

The Outpouring of the Spirit

In the Old Testament, God promised that in the last days, in the days of the Messiah, he would pour out his spirit on all of his people. In Acts 2:14-18, the apostle Peter quotes this promise to explain what is happening when the apostles speak in tongues at Pentecost. This outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost marks the beginning of the period promised so long ago.

But why would God want to mark this great new beginning, the fulfillment of the Messianic promise, the start of the Church, by having the apostles speak in all the myriad languages of the polyglot world of their time? There are so many other things the Spirit might have done! Later, filled with the Spirit, the apostles heal the lame, cure the sick, cast out demons. Why didn't God mark the beginning of the outpouring of his Spirit by something more glorious than the ability to communicate with others without a translator?

Here we should remember the story of the Tower of Babel, told early in Genesis, not so long after the Fall. The people building the Tower of Babel all spoke one language; but they used this power that the commonality of language gave them, for evil, building a tower that reached to heaven. God defeated them by the simple expedient of multiplying their languages and leaving them unable to understand each other.

Now, in the new age, Christ offers all people salvation from their sin, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. In this age of the Spirit-filled church, all human beings are invited into communion with the Lord and with each other. Human beings can be trusted with unity when they are incorporated into the one body of the Lord.

And maybe that is why God marks the beginning of the reign of his Spirit in the Church by overturning the Babel of human language. Filled with the Holy Spirit, human beings can be given again what they lost at the Tower of Babel, not for storming heaven, but for proclaiming the kingdom of heaven on earth.

Eleonore Stump
Eleonore Stump is Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University

Don't call it a dream call it a plan.



Please note in your diaries that there will be **NO** 9.00am Rosary or 9.30am Mass on Saturday, 18th June due to the First Holy Communion Ceremony.

FIRST
Holy Communion

Holy Communion

The Holy Communion Sacrament requires the collaboration of several key people and that is mostly made up of parents, who are taking turns this year, to guide small groups of children via zoom. Thank you for guiding and preparing your children as they grow in their faith and love of Jesus Christ.

Please note the below dates in your diary:

- ≈ There will be a short practice on Thursday, 16th June at 3.30pm
- ≈ First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday, 18th June at 10.00am

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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Parish Facebook Page: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
Parish Priest: Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0418 461 316
Assistant Priest: Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0415 077 969
Parish Pastoral Council: email - springwoodppc@gmail.com
Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00 pm, Sunday 8.00 am and 9.30 am
Weekday Mass: Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am
Rosary & Devotions: Tuesday - Saturday 9.00 am
Adoration, Rosary & Chapelet: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month, 7.30 - 8.30 pm
Intercession & Adoration: None until further notice
Baptisms: 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 10.30am and by appointment
Reconciliation: By request
Weddings: By appointment - restricted numbers
Funerals: By appointment - restricted numbers



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!**
Acts 2.4

The First Reading

And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind.

*As fire surges in the wind,
you blow through
all creation.*

*Not just the upper room,
in one place and
time,*

*but
everywhere.*

*Come, O Spirit,
set our hearts on fire
every minute of every day.*

*Let us spread your
grace filled gifts
to the ends
of the
earth.*

Anne Osdieck

Today's Readings: **Vigil** - First Reading 1) Gen 11:1-6; 2) Exodus 19:3-8, 16-20; 3) Ezekiel 37:1-4;

Second Reading - Romans 8:22-27; Gospel John 7:37-39

Entrance Antiphon: The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God within us, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 103:1-2, 24, 27-30, 35. R. cf. v. 30

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: On the last day of the festival, Jesus stood and cried out: If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink, alleluia.

Sunday Mass - Acts 2:1-11; Romans 8:8-17; John 14:15-16, 23-26

Entrance Antiphon: The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 103:1-2, 24, 29-31, 34

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!



Sick: Baby Leonardo Diaz, Ross Baker, Roshan Rupesinghe, Susie Ziino, James Wallace, Mischa Damaguc and family, Margaret Day, Adam McCully, Christopher Coombs, Kate Moore, Luca Hurley and all Private Intentions.

Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.

Parish and Local Community News

CONGRATULATIONS: St Thomas Aquinas Church welcomes Mr Christopher Howard to the Blue Mountains Deanery Council. We wish Chris well on his appointment and look forward to collaborating and working alongside Chris and the BM Deanery Council.

PARISH CARPARK/DRIVEWAY: Over the coming weeks our parish carpark will undergo some maintenance. We will be removing trees, shrubs, clearing pathways and re-locating the Vinnies clothing bins so there will be better visibility for all vehicles and pedestrians. More work is planned for along the driveway, and we will keep you updated for when that work is set to begin.

2022 SAFEGUARDING CHAMPION: Each Parish Priest has been asked to nominate a Safeguarding Champion for the 2022-2023 year from their Parish. Each Parish Safeguarding Champion will be commissioned by Bishop Vincent during the Safe Parishes Week Luncheon on Wednesday 8th June at St Andrew's Hall, Breakfast Road, Marayong. It is for an initial 12-month appointment. Please go to www.stchurchspringwood.org.au for further information.

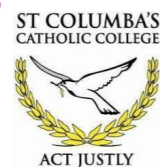
SESQUICENTENARY OF SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH OF THE SACRED HEART IN NSW : (1872-2022) The Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph was founded by Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods in 1866 in Penola, South Australia. Its first ministry was the opening of a school for all the children of that small distant town. The education being offered was an important step in breaking the cycle of poverty that had trapped so many of the children's parents, struggling to make a go of it in the pioneering times of colonial Australia. By the end of that first year there were 4 Sisters. By 1867 there were 10 Sisters and a school in Port Adelaide was opened. The following year, 1868, there were 50 Sisters ministering in 13 different towns in South Australia and responding as the various needs arose. In 1869 the rapid increase continued and the Sisters moved to Brisbane, Queensland.

By 1872 there were 127 Sisters and 3 of them arrived in Bathurst in response to Bishop Matthew Quinn's invitation to again open schools for poor children who were deprived of an education. Bishop Quinn decided that a small village was the place for them to begin. Sisters Teresa MacDonald, Joseph Dwyer and Hyacinth Quinlan, along with an enquirer, Ada Braham, arrived in Queen Charlotte Vale, now Perthville, on 16 July 1872.

The ministry of the Sisters grew and expanded into all 11 Dioceses in NSW. Throughout the journey of these past 150 years, with all its twists and turns, ups and downs, the grace of God has continued to meet the needs of the times through the ministry of the Sisters. **You are INVITED:** Sister Anne Porter, and the NSW Regional Leadership Team, extend a warm invitation to attend the Sesquicentenary Mass celebrating 150 years of the presence of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in NSW since their arrival in Perthville in 1872. The Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 16 July 2022 at 10.30 am in the Cathedral of St Michael and St John Bathurst. Celebrant: Bishop Michael McKenna Following the Mass there will be a light lunch in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone is very welcome - Parishioners, Friends, Companions and all those with a connection to the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The Perthville Heritage Centre will be open for visitors from 2 pm for the 2.30pm Launch of the audio app of the site. RSVP by 13 June 2022 - needed for catering purposes Please contact Sr Berenice Cornish rsj Email: Berenice.cornish@sosj.org.au Mobile: 0418 681 94

'To act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God'

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ST THOMAS AQUINAS

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Reading Roster

A reminder that we will be compiling a reading roster over the next few weeks and are requesting for volunteers to please give your name to the parish office if you would be interested in reading at any of the weekend parish Masses. *Thank you*

Dear Parishioners,

Rooted in the light of Christ's Paschal Mystery, our faith does not deny or ignore the sufferings of our times or our world.

It seeks to bring the service, the ministry of hope and love, especially to the most needy, lonely and abandoned.

"Faith is not a light which scatters all darkness, but a lamp which guides our steps in the night, and suffices for the journey" – paragraph #57. The quote is from Lumen Fidei "The Light of Faith", a wondrous encyclical from Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict.

It reminds us that ultimately the love of God, which comes to us by grace, enables us to believe for "one believes with the heart" (St. Paul, Rom. 10:10) so, believing, let us share that love with one another.

God Bless, Father Paul

Catechists (SRE's) are vital to parishes!

They reach out and share the love of God with children in our local public schools.

We would like to hear from anyone in our STA church community, who would enjoy being trained as a helper, or perhaps an SRE (Special Religious Educator) teacher. Our teacher manuals are easy to follow, as are the activity books.

If you have time on Wednesdays or Thursdays, and you would like to know more, please contact Wilhelmina on 4751 3319.

Upcoming Sacramental Dates:

Confirmation 2022

First Parent Meeting - Tuesday, 19th July, 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

Second Parent Meeting - Tuesday, 26th July, 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church

Commitment of Candidates - Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th July at any of the weekend Masses

Confirmation - Wednesday, 31st August, 7pm, St Thomas Aquinas Church



JUNE DATES:

Sunday, 12th June: The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Sunday, 12th June: The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, 13th June: Feast of St Anthony of Padua

Monday, 13th June: Queen's Birthday

Thursday, 16th June: First Holy Communion Practice 3.30pm

Saturday, 18th June: First Holy Communion 10:00am

Sunday, 19th June: The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Friday, 24th June: The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Tuesday, 29th June: Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

June