

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday Patchwork Group meet @ 12.30pm
Tuesday Friendship Group meet @ 10am
COGs Group meet @ 1.30pm
Parish Council meeting @ 7pm
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 6.30am
Thursday Rev Josie @ church @ 10am
Wedding prep with Luke and Alex @ 4pm
Sunday 16/6 Annual meeting @ 8.15am

THANK YOU – Carol McLaughlin would like to thank everyone who has sent condolence cards, or phoned to offer comfort, or attended John's funeral. Carol feels very loved and cared for by her church family.

QUIZ NIGHT – is on Friday **21st June**. Please would you start putting together your table of 8 people @ \$10 per head. It will be a BYO drinks and nibbles. Tea and coffee will be provided. Thank you to those who have started to bring in items for the raffle.

ANNUAL MEETING – is on Sunday 16th June at 8.15am. Please send reports to josie.steytler@gmail.com

Please pray for: Paul; Monica; Isla; Keena; Charlotte; Maggie; Cheryl; Debbie; Dot; Cameron; Deidre; Andrew; Dave; Janet; Gazza; Budi; Stacy; Kieth; Bhav; Karen; Joyce; Lynn & Meredith; Hazel



This week Johnny is with Carol McLaughlin



*Happy birthday to Fran Johnson on
20th; Paul Louth on 23rd*

Wardens - Phil Goulding Phone: 9247 4978

Judith Smith Phone: 9246 3745

Parish Priest – the Reverend Josie Steytler Phone: 0421 115 438

Electronic giving: Account Name - Anglican Parish Greenwood

BSB - 706 001 **Account Number** - 3000 3969

Website: <https://greenwoodanglican.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/greenwoodanglican>

Email address: greenwoodanglican@gmail.com

Phone Number: 9447 9243

Welcome to Worship

Day of Pentecost

19th May 2024



We are a warm-hearted community who are delighted to have you worshipping with us today ...

Our Mission is to

- **Know God personally**
- **Love and respect one another deeply**
- **Disciple and serve those around us**

Sentence: 'A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you,' says the Lord God; 'I will put my spirit within you and you shall live.'

Ezekiel 36:26; 37:14

Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
you sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love, joy, and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Today's readings:

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:26-36
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27;
16:4b-15

Next Week:

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17



Day of Pentecost – John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2: 1-11

Jesus breathed on them and said: “Receive the Holy Spirit ...” John 20:19-23

Pentecost was the Jewish festival of the harvest (also called the Feast of Weeks), celebrated 50 days after Passover, when the first fruits of the corn harvest were offered to the Lord. A feast of pilgrimage (hence the presence in Jerusalem of so many “devout Jews of every nation”), Pentecost also commemorated Moses’ receiving the Law on Mount Sinai. For the new Israel, Pentecost becomes the celebration of the Spirit of God’s compassion, peace and forgiveness – the Spirit that transcends the Law and becomes the point of departure for the young Church’s universal mission (the planting of a new harvest?).

In his Acts of the Apostles (Reading 1), Luke invokes the First Testament images of wind and fire in his account of the new Church’s Pentecost: God frequently revealed his presence in fire (the pillar of fire in the Sinai) and in wind (the wind that sweeps over the earth to make the waters of the Great

Flood subside). The Hebrew word for spirit, **ruah**, and the Greek word **pneuma** also refer to the movement of air, not only as wind, but also of life-giving breath (as in God’s creation of man in Genesis 2 and the revivification of the dry bones in Ezekiel 37). Through his life-giving “breath,” the Lord begins the era of the new Israel on Pentecost.

Today’s Gospel of the first appearance of the Risen Jesus before his ten disciples (remember Thomas is not present) on Easter night is John’s version of the Pentecost event. In “breathing” the Holy Spirit upon them, Jesus imitates God’s act of creation in Genesis. Just as Adam’s life came from God, so the disciples’ new life of the Spirit comes from Jesus. In the Resurrection, the Spirit replaces their sense of self-centred fear and confusion with the “peace” of understanding, enthusiasm and joy and shatters all barriers among them to make of them a community of hope and forgiveness. By Christ’s sending them forth, the disciples become *apostles* – “those sent.”

The feast of Pentecost celebrates the unseen, immeasurable presence of God in our lives and in our Church – the **ruah** that animates us to do the work of the Gospel of the Risen One, the **ruah** that makes God’s will our will, the **ruah** of God living in us and transforming us so that we might bring his life and love to our broken world. God “breathes” his Spirit into our souls that we may live in his life and love; God ignites the “fire” of his Spirit within our hearts and minds that we may seek God in all things in order to realise the coming of his reign.

In Jesus’ “breathing” upon them the new life of the Spirit, the community of the Resurrection – the Church – takes flight. That same Spirit continues to “blow” through today’s Church to give life and direction to our mission and ministry to preach the Gospel to every nation, to proclaim the forgiveness and reconciliation in God’s name, to baptise all humanity into the life of Jesus’ Resurrection.

The Spirit of God enables the Eleven – and us – to do things they could not do on their own: to understand the “truth” of God’s great love for his people that is embodied in the Risen Christ, and then to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Christ. The Spirit empowers us with the grace to do the difficult work of Gospel justice, forgiveness, and compassion.

The miracle of Pentecost (Acts 2) is the Spirit’s overcoming the barriers of language and perception to open not only the minds of the Apostles’ hearers but their hearts as well to understanding and embracing the Word of God.

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