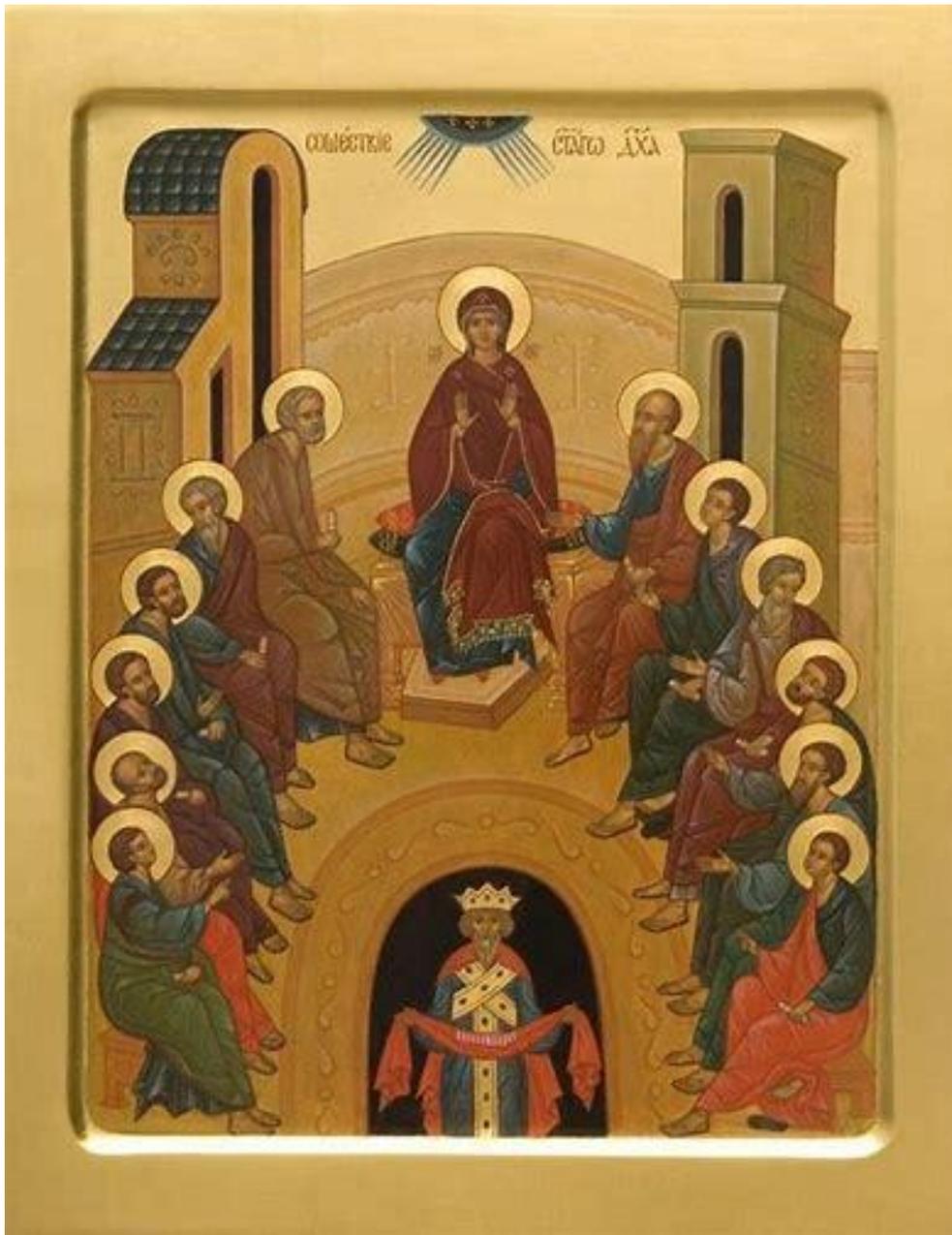




**ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH,
MALVERN**

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST (ALSO KNOWN AS WHITSUNDAY)



June 8, 2025

5:00 p.m.

The Feast of Pentecost is often taken as the day on which the church began, and so today is frequently called 'the birthday of the Church'. This, of course, depends on one's understanding of what constitutes the Church: is it the calling of the disciples by Jesus? Is it that moment on the Cross when Jesus commits his mother into the care of his beloved disciple? Is it the conception of Jesus, when Mary becomes the first to 'bear God' in and to the world? Perhaps the fact that there are so many possible 'birthdays' for the Church, so many times when the Spirit can be seen to be poured out on the Church, shows us that what we are dealing with here is not any 'fixed day' (or date – a fact that the date of Pentecost always depends on Easter underlines), but a constant outpouring of God's gracious goodness.

Certainly, the Feast we celebrate today gives us a chance to recall and celebrate that what continues to sustain the Church is the gracious gift by God of God's creating, empowering, loving, and warming Holy Spirit. As Luke tells it, the rag tag bunch of disciples, following Jesus' command as he departed from them to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, become empowered to confess all that they saw God had done in and through Jesus to a large crowd gathered in Jerusalem. The crowd was gathered for the holy feast of Pentecost, that day which, in Jewish faith, marks the 'Feast of Weeks' – or a form of Harvest Festival. But it also came to signify, by the time Acts was written, a reminder of the covenant God established with all creation when God spoke to Noah. It became, therefore, a time to remember when God renewed the whole creation after the flood.

There is, therefore, a lovely 'symmetry' that in this Christian festival we recall the gift of the Spirit and think about the power and work of the Spirit in renewing the whole creation. And, given the renewal of the earth following the flood, it is a reminder to us that this renewing of the Spirit comes after Jesus has overcome the flood of death. We have been reflecting on this since Easter. Hence, Pentecost also marks the end of the liturgical Easter season (though every Sunday is a remembrance of Easter and the Resurrection.).

Furthermore, the gift of the Spirit to the apostles and other disciples described in Acts – that they could speak so that each member of the large crowd in Jerusalem could 'hear, each of us, in our own native language' (Acts 2:8) – shows a reversal of the Tower of Babel. Now, rather than different languages being a sign and cause of confusion and disunity between peoples, the Spirit transforms those 'differences', enabling the differences to be a sign of God's embrace of all creation, not a single group or tribe.

This gives us quite a bit to ponder as we gather as the Church in this place today and each Sunday. Are we allowing the Spirit to empower us; so that, rather than a 'rag tag' collection of people who may feel rather tired and worn out by the stresses and tensions in the modern world, we are empowered to share the transforming love of God? Are we listening to the promptings of the Spirit, so that we, too, find ways of sharing the good news to those around us in ways they can understand? Are we as a community and a nation allowing the Spirit to transform our differences and our view of difference, so that, rather than causing hostility and confusion, we see them as signs of God's abundance? Above all, are we able to hear, see and feel the Spirit leading us into all truth: the truth of God's reconciling love for all people and the continual renewing of God's creation, in which God invites us to discern and then play our part?

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The people stand as a bell is rung.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Christ is risen. Alleluia!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Celebrant welcomes the congregation in suitable words, followed by:

God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We say together

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

The Spirit of truth comes to convict of sin, of righteousness,
and of judgement.

Silence is kept.

Let us then open our hearts and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces absolution, to which all respond:

Amen.

We then say together:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Let us pray.

The people pray silently, and then the Celebrant 'collects' the silent prayer:

O God, who in smoke and fire upon Mount Sinai
gave the law to Moses,
and who revealed the new covenant in the fire of the Spirit:
grant, we pray, that, kindled by that same Spirit
which you poured forth upon you apostles,
we may fulfil with joy your commandment of love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

GOSPEL

John 14: 8–17, 25–27

Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Philip said to Jesus,

‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’

Jesus said to him,

‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say, “Show us the Father”?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own;

but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

For the gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

After the reflection, silence is kept as we meditate.

All stand.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

United by the Spirit, we are the Body of Christ.
His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Risen Lord be always with you. Alleluia! Alleluia!
And also with you. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Members of the congregation greet one another in an appropriate way.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Celebrant offers prayers over the gifts, to which the people respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues with the prayer, concluding with:

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues the prayer until:

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died,
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The President continues the prayer, which concludes:

...we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
as our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As the Celebrant breaks the bread, the following is said:

As this broken bread was once many grains
which have been gathered together and made one bread.
**So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth
into your kingdom.**

We say together:

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world:
grant us your peace.**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Communion is distributed.

After Communion, silence is kept.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand. The Celebrant offers a prayer, concluding with:

Father,
**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

The clergy move to the Paschal Candle and the Celebrant says:

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.
Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word;
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.
With the new wine of the Spirit
they proclaim your reign of love.
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation
the way of light is made known.
Source of freedom, giver of life,
blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

For fifty days we have celebrated the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ
over the powers of sin and death.
We have proclaimed God's mighty acts
and we have prayed that the power that was at work when God raised
Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

As part of God's Church here in *Malvern*, I call upon you to live out what
you proclaim.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, will you dare to walk into God's future,
trusting him to be your guide?

All By the Spirit's power, we will.

Will you dare to embrace each other and grow together in love?

All We will.

Will you dare to share your riches in common and minister to each other
in need?

All We will.

Will you dare to pray for each other until your hearts beat with the
longings of God?

All We will.

Will you dare to carry the light of Christ into the world's dark places?

All We will.

The Paschal Candle is then extinguished in silence, before the Celebrant pronounces the blessing:

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into you the life he gives.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us,
make you joyful in the service of the Lord.

Amen.

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire on the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty...

Amen.

Filled with the Spirit's power, go in the light and peace of Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Celebrant pronounces a blessing to which all respond:

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Scripture Readings next week:

Proverbs 8:1–4; 22–31

Romans 5:1–5

Feast of The Most Holy Trinity

Psalm 8

John 16:21–15

The Week Ahead

	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (until the Eve of Pentecost)
Monday	Columba of Iona, abbot and missionary (d. 597)
Wednesday	Barnabas, Apostle & Martyr 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Friday	Antony of Padua, missionary and preacher (d. 1231)

Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRI dm l XWDQ4Zz09>

Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m., Monday – Saturday

Meeting ID: 709 867 2691; Passcode: 630283

<https://zoom.us/j/7098672691?pwd=TFBBSGYxb2lhcUI3RWRI dm l XWDQ4Zz09>

Reflections on the Lections

7:30 p.m., Wednesday

Meeting ID: 868 9252 3142; Passcode: 744866

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86892523142?pwd=MlczZlJRempKL0hrQThORXBFeFFBdz09>

NOTICES

Next Sunday we celebrate **The Feast of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity: Trinity Sunday**. This is one of the great feasts of the Church's year, especially *this* year as we celebrate 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea, in which the mystery of God as Trinity of Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – began to be clearly articulated by the Undivided Church.

Spiritual Cafe is on this Tuesday 10 June. Our guest speaker is Yvonne Panagacos OAM. Yvonne is a talented iconographer following the traditional Byzantine style. Examples of her work can be found in Anglican churches and private collections both here and abroad. Yvonne held senior positions in secondary education, significant roles in the Greek community in Melbourne and Australia and is a past President of the Lyceum Club. Her topic is "*Icons - a window to the spiritual world*". We will also be joined by Sally Ann Fraser, another icon writer. They are bringing a display of their icons for us to enjoy.

Join us for dinner at Giorgio's, 1235 High St Armadale (enter Glenferrie Rd) at 6.30 p.m. For bookings, please email: office@stgeorgesmalvern.org or call 9822 3030.

Book club will meet on 16 June in the North room at 2.00 p.m. We will discuss the book *Talking to my Country* by Stan Grant. All welcome. Contact Sandra Morgan 0448 884 306.

As there are 5 Sundays in June, there will be a collection for the **Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project** on the **Sunday June 29**.

As well as the usual goods brought, (and flyers for what to bring can be found on the entrance bench), BASP now accepts direct debit donations (those over \$2 are tax deductible):

Account name: BASP Trust, BSB: 083 004, Account Number: 56 924 6603. This is the last tax deductible donation for this financial year.

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*We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples
of the East Kulin nations
as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we meet:
land which was taken, not ceded.*

*We pay our respects to their Elders past and present,
acknowledge their continuing spiritual and living connection to Country,
and affirm our commitment to walk together the path of reconciliation.*