

Voice from the Vicarage 20th May 2021

Dear All,

There is a story told of a bishop paying a Sunday visit to one of the parishes in his diocese. The number in church was disappointingly lower than usual, and afterwards his somewhat prelatial Lordship grumpily inquired of the parish priest as to whether he had given the congregation proper notice that he was coming to preach. There was, sadly, no love lost between the men. So it was, with a glint in his eye, that the priest enjoyed reassuring his Father in God that he had most certainly let his visitation be known far and wide!

Many thanks to Father Chris who more than held the fort last Sunday while I was away speaking at a retreat for school leaders in Perth. I tried to keep my few days away a bit quiet...and I want to say that I do not take it personally or find it disconcerting in the least to discover that there was a bumper congregation in my absence! Indeed I rejoice, though I will be a little bit concerned should Sunday's congregation for Pentecost be disappointingly low now that I am back.....

Of course, all jokes aside, the particular celebrant should be no determining factor. In his Anglican days, John Henry Newman writes of this truth which both liberates and makes any priest tremble, and is a reminder to members of a congregation to see beyond whoever is celebrating :

'Christ's priests have no priesthood but His. They are merely his shadows and organs, they are His outward signs; and what they do, he does; when they baptise, He is baptising; when they bless, He is blessing. He is in all acts of his Church, and one of His acts are not more truly His than any other, for all are His...'

A GREAT SUNDAY AHEAD.....

Well, if this is true, we wait for Him to act this very Sunday and our constant invitation to **'ENTER THE MYSTERY'** will not disappoint as we gather to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. The biblical images of wind and fire to express the Spirit's presence struggle to describe the experience for the first ones, and finding

pictorial images is difficult, but I love the one I posted in 'the Voice' last week which has the disciples joined in a circle with fire swirling around them... I might say however that it is



likely that the 'they' referred to as gathering in the 'one place' in the Acts of the Apostles included the Holy Mother and other women who were with them 'devoted to prayer', waiting to be clothed with power.

As many of you know it has become a tradition on Pentecost Sunday at Christ Church to celebrate the way the Lord has added to our number folk from different 'nations under heaven' by inviting folk to contribute to the liturgy in their own language or a language they have learned. This year it will be the Lord's Prayer.

To date I reckon there will be well over twelve languages....**Greek, Vietnamese, Spanish, Serbian, Czech, Portuguese, Japanese, Tamil**

French, Tamil, Spanish, Arabic, Indonesian, Anglo Saxon and Samoan...and Australian of course...

But there's room for more!

Just let me know, or turn up! Personally I'm a bit disappointed we have no Italian...or Latin which they used to say is the language of heaven, though I have some doubts about that...

At the end of the Prayer in all these languages, which will be prayed as a round, Sahir Jamil Murad a deacon from the Chaldean Church who pops up at mass and at the vicarage occasionally will sing the Prayer in **Aramiac**, the language of the Lord...

This will surely be beautiful, and then we will almost immediately come to the altar to receive the Communion that unites us with our Lord and each other...

Sharing international delights.....

After refreshments in the Bardin Centre there will be a **shared lunch in the vicarage** for those who can stay, and we are asking you to bring food with a taste of your culture or just something you like cooking! Feel free to drop any food in to the vicarage before mass.

Which reminds me, it is really important to sign in to church when you arrive. The government has organised spot checks and on the spot fines in places where details have not been properly gathered. Please do it, or sign in your details on the forms provided at the back of the church. All of this is surely part of being a good citizen.



And finally, tomorrow night (Friday) I'm off with our head server, Roshan Raja and one of our wardens (Cecilia) to sit in a packed auditorium to enjoy the Brunswick Secondary School Production starring our own Alec Cross, one of many 'stars' in our serving team. It's called 'The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee'...We'll be cheering our boy on from the stalls which is bound to cause him acute embarrassment which will simply add to my enjoyment to the evening...

Really hope to see you for the Feast of Pentecost!

Much love from the Vic. **+Lindsay**

