



St Brigid's Marrickville

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia

One Family, Alive in Christ

Est 1886. Under the Pastoral Care of the Passionists since 1887

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We stand at the Crossroads of life for many people

Pentecost Sunday —Year A 30/31 May 2020

SHARING THE SPIRIT'S GIFTS: PENTECOST SUNDAY 2020

A philosopher and writer named Jean-Paul Sartre wanted to explore the agony of people who feel trapped and stuck in their lives. He saw this as being hell on earth. So he wrote a play about hell and called it No Exit.

Three people arrive in hell. It consists of a living room with mirrors around its walls. There is no exit in the room, and there is no interval or intermission in the play. The three characters stay on the stage the whole time, since they can never leave the room and must stay together getting on one another's nerves. While they keep talking about the past, there is nothing they can do now to change it. As they remain locked in the room, the final line spoken is 'Let's go'. But they don't go anywhere and they can't go anywhere, because they cannot change anything in the past or the present. All they have are mirrors that keep reminding them they are trapped and stuck in their past. It's sheer hell for them, but that's the way things are.

It's one thing to be locked in a room with no exit. It's another thing to lock yourself in a room because you believe that the world outside your door is hostile, and that if you leave your room you will be killed. In our First Reading today, this is the situation of the first followers of Jesus, his apostles. Ever since he was crucified they have retreated to a room and locked themselves in. They are so scared of those that killed Jesus and may come looking for them that there is no exit, no way out. They are trapped, and they feel they are in a kind of hell.

But there is an exit after all. The risen Jesus comes and stands among them and says to them: 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you [sending you out].' He also breathes upon them the Holy Spirit, 'the Lord and giver of life'. When they breathe in the Spirit, they breathe in the

Spirit's gifts of courage, confidence, and conviction. The Spirit's gifts change their darkness into light, their sadness into joy, and their fears into freedom. The Spirit empowers them to give fresh meaning to the past and to look to the future with fresh hope. So the Spirit, in fact, is their exit from their feelings of frustration and hopelessness, and their exit from the room itself into a brand new life of generous and loving service.

So they walk out bravely into the streets outside the Upper Room. There they meet hundreds and even thousands of people. There are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, visitors from Rome, Crete and Arabia, etc., etc., all waiting to hear the message from the Apostles. So, filled with the Holy Spirit of wisdom, understanding, courage, confidence and love, the preachers begin telling all and sundry, the good news about Jesus. Wonder of wonders, every person there hears in their own language the marvellous things that God has been doing in the person and life of Jesus!

Here in our gatherings today, however small because of Covid19, that same powerful Pentecost Spirit of God is in our midst. Every one of us is a human being, and it's likely that every one of us is a baptised Christian, a follower of Jesus. We share that much together. But none of us in our shared space is exactly the same as any other person. There is a variety of personalities, and the Holy Spirit has distributed to us a variety of gifts. And that same Spirit of God, as St Paul insists in our Second Reading, is 'working in all sorts of different ways in different people'. Our task is first of all, then, to identify, recognise and respect, just what gifts the Holy Spirit has given us, and just what gifts the Holy Spirit has given to other people in our lives.

What are your outstanding gifts and what are theirs?

The great thing about the special gifts that the Holy Spirit of God has given to you, to me, and to all others in our lives, is that they have not been given to us just for our own satisfaction, enjoyment, and fulfilment. They have been given to us for the benefit, service, enrichment and joy of others. So our second task today is to re-dedicate and re-commit ourselves to serving others with whatever gifts have been given to us.

Therefore, before we say today 'Let's go out', let us also give thanks to God for the huge variety of gifts that the Holy Spirit has given to us personally and individually, and to all the other people who make up our community. In the words of St Paul, may we thank God that '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 different ways in different people...'! And let us put our thanks for those gifts into our individual and shared prayer today!

Only after we have given thanks to God today for all the rich gifts that the Holy Spirit has distributed among us, can we go out to proclaim the good news of Jesus, and to keep serving the Lord in all the others who come into our lives, into our hearts, and into our homes!

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FAMILY PRAYER

For Sacred Space:

- ◆ Red cloth on the table or floor (red – the colour for Pentecost)
- ◆ Bible, candle
- ◆ a bowl with water as a reminder of our baptism; add a symbol of the Holy Spirit for Pentecost (picture of dove).

Leader: Today we celebrate the wonderful birthday of our Church. This is the feast when we recall the Holy spirit being given to the disciples, enabling them to speak the word without fear.

Leader: Lord, you are great indeed,
All: Lord, have mercy

Leader: Lord, your glory endures for ever.
All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord, you renew the face of the Earth
All: Lord, have mercy

Leader:
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.

Living the Gospel – Come, Holy Spirit

'Come, Holy Spirit', or its Latin, 'Veni Sancte Spiritus', has become the basis of countless prayers and hymns over many hundreds of years. To this day, it remains a powerful invocation that can be used in prayer or meditation. Three simple words convey a wealth of meaning. The invitation for the Spirit to 'Come' indicates recognition of the need for the Spirit's intervention and openness to accept the guidance that the Spirit brings. It is a powerful, simple prayer that can be used at the outset of any significant undertaking or whenever you find yourself in need of inspiration.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Jn 20:19-23

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.' **The Gospel of the Lord.**

For Family Sharing/Discussion

In the Gospel, Jesus' first words to the disciples after his resurrection were words of consolation and reassurance: "peace be with you". Following his example,

- ◆ **what practical steps can you take to bring the Lord's comfort and peace to others?**
- ◆ **What are the obstacles in you that keep you from witnessing God's love to others?**

Intercessions:

Take some time now to pray and ask for a deeper infilling of the Holy Spirit

- ◆ For all who are engaged in ministries of reconciliation, that God's Spirit of peace will guide and sustain them.
- ◆ We pray for nations long struggling with poverty, conflict and adversity. May the added threat of the coronavirus call forth a new spirit of active solidarity.

- ◆ For communities and nations experiencing suffering due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ◆ For those who are suffering financial hardship because of the pandemic.
- ◆ For scientists, working to develop vaccines for Covid-19 and other diseases.

OUR FATHER.....

All: Holy Spirit, come! Dwell in my heart. Illuminate my mind. Direct my footsteps. Be my guide. Amen.
(www.lords-prayer-words.com)

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

by Saint Alphonsus Liguori

From the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office

Cyber Safety Survey

On behalf of the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office are requesting you to take an anonymous **5 minute Cyber Safety Survey**. Adults, young people and children can participate and you don't have to have children in order to take the survey. The results of the Survey will help the Safeguarding Office to develop resources that will provide adults, young people and children with the knowledge and skills to help keep them safe online. The link to the survey is at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TC7CYQ3>

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"The Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office has put some Fact Sheets on their website that provide children, young people, parents and guardians with information and skills on how to

safely engage in online communication. These can be downloaded at <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/safeguarding-resources/> .

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you—or anyone you know— have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on Safeguarding enquiries @ sydneycatholic.org OR 9390 5810. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Women's Spirituality Group

Join us for one hour of connection – with each other, our hearts and our God. ♥ Rescue-remedy for the COVID-weary spirit! All St Brigid's women most welcome. ♥ Just email paige.bullen@gmail.com and she'll happily send you the link.

Zoom
Thursday
June 4 2020
7:30PM AEST

URGENT APPEAL

From the seafarers chaplaincy

Donations of **personal hygiene products** are urgently sought for Care Packages for the thousands of seafarers currently stranded on ships on Sydney waterfront due to the Coronavirus.



Donations can be dropped-off at St. Brigid's Parish office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 am—4:30 pm. If there's any difficulty of dropping it off, please call Peter Jennings on 0409 047 353. Thank you

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Recently deceased

- ◆ George Rego
- ◆ Haitelenisia Kalolaine Tavaka
- ◆ Linda Nader
- ◆ Heneli Angianga
- ◆ Wadad Harb

For the Sick

- ◆ Netti Kerpan
- ◆ Wenifreda Jauco
- ◆ Peter Ling
- ◆ Geoffrey Leask
- ◆ Mary Harte
- ◆ Ken & Maureen Mc Rae
- ◆ And all those infected with Corona-Virus

Death Anniversaries

- ◆ Elizabeth Rose Matthew
- ◆ Rosa Batista
- ◆ Antonia Farrugia
- ◆ Vilma Vella
- ◆ Boulos Lakiss
- ◆ Angelo Di Tommaso
- ◆ Tannous Zeidan
- ◆ Harold Turner
- ◆ Peter Killalea
- ◆ Wadad Harb

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Notices and announcement

“For any donations please use the donation tab through our website

<https://stbrigid.org.au/>

The following options are available”

- ◆ General Donations
- ◆ 1st Collection
- ◆ 2nd Collection
- ◆ Events
- ◆ Baptisms
- ◆ Sacramental programs
- ◆ Weddings
- ◆ Other

FROM THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY...
THE DIGITAL EDITION OF THE
CATHOLIC WEEKLY
is available online
@ www.catholicweekly.com.au

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Dear all,

Happy Pentecost Sunday!

You might have heard of the good news that places of worship is now allowed to have up to 50 people. This means if we decide to open the Church, more people will have the chance to come in at a time.

The people that have been helping with the decision will be meeting this weekend to discuss what can be done in the light of any changes. No promises yet, we will let you all know the outcome of our meeting. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will fill our minds and hearts for us as we continue to make these difficult decisions for the benefit of the people of St Brigid's Family.

“Do not be afraid of holiness, do not be afraid to aim high, to be loved and purified by God, do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit” -

-Pope Francis

With Peace
Erick

Keep Safe