

# The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII

Perfection Ave cor Bentwood Tce, Stanhope Gardens [www.john23rd.com](http://www.john23rd.com)

## PENTECOST 14 - 15 May 2016

### Our Parish Mission

*The parish of St John XXIII is a faith community with the Eucharist as its heart. Inspired by John XXIII's prophetic opening of the windows of the Church, we welcome the fresh air of the Holy Spirit, inviting every person to share in the responsibility of enriching the life and faith of our community by sharing their gifts and talents."*



**Parish Priest:** Fr John McSweeney ✉ [FrJohn@john23rd.org.au](mailto:FrJohn@john23rd.org.au)  
**Asst Priest:** Fr Robert William ✉ [FrRobert@john23rd.org.au](mailto:FrRobert@john23rd.org.au)  
**Deacon:** Nicephorus Tan ✉ [DeaconTan@john23rd.org.au](mailto:DeaconTan@john23rd.org.au)

### Mass Times

*Monday to Friday* 9:00am

*Also Wednesday* 9:00am Holy Cross

*Primary during school term*

*Saturday* 9:00am, 6:00pm (Vigil)

*Sunday* 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am  
6:00pm (Youth)

**Baptism** 12:00pm *Sunday by appointment*

### Reconciliation (First Rite)

*Saturday* 5:00 - 5:45pm

*And after any weekday masses*

### Parish Office Hours

*Tuesday to Friday* 8.30 - 4.00pm

### Parish Office Contacts

☎ (02)9852 0580 📠 0403 766468 AH

Secretary: Tanya Gatt

✉ [secretary@john23rd.org.au](mailto:secretary@john23rd.org.au)

Finance: Mila Llamas (Fri)

✉ [accounts@john23rd.org.au](mailto:accounts@john23rd.org.au)

Admin Asst: Jill Franco (Tues/Thurs)

✉ [admin@john23rd.org.au](mailto:admin@john23rd.org.au)

Business Manager: John McCartney (*pro bono*)

✉ [businessmanager@john23rd.org.au](mailto:businessmanager@john23rd.org.au)

## Devotions & Prayers

### Novena Masses

*Tuesday* 7:30pm

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

*First Friday* 7:30pm

Sacred Heart of Jesus

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

*Tuesday* 6:30 - 7:30pm

*First Friday* 6:30pm followed by  
7:15pm Benediction

*Saturday* 8:00 - 9:00am (*Vocations*)

### Sacrament of the Sick

*First Saturday* 9:00am Mass or upon request

### Divine Office

*Friday* 12:00pm with Adoration

*Sunday* 8:15am

### Praise & Worship

*3rd Saturday* 7:30pm

led by SJ23rd Prayer Group

*2nd Saturday* 7:30pm

led by CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*)

**(Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group)**

*Friday evenings* 7:00pm held in church kitchen

## From the Pastor's Desk

As we celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost, we realise that the Gifts of the Paraclete sent this day help us to live the Christian Way of Life from the day of our Baptism onwards; and the Gifts of the Spirit given in Confirmation help us build up the Christian Community; and the Spirit of God continually aids us in fulfilling our Mission of evangelisation to the world, thereby imitating our Risen Lord.

As we celebrate the Birthday of our Church this Pentecost, let us pray for renewal of ourselves and of our Church; may the many gifts of the Spirit of God be poured out upon us during our Mass so that we can be true Heralds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all in our world.

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- # The Parish Finance Committee will meet this Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Parish Meeting Room.
  - # The executive of the Parish Pastoral Council will meet this Wednesday at 7:30pm in the Parish Meeting Room
  - # Thanks to the RCIA Team who have just finished their responsibilities of evangelisation for another year. These very generous people have given so much time and effort in representing our Parish and preparing the Adult Candidates for Baptism and Reception over the past 9 months!
  - # Thanks to the Sacramental Team headed by Jill Franco who have done an even more superb job than ever in preparing the children to receive the Lord in the Eucharist for the First Time!
  - # Please continue praying for those adults who were baptised and received into the Church at Easter, as well as those nearly 200 young people who made their First Communion over the previous two weekends - let us pray that the Faith and its practice will be an integral part of their lives for evermore; and may I invite you to begin to pray for those who will receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation next term.
  - # And I congratulate all those who are renewing their commitment to serve the parish or doing so for the first time this weekend: all liturgical ministers and our SRE teachers. May God continue to support them in their various roles and responsibilities!

As you can see, our Parish Community is alive and active, blessed by the Spirit with various gifts that go together to build up the Church! Alleluia!

God bless you all. Let us continue to pray for one another. *Fr. John*

## ECCLESIAL REFLECTIONS

*(continued from last week)*

This section digresses briefly from the more extensive, perceptive treatment of the day-to-day experience of married love which the Pope refuses to judge against ideal standards: “There is no need to lay upon two limited persons the tremendous burden of having to reproduce perfectly the union existing between Christ and his Church, for marriage as a sign entails ‘a dynamic process..., one which advances gradually with the progressive integration of the gifts of God’” (AL 122). On the other hand, the Pope forcefully stresses the fact that conjugal love by its very nature defines the partners in a richly encompassing and lasting union (AL 123), precisely within that “mixture of enjoyment and struggles, tensions and repose, pain and relief, satisfactions and longings, annoyances and pleasures” (AL 126) which indeed make up a marriage.

The chapter concludes with a very important reflection on the “transformation of love” because “Longer life spans now mean that close and exclusive relationships must last for four, five or even six decades; consequently, the initial decision has to be frequently renewed” (AL 163). As physical appearance alters, the loving attraction does not lessen but changes as sexual desire can be transformed over time into the desire for togetherness and mutuality: “There is no guarantee that we will feel the same way all through life. Yet if a couple can come up with a shared and lasting life project, they can love one another and live as one until death do them part, enjoying an enriching intimacy” (AL 163).

### ***Chapter five: “Love made fruitful” (165-198)***

The fifth chapter is entirely focused on love’s fruitfulness and procreation. It speaks in a profoundly spiritual and psychological manner about welcoming new life, about the waiting period of pregnancy, about the love of a mother and a father. It also speaks of the expanded fruitfulness of adoption, of welcoming the contribution of families to promote a “culture of encounter”, and of family life in a broad sense which includes aunts and uncles, cousins, relatives of relatives, friends. *Amoris laetitia* does not focus on the so-called “nuclear” family” because it is very aware of the family as a wider network of many relationships. The spirituality of the sacrament of marriage has a deeply social character (cf. AL 187). And within this social dimension the Pope particularly emphasizes the specific role of the relationship between youth and the elderly, as well as the relationship between brothers and sisters as a training ground for relating with others.

### ***Chapter six: “Some pastoral perspectives” (199-258)***

In the sixth chapter the Pope treats various pastoral perspectives that are aimed at forming solid and fruitful families according to God’s plan. The chapter uses the Final Reports of the two Synods and the catecheses of Pope Francis and Pope John Paul II extensively. It reiterates that families should not only be

**Entrance Antiphon**

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

**Communion Antiphon**

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

**First Reading**

*Acts 2:1-11*

*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.*

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 103:1-2, 24, 29-31, 34*

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

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are, How many are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your riches. **R.**

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. **R.**

May the glory of the Lord last for ever! May the Lord rejoice in his works! May my thoughts be pleasing to him. I find my joy in the Lord. **R.**

## Second Reading

*Romans 8 8-17*

*Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live. Everyone moved by the Spirit is a child of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of children, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

*John 14:15-16, 23-26*

*The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.*

Jesus said to his disciples

'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever.

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Gospel Reflection

Our Opening Prayer for the great Feast of Pentecost asks the Father to pour out the Gifts of the Holy Spirit upon us all. Indeed, the Spirit is the source of all spiritual gifts, graces that build up the Church and encourage us Christians to proclaim the Easter Message at all times and in all circumstances!

The First Readings from the Acts of the Apostles tells of the first Pentecost Day, when people from all languages and cultures heard the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ proclaimed in their own language. The fire of the Spirit reinvigorated the despondent and sad Disciples, enabling them to proclaim the Truths of the Faith to all.

And St. Paul - in our Second Reading from Romans for today - reminds his community in Rome that, through the Spirit's grace, we are all now the children of God, no longer slaves to rules and regulations but free children of the Father. Ours is a vocation of freedom, following the 'breath' of God - the Spirit - as He leads us to the complete Truth.

And in the Gospel from John for this weekend Jesus reminds His Disciples that the Cross and the Resurrection/Ascension will enable the Sending of the Advocate (the Spirit of God), who will plead our cause in the Divine Assembly; this Advocate will enable us to come to new knowledge of God and remind us of all Jesus came to reveal to His Faithful.

As we reflect on these texts from Scripture, we are reminded of all the Gifts of the Spirit that have been poured out upon each and every one of us: prophecy, evangelism, teaching, hospitality, praise, love, peace, patience, joy, self-control and so on...

These Gifts and more help us to live the Christian Way of Life from the day of our Baptism; and the Gifts of the Spirit given in Confirmation help us build up the Christian Community; and the Spirit aids us in fulfilling our Mission of evangelisation to the world, imitating our Risen Lord.

As we celebrate the Birthday of our Church this Pentecost, let us pray for renewal of ourselves and of our Church; may the many gifts of the Spirit of God be poured out upon us during our Mass so that we can be true Heralds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all in our world.

## Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth, and in  
Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
'the Virgin Mary', all bow.*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered  
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,  
died and was buried; he descended  
into hell; on the third day he rose again  
from the dead; he ascended into  
heaven, and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty; from  
there he will come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy  
catholic Church, the communion of  
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body, and life  
everlasting. Amen.

THE WORD  
OF GOD

**“The Word of  
God is not  
divine, it is an  
attribute of  
The Divine.”**

— Ibrahim Ibrahim

## Readings for Next Week

### 16 Mon 7th week of Ordinary Time

1st Reading James 3:13-18

Psalm Ps 18:8-10. 15

Gospel Mark 9:14-29

### 17 Tues 7th week of Ordinary Time

1st Reading James 4:1-10

Psalm Ps 54:7-11. 23

Gospel Mark 9:30-37

### 18 Wed 7th week of Ordinary Time

1st Reading James 4:13-17

Psalm Ps 48:2-3. 6-11

Gospel Mark 9:38-40

### 19 Thurs 7th week of Ordinary Time

1st Reading James 5:1-6

Psalm Ps 48: 14-20

Gospel Mark 9:41-50

### 20 Fri 7th week of Ordinary Time

1st Reading James 5:9-12

Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 8-9. 11-12

Gospel Mark 10:1-12

### 21 Sat 7th week of Ordinary Time

1st Reading James 5:13-20

Psalm Ps 140:1-3. 8

Gospel Mark 10:13-16

## Our School Communities

### Holy Cross Primary

49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood

Principal: Marina Hardy

☎ (02) 9629 8742

✉ [holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au)

### John XXIII and St Mark's College

160 Perfection Ave,

Stanhope Gardens

Principal: Dr Peter Webster

☎ (02) 9852 0500

✉ [stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au)

### Catholic Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave,

Stanhope Gardens

☎ (02) 9852 0585

✉ [lcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lcstanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au)

[www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au](http://www.celcstanhope.catholic.edu.au)

## Special intentions

### Recently Deceased:

Zaida R Kawarai, Jesus Urbina,  
Faustino Zaragoza, Sam Vella,  
Mrs Kochu Tressia

### Deceased:

Jeffrey Turner, Maria Caabetta,  
Riolene & Aeldred Weber,  
William Emilia, Debbie Mifsid,  
Helen Hill

### Anniversary:

Anna Perrone, Raymond Bayfield,  
Pacita Delgado Jones,  
Sofija Janezic, Feliciano Suarez Jr,  
Joseph Vella, Katrine Vella,  
Frank Barbara, Francesco & Maria  
Barbara, Rosemary Barbara,  
Anna & Vince Barbara

### Sick:

Noah Kenneth Dogao, Briyen Fuller,  
Caroline G Vazquez, Edwin Rizon,  
Nigel Reynolds, Guy Austria,  
Mariano Antonio Jon Villaraza,  
Zaida R Kawari, Zaida R Kawarai,  
Maria Bellia

### Thanksgiving:

Ana Torroba



## Paying our debt together

### Weekly collections

**2nd Collection:** \$ 5,702.90

*Loose* \$ 2369.90

*PG Envelopes* \$ 1773.00

*PG by EFT* \$ 1560.00

*Pays parish debt and on going running costs,  
including wages of staff.*

***Please contribute more on the  
Second Collection as this helps the  
parish community***

If you would like to be a part of the church's plan giving program, an **SJ23rd form** (white) is available at the church foyer or contact the parish office.



**If you or a family member is  
homebound and would want to  
receive communion in your home  
please contact the parish office.**



## Parish News

### MEMORIAL TREES

We are looking for parishioners to donate the funds for four landmark trees. The cost of each mature 2m tree is \$400. You may wish to donate the cost of a tree in memory of the deceased members of your family and a plaque will be erected in their memory. Please contact the parish office to discuss this opportunity.

### IGNITE - ARE WE DATING?

If you are 18-35 come along, enjoy some food, have some fun, meet new people and develop your relationship with God and those around us.

In this presentation, Simon addresses the dating scene in a way that will eliminate drama and free couples to date purely, honourably and with sincerity. The dating scene should not be one of confusion or pain but rather one of excitement and joy! Simon will discuss how chastity will bring about true romance in your relationship, from "hi, how are you?" to "I do!"

Looking forward to see you all this **Sunday 15th May** ! God Bless.

Time: **7:15—9pm**

Where: **St Mark's Staff Room**

Speaker: **Simon Carrington**  
**Parousia Media**

### HELP NEEDED!!!

We are in need of a teacher for a year 5 and/or 6 class at Kellyville Ridge public school to teach SRE. Training and material are provided.

Contact: Helen on 0401 183268 or  
[helen@zammitt.net](mailto:helen@zammitt.net)

## Diocesan News

### Vocation Evening hosted by the Capuchin Franciscan Friars

Come for a chance to learn more about the inspiring and uplifting vocations to the priesthood and to consecrated religious life. The evening is for young men (18-35) and will be an informal opportunity to have a meal, some time for prayer, hear a talk and ask questions.

It will begin at **7pm on Friday, 20th May 2016 at Good Shepherd Parish**, 136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton. Please let Fr Thomas know that you would like to come (for catering): 0432 362052 or [vocations@capuchinfriars.org.au](mailto:vocations@capuchinfriars.org.au)

Cost is free. And please invite anyone you know who you think may be interested. Web: [capuchinfriars.org.au](http://capuchinfriars.org.au)

### Employment Opportunity - Presiding Officer HSC

We are seeking a Presiding Officer for our 2016 Higher School Certificate examinations.

Applicants must be available from 13th October 2016 to 4th November 2016 inclusive.

Applicants are to submit a letter of interest to the College Executive via email [stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au) no later than 20th May 2016.

To receive further information on the role and employment conditions, please contact our Community Relations Officer on 9852 0508.

## Parish Pastoral Council Corner

*Let us stand firm in the Lord that we might know him, love him and serve him; we are nourished through grace with his own life; and we are fed on his precious Body, a pledge of eternal life and of future glory. – 24 July 1960*

### COUNCIL MATTERS

- † **18 May, Wednesday 7:30pm** - Next PPC Executive Team meeting tentatively scheduled from 7:30 pm at the Parish Office Conference Room.

### COMMUNITY BUILDING

#### LITURGY TEAM

- † Application forms for the Junior Altar Servers Training Program in May are now available at the Parish Office, Church Foyer and the SJ23 Parish website.
- † Congratulations and thanks to all SJ23 Liturgical Ministers who have renewed their commitment to serve the parish during the commissioning ceremonies held during this Pentecost weekend.
- † Likewise, thanks to all liturgical ministers who have submitted the Annual Renewal Form for church volunteers, most especially to Bob and Grace Agbulos who have generously given their time to contact people and collate the forms.

### FAITH FORMATION TEAM

- † We continue to ask for host families from May 31st onwards to pray the Rosary at home and request for our Blessed Mother's intercessions.

### PASTORAL & SACRAMENTAL TEAM

#### Sacrament of Confirmation:

- † **1 June 2016** - Registration for enrolment commences
- † **11th and 12th of June** - Formal enrolment will be held during this weekend Masses
- † **22nd June 2016, Wednesday, from 7:30 pm** - Parents' Meeting will be held at the Church

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### Novena Mass to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Tuesday nights beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6.30pm, Evening Prayer of the Church at 7.00pm, Rosary at 7.15pm, sung Benediction Mass 7.30pm and Novena prayers t 7:40pm.

If you want the opportunity of having the statue visit to your home contact Bart Sarlabus - [bart.sarlabus@gmail.com](mailto:bart.sarlabus@gmail.com). Pick up the statue during the novena and return before the novena.

### Rosary Statue Family Roster

|                                |                             |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>May 17</b> Sebastian Family | <b>May 24</b> Ferino Family | <b>May 31</b> Lozada Family |
| <b>June 7</b> Olan Family      | <b>June 14</b> Musca Family | <b>June 24</b> available    |

## Council Corner

### - FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS -

- † Please continue to support this year's Parish Fundraising Grand Raffle Draw by buying more tickets! The first prize will be a brand new Mitsubishi Mirage ES to be drawn on Sunday, 5 June 2016 coinciding with our Church Dedication 9th Anniversary.
- † To-date, we have sold approximately \$13k of tickets and allocated another \$7k for on-selling. We have quite a bit to go to reach our go or no-go target of \$40k by early May, so we ask for your continued support in this parish endeavour!

### 2016 Parish Council Meeting Schedule

**Executive** (*Council leaders*)  
18 May, Wednesday

## Parish News

*Matthew 25:40 - "Truly I tell you that whenever you do this for the least of my brothers and sister, you do it for me"*

Our **St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal** is now underway.

As Winter approaches, we are asking for donations of clean blankets to be distributed to those in need. All donations may be placed in the Church foyer. We thank you for your past generosity and with your help we hope to make this year the most successful ever.



**President** Bart Sarlabus

✉ bart.sarlabus@gmail.com

### Council Team Leaders

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Community Bldg</i>    | Techie Sarlabus |
| <i>Comms &amp; Media</i> | John McCartney  |
| <i>Evangelisation</i>    | Helen Zammit    |
| <i>Faith Formation</i>   | Rose Franco     |
| <i>Fundraising</i>       | Rodi Orantia    |
| <i>Liturgy</i>           | Bob Agbulos     |
| <i>Music</i>             | Ray Samonte     |
| <i>Pastoral Care</i>     | Jill Franco     |
| <i>Social Outreach</i>   | Qwayne Guevarra |

## Why we do what we do.....

**Pentecost** is one of the Christian church's more exuberant and joyful celebrations. Considered to be the Church's birthday, Pentecost takes place fifty days after Easter Sunday.

**Story of Pentecost** - Believed to be the oldest feast in the Church, the story of Pentecost dates back to the first century. The feast originated from the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which occurs fifty days after the Passover (Deuteronomy 16:10). According to Jewish tradition, the Ten Commandments were given to Moses fifty days after the first Passover, which freed the Hebrews from their bondage in Egypt. As the Hebrews settled into Canaan, the feast became a time to honor the Lord for blessing the fruits of their labors. At the time of Jesus, the festival focused on rabbinical law and traditions.

**Meaning of Pentecost** - According to the scriptures in the Book of Acts, the Church came into being on the day of Pentecost. As one hundred twenty worshippers, including the Disciples, were fasting and praying in an upper room in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in a violent rushing wind that was heard throughout the city. Small flames of fire rested upon their heads, and they began to speak in other languages. As crowds came to investigate the commotion, the Apostle Peter spoke to them about Jesus and exhorted them to repent. From the crowd of Jews and converts, three thousand realized the truth of his words and

became followers of Jesus.

**Pentecost Traditions** - Generally observed by Catholics, Anglicans, and Traditional Protestants, Pentecost is a celebration that evokes great joy and blessing within the Church. Most evangelical churches provide only marginal reference to Pentecost, due in part to an assumption that it is associated with "Pentecostalism," a characteristic of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements of the middle decades of the 20th Century.

There are many Pentecost traditions. In some churches, baptisms are performed throughout the day. Pentecost is also known as Whitsunday, because of the white garments worn by those who are baptized. In most Pentecost services, priests or church officials wear red vestments. Sanctuaries are decorated with banners depicting flames, wind, and doves. Churches in Italy disperse rose petals from the ceiling to symbolize the tongues of fire described in the book of Acts. French churches blow trumpets throughout the service to suggest the Holy Spirit coming with a violent rushing wind. Both Catholic and Protestant services have scripture readings from the books of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel, or Acts.

The purest meaning of Pentecost is that of a time of renewal for Christian believers. Through studying the story of Pentecost, many seek and pray for spiritual gifts for the church during this time of holy celebration. There is a renewed focus on evangelism,

## ECCLESIAL REFLECTIONS (cont)

evangelized, they should also evangelize. The Pope regrets “that ordained ministers often lack the training needed to deal with the complex problems currently facing families” (AL 202). On the one hand, the psycho-affective formation of seminarians needs to be improved, and families need to be more involved in formation for ministry (cf. AL 203); and on the other hand, “the experience of the broad oriental tradition of a married clergy could also be drawn upon” (AL 202).

The Pope then deals with the preparation of the engaged for marriage; with the accompaniment of couples in the first years of married life, including the issue of responsible parenthood; and also with certain complex situations and crises, knowing that “each crisis has a lesson to teach us; we need to learn how to listen for it with the ear of the heart” (AL 232). Some causes of crisis are analysed, among them a delay in maturing affectively (cf. AL 239).

Mention is furthermore made of accompanying abandoned, separated or divorced persons. The Exhortation stresses the importance of the recent reform of the procedures for marriage annulment. It highlights the suffering of children in situations of conflict and concludes: “Divorce is an evil and the increasing number of divorces is very troubling. Hence, our most important pastoral task with regard to families is to strengthen their love, helping to heal wounds and working to prevent the spread of this drama of our times” (AL 246). It then touches on the situations of a marriage between a Catholic and a Christian of another denomination (mixed marriages), and between a Catholic and someone of another religion (disparity of cult). Regarding families with members with homosexual tendencies, it reaffirms the necessity to respect them and to refrain from any unjust discrimination and every form of aggression or violence. The last, pastorally poignant part of the chapter, “When death makes us feel its sting”, is on the theme of the loss of dear ones and of widowhood.

*(To be continued)*

### Why we do (cont'd)...

empowerment from the Holy Spirit, deeper intimacy with God, and fellowship. For Christians, the celebration of Pentecost imparts faith, hope, a sharing of community, and an awareness of a purpose much greater than themselves.

*Written by: David Katski © 2006 Letters and Arts, Inc. <http://www.sharefaith.com/guide/Christian-Holidays/meaning-of-pentecost.html>*

## Youth Corner

### GTK Youth Group

*(Getting to Know)*

St John XXIII Parish youth group where our young people get to know God, the Catholic faith and each other through Gospel reflection, music, active participation at mass, games and food!

So, if you are in years 4 - 9, come along to one of our sessions and let us grow together in our faith.

**When:** 2nd (choir) and 4th Sunday

**Where:** St Mark's Staff Room

**Time:** 4:30 - 7:30 pm

**Contact:** [gtk youth@gmail.com](mailto:gtk youth@gmail.com)

**Info:** <http://www.gtkyouth.com/>

### IGNITE

*Enkindling the fire of faith*

Young adults from 18 - 35 years of age meets every 3rd Sunday of the month after the 6:00pm mass. Monthly guest speaker, discussions & shared supper

### CRL

*(Community of the Risen Lord)*

Praise & worship

**When:** 2nd & 4th Saturdays

**Where:** Church

**Time:** after 6:00pm vigil mass

### YFC

*(Youth for Christ)*

**When:** Meets every 3rd Sunday

**Where:** St Mark's Staff Room

**Time:** 1:00pm for Break open the word

6.00pm Youth Mass

## Form the Words

Use the code  
to work out what  
Jesus said to  
his disciples.



Word Find

The disciples received the Holy Spirit

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | E | I | G | S | G | D | D | J | U | C | Z | R | C | I | X |
| T | V | V | G | S | A | I | M | S | V | Y | V | E | Z | P | L |
| U | E | C | A | I | A | N | W | O | J | X | Q | V | U | S | E |
| O | N | Q | I | R | Y | S | N | R | I | S | N | I | S | O | A |
| S | I | Z | F | U | Y | P | L | M | C | J | K | E | P | Q | D |
| C | N | A | B | T | X | K | P | D | N | P | C | C | S | V | E |
| F | G | L | X | Q | F | V | N | A | L | C | G | E | U | O | R |
| K | T | W | J | H | C | V | M | Z | H | O | D | R | N | C | K |
| V | T | I | R | I | P | S | Y | L | O | H | E | R | D | L | C |
| L | B | X | S | J | Q | L | Z | A | H | A | R | M | A | E | V |
| G | G | R | A | E | V | I | G | R | O | F | A | D | Y | H | P |
| R | P | H | W | T | Z | G | E | N | K | I | E | Y | Z | S | R |
| G | E | V | A | T | P | R | Y | L | E | Q | P | A | C | R | J |
| X | R | Q | B | N | Y | Q | E | T | D | W | P | S | Q | D | U |
| T | G | T | S | P | D | I | H | J | U | D | A | F | F | K | R |
| N | Q | V | G | O | S | A | Z | H | V | G | I | T | H | B | K |
| R | R | C | U | J | H | F | Z | D | C | I | Y | M | Z | F | C |

*Find these words*

|        |          |         |         |      |        |             |
|--------|----------|---------|---------|------|--------|-------------|
| Afraid | appeared | evening | forgive | hand | happy  | Holy Spirit |
|        | Leader   | middle  | receive | sins | Sunday |             |



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