



## PARISH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, NORTH WODEN

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30-31 May 2020, Pentecost Sunday Year A

### MAY THE DECEASED REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN EASTER GLORY

**Recently Deceased:** Fr Frank Morrissey OMI, Maria Phan Thi Nhuong, Paul Rollings, Fr Michael O'Dea, Hannah Sowry, Ruth Dunn, Colleen Cotter, Sr Mary Agnes (Carmelite Convent, Red Hill), Alec Reynolds, Cecil Wagstaff, Denis Hogan, Victims of the Corona virus, Noel Bissett, Bruce Fuller, Fr Peter Morrissey, Kathleen Rennie (parishioner since 1967), Four Victorian Police Officers, Sheila Rohan, Malcolm Allison, Shirley Evans, Keith Mc Laughlin, Hilda Quinones, Gloria Tin, Joyce Ryan, Maureen Boyle, Don Furner, Richard Arnel, Rod Frazer, Mary-Anne McGrath.

**Anniversaries of Death:** Tano Travia, Ellen Woods, Kathleen Majer, Molly Poole, Brian Lacey, Vonnie Beath, Margaret Joyce, Wendy Egan, Cecily Howden, Frank Williams, Kathleen Rowe, John Frawley, Doris Falzon and Falzon family members, Hartung and Marlow family members, Richard Pugh, Rosario Suazo, Gary Woods, Jack Perry, George Pugh, Desmond Lilley, Sylvia Cronin, Policarpio Barawid.

### MAY THE SICK BE COMFORTED BY OUR PRAYERS

Emma Lowe, Hilary Halpin, Margaret Wilson, Rose Winstanley, Joseph Garside, Carol Wightman, those afflicted with Corona virus, Bella Davison, Leah Yaxley, John Kololo, Frederick Schinkel, Maree Peters, Witlock family, Timothy Francis Roberts, Rosa B Nguyen, Lourdes A Bautista, David Sandground, Kathleen Stuart, Dick Barry, Luke Ward, Eric Reiher, John Vincent, David Parker, Mark Shepherd, Violet Webster, Lucy Duncan, Rod Duncan, Edith Schumann, Kevin Cains, Stephen Evans, Dermott Cummins.

### **EMPOWERED: PERSONALLY AND COMMUNALLY**

**Pentecost Sunday celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.** Pentecost (Shavuot) is a Jewish festival celebrated 50 days after Passover when people travel from all over to Jerusalem to offer thanks to God for the land and its produce. Luke, the author of the Gospel and Acts (from which today's First reading comes) situates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the Pentecost festival. **Luke does so to emphasise the universal mission of the Church to overcome what sin had divided, as symbolised by the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9).** What has been divided is now being reconciled. And so the mighty wind and tongues of fire "*signal the presence and power of God [as they did at Mt Sinai] . . . The overall sense would be that the empowering Spirit, which rested solely upon Jesus during his own life, has now, in accordance with his promise (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8a), been distributed to those who are to carry on his mission*" (Brendan Byrne SJ). **However John's Gospel situates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Easter Sunday.** John suggests that at the moment of his death Jesus imparts the Spirit (19:13). Now as risen Lord, "*he breathes the Spirit upon the disciples, communicating through them to the church the capacity to reconcile in God's name*" (Byrne). **Whatever about the different perspectives on the Spirit's outpouring, they are united in their understanding of the church continuing the mission of Jesus under the power of the Holy Spirit.**

To better appropriate this tenet of our faith, we would do well to understand that "*apart from human and animal power, wind was the observable energy source in the ancient world*" (John Pilch). Further, while they never understood the spirit of God as a person, they did maintain that "*God's power or breath acts outside of God and can be 'sent' (Isa 48:16), 'placed' (Isa 63:11), or 'poured'*". **It is only in the New Testament the concept of God's spirit becomes personified. Receiving the Spirit of God, when Jesus breathes on them (today's Gospel, Jn 20:22) recalls "the moment of creation when God "blew" up the nostrils of Adam and brought him to life (Gen 2:7)" (Pilch).** To be animated by the Spirit of God is to be empowered with that which is proper to human flourishing. It is a power given

to the church to fight evil or all that undermines our human integrity, expressed in John's Gospel as the power to forgive and to retain sins.

*"May the Force be with you!"* So said Obi Kenobi in 'Star Wars'. It is believed that during the bubonic plague in Rome, Pope Gregory 1 encouraged people to say *"God bless you"* as a protection after a person sneezed. **There are many takes on what empowers and protects us in the face of limitation, threats and the horizon of death.** However, today's Solemnity of Pentecost insists that the promised paraclete or advocate, the one referred to as 'the Holy Spirit' seeks communion with and through each of us in various ways for the flourishing of one and all (Second Reading). **To be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit is to affirm our dignity and to further the mission of the church. This openness is reflected in the following prayer before a meeting which can find personal resonance whatever our circumstance:**

#### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Be present with us, O Holy Spirit, for it is your name that we are specially gathered together.

Come to help us in our affairs, and be pleased to enter our deliberations.

Instruct us in what we should do.

Let it be You, first of all, who inspire our suggestions.

May You who love justice let us not offend against justice or charity.

Grant also that we may act intelligently.

Keep us by the gift of your grace in harmony with your will, so that we may act as one with You, who with the Father and the Son live and reign God for ever.

Amen.

Fr John

**ONLINE LIVE STREAMING OF DAILY MASS:** Mass is now live streamed from the chapel of St Christopher's Cathedral at 12.15pm, Monday-Friday, 9.00am Saturday and 11.00am Sunday. **NB: Being a live stream, you will need to access the Mass at the specific time by going to [www.catholicvoice@cg.org.au](http://www.catholicvoice@cg.org.au).**

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL COVID-19 APPEAL**, in lieu of the usual Winter Appeal and in response to increasing need as a result of the pandemic, seeks your support. You can donate at [www.vinnies.org.au/covid19crisisappeal](http://www.vinnies.org.au/covid19crisisappeal) or by calling 13 18 12

**MARRIAGE, FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS OFFICE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE** invites **(1)** Couples preparing for marriage to a **Zoom Get-Together this Tues, 2 June, 7-8pm**; Meeting ID: 858 2251 8532, Password: 715655, and **(2)** Married couples to a free online conference, '**Catholic Marriage Summit**', Thurs 11 to Wed 27 June featuring Catholic couples sharing on their living of the Sacrament of Marriage, <https://www.joyfuleverafter.org/>. Access afterwards and to materials arising is available from Lara Kirk, [lara.kirk@cg.org.au](mailto:lara.kirk@cg.org.au) 0429 192 869.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:** In lieu of the **First (for the support of the clergy of the Archdiocese) and Second Collection (for the support of the parish plant and programmes)**, you can still contribute by going to <https://www.bpoint.com.au/CATHOLICDEVELOPMENTFUNDARCHDIOCESEOFCANBERRA>. You can also contribute via the Qkr! App. **Thank you to those who during the pandemic have dropped off contributions to the Parish Office and, or who continue to do so via established electronic transactions.**

**PARISH MEDITATION GROUP** will continue to meet online. Details from Vikki McDonough, 0437 876 487 / [mulvaney@netspeed.com.au](mailto:mulvaney@netspeed.com.au)

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** To date \$1451.95 has been received. If you still have any PC envelopes or boxes, these can be brought to the Parish Office, Monday, Wed or Fri, 9am - 3pm.

**PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE:** Early days but check it out at 'North Woden Parish Transfiguration'. Comments, thoughts?

**Prayer Circle Support:** Cathy Harris, 6281 2574.

**Readings for Trinity Sunday (A):** Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9; 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13; John 3: 16-18.