Pentecost Sunday. Well, by and large I look forward to every Sunday, but this is such a joyous and important feast as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, the living presence of the Lord, who gives life to the people of God, and without whom the Church wouldn't be!

We celebrate the day when the disciples, obedient to the Lord's command before he ascended, that they were to stay in the city until they were 'clothed' with power from on high, were encouraged, you could even say, transformed by the promised gift of Spirit.



Love and joy and peace and unity, and so much more. The fruit of the Spirit....on the first day of Pentecost and ever since....

In words that cannot sufficiently describe it, the Scriptures speak of the experience in terms of wind and flame, and of course love.

We are as dependent on that same Spirit as were those first ones for our life together. It animates our prayer and our mission and our love.

On that first day, the disciples found they had a new energy to proclaim Jesus and out they went to the streets of Jerusalem and were give the gift of languages so that all the nations gathered to listen could understand. If you have time, read first of all, Genesis 11:1-9 and then Acts 2:1-11. There can be little doubt that St Luke, the writer of Acts wants us to note the contrast!

Praying the Prayer that writes us in different tongues....

Over the past few years we have kept this feast so beautifully by inviting members of the parish family to say the Creed in a language they know, either their 'own' or one they have learned. Last year of course we had it up on our online service and it was shared around the diocese.

THIS YEAR we are inviting folk to pray the **Lord's Prayer** in the same way.

A number of folk have already agreed. If you would be happy to participate in this way, please send me an email or text! lindsayurwin1@gmail.com or 0407097870. So far we are doing well...Spanish, Samoan, Indonesian, Syrian, Arabic, Japanese, Vietnamese, Tamil, Old English, Portuguese, Croatian.....and Australian of course!

We can source the prayer for you if it will help. The prayer is offered as a sort of 'round' beginning with one person, and then after the first phrase, another starts in their tongue. Far from being a cacophony, it is beautiful!

AND IT'S OUR TRADITION after refreshments in the Bardin Centre to have an informal shared lunch in the vicarage. Bring a plate of something if you can, and all the better if it's a recipe from other shores! My contribution will be a traditional British Shepherd's pie with a secret ingredient that you'll never guess, but you'll beg me for it....

And later that same day.....

You will be welcome at the **Annual Ecumenical Pentecost Service**, this year to be hosted by the Brunswick Baptists. Their church is on Sydney Road opposite Blyth Street.

The service starts @ 5 p.m. I'll be walking up there at about 4.30 if anyone wants to stroll up the hill chez moi.

And meanwhile....

We have a loo!

The loo for the disabled was delivered this week, but unfortunately I wasn't there it got a 'snap' as it was craned into place! It's an important provision, if we are truly to be ready to welcome all those

who might come both to 'The Lamb and Flag' and to the church. It can be accessed from both directions!

But, I have a favour to ask! I'd like to paint the existing loo next to it a similar grey and there's some fence painting work to be done. Thinking of a little 'working bee'. I am myself a dab hand with a brush but I could do with some volunteers! Any offers?

And a novice in the family....

Last week, I asked you to pray for our **Cara** who was to be clothed this week as a novice in the Community of the Sacred Cross Ty Mawr in Wales. The beautiful deed is done and here's a photo to prove it. Cara with no lesser personage than the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, who preached...



Novice Sister Cara SSC

Writes Cara, *"It's astounding how many Australians were crammed into chapel, in spirit, if not in the flesh.."*

THIS SUNDAY we are celebrating the mystery of the **Ascension of the Lord**. To be honest, the 'correct' day is today Thursday, but the Church allows it be celebrated on Sunday, so more folk can keep the feast. Eastertide is so full of action and mystery!

There'll be the usual Mass @ 8, and then Mass and 'Lambs' @ 10..

And the next episode of **'The Chosen'** with reflection and cheese and wine happens in the vicarage @ 5.

And finally, has anyone noticed that in a few weeks we'll be half way through the year?! Well...six weeks. But the year is going so fast..or is that an age thing? **+L**