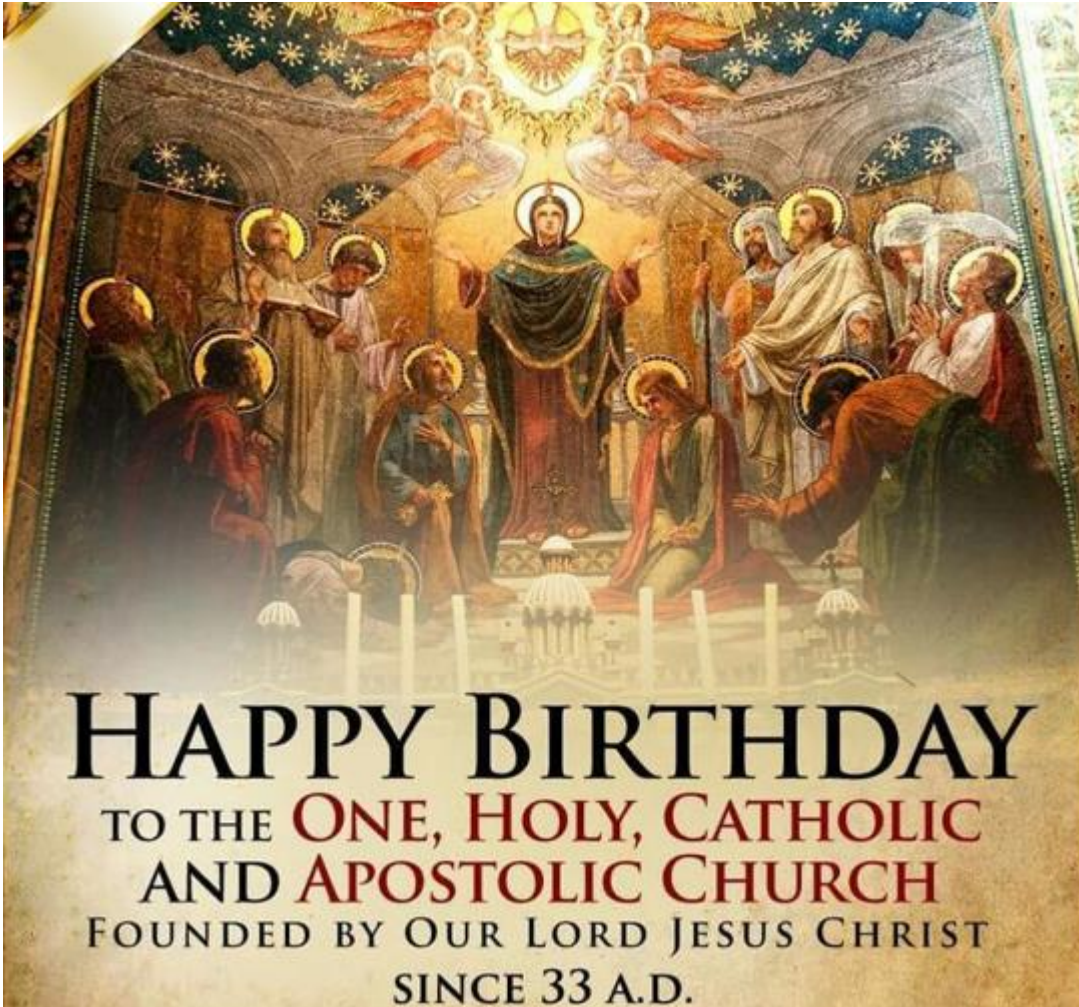


Dear Beloved,

This week we celebrate Pentecost: 50 days after passover. For the Jews it was the day Moses went up the mountain, fifty days after they had escaped from Egypt. We celebrate it because with the coming of the Holy Spirit the church was born. Happy birthday Church! Don't forget to ask our loving father for the good gifts he sends.



Blessings

Wendy

Snowy Monaro Arts Council Inc. presents Pianist, Alexander Yau
Sunday 4 June 2:30pm Anglican Parish Hall,
Tickets at The Fabric Salon,
Adult \$30 Concession \$25 SMAC Member \$20 Under 18 Free
Includes Afternoon Tea

--

June 11 2pm in the Hall Sam and Ruth's Piano Concert
Tickets \$30 from Fabric Salon or at the door

--

PTO →

Saturday 17th June working Bee for the Rectory Garden
assemble at Rectory 11.00 or Fletcher's Numerella at 11.30 to collect mulch.
Barbeque provided.

--

Community Day Saturday 23rd September
Anyone who is willing to help come to rectory Tuesdays 2.00 - 3.30

--

Morning Tea after the Service every 2nd and 4th Sunday
please volunteer for the roster.

--

Midweek Services every Wednesday at 9.30 all Welcome

--

Please volunteer for the roster, well in advance.

--

Prayer and Praise

Wendy

Edith and Colin Mayhew

--

Glenn Fletcher

Alan Hood

our wardens and Parish Councillors

--

Bernie and Gayle

--

Scott's wife Jennie.

Beattie Russell and Jenni Roberts in Yallambie.

--

Liz Pirie

Leanne Lowery

Mary Mitchell

--

Peter & Julie Harris from Bredbo

all congregations in Nimmitabel

--

The Catholic priest Father Mark Croker as he ministers from Bombala
through to the mountains

--

for each other that we may be salt and light in this community

--

People everywhere who are living through war or disasters of every kind.

28 May 2023 The Holy Communion - THIRD ORDER

HYMN TIS 411 Filled with the Spirit's power.

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
And also with you.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Matthew 22.37–40, Mark 12.30–31

SENTENCE 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,' says the Lord; 'and let the one who believes in me drink. For out of your heart shall flow rivers of living water.' John 7.38

PRAYER: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Almighty God, at the feast of Pentecost you sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: empower us with that same Spirit to witness to your redeeming love and draw all people to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

ACTS 2.1-21

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues! ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.' ¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

Psalm 104.26-36

²⁶ Lord, how various are your works: in wisdom you have made them all, and the earth is full of your creatures. ²⁷ There is the wide, immeasurable sea: there move living things without number, great and small; ²⁸ There go the ships, to and fro: and there is that Leviathan whom you formed to sport in the deep. ²⁹ These all look to you: to give them their food in due season. ³⁰ When you give it to them, they gather it: when you open your hand they are satisfied with good things. ³¹ When you hide your face, they are troubled: when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. ³² When you send forth your spirit they are created: and you renew the face of the earth.

³³ May the glory of the Lord endure for ever: may the Lord rejoice in his works.

³⁴ If he look upon the earth, it shall tremble: if he but touch the mountains, they shall smoke.

³⁵ I will sing to the Lord as long as I live: I will praise my God while I have any being.

³⁶ May my meditation be pleasing to him: for my joy shall be in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12.1–13

¹ Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to dumb idols. ³ Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. ¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

John 20.19–23

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'

The Sermon

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has promised that you will hear us when we ask in faith: receive the prayers we offer.

Response: God of all mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to 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.**

CONFESSION

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

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

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done. We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them. For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us, and change us. By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God is slow to anger and full of compassion, forgiving all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord. God therefore forgives you in Christ Jesus, in whom there is no condemnation. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.** The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also, with you.**

HYMN TIS 406 Spirit of Love Divine, attend our Prayers

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, making us in your own image. We praise you for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

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

And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and blood.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.** We do this until he returns. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Father, as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts be renewed by your Holy Spirit and united in the body of your Son. Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom, there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise:

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour and glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread. The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. Amen The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. Amen

Giver of life and love, we thank you that in this heavenly banquet you invigorate and renew us. Living in the unity of the Spirit, may we boldly use your gifts to continue your work in the world.

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. Amen.

HYMN TIS 409 O breathe of life, come sweeping through us

BLESSING: God stir up within you the gift of the Spirit that you may confess Jesus Christ as Lord and proclaim the joy of the everlasting gospel wherever you may be and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

DISMISSAL: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **in the name of Christ. Amen**



When someone says Pentecost do you think of the event that happened in our reading from Acts today or the history behind it or perhaps of those who belong to Pentecostal churches and like to recreate this event in their churches today?

There is actually a lot of history behind this day: Passover, back at the beginning of Easter, when Jesus celebrated the Last Supper, was a celebration of the day when God rescued his people from Egypt, then 50 days later after the freed slaves had travelled through the desert they came to Mt Sinai where Moses went up the mountain, received the law and came down again, bringing the law to the people.

Once they were settled in Israel this was remembered with a celebration of 'first fruits'. So, for the Jews it was a celebration that the harvest was beginning and that God had given to his redeemed people the way of life by which they must now carry out his purposes.



Luke assumes all that as he is telling us the story and then adds to it the fact that Jesus has ascended (like Moses went up Mt Sinai) and is coming down again in the person of the Holy Spirit, not with the written law carved on tablets of stone, but with the new law of love, designed to be written on human hearts.

What happened on that Pentecost and the experience of God's spirit from that day to this, cannot be reduced to theological formulas and is much more than those interesting Old Testament echoes: we need to feel the wind, let it sweep through our lives, our hearts, our imagination, our powers of speech and transform us from limp and tired believers into people whose hearts are on fire with the love of God.



Last week we talked about how Jesus ascended into God's space, heaven, and this week we see that the wind came from heaven. The whole point is that through the spirit, some of the creative power of God himself comes from heaven to earth and does its work here. The aim is not to give people a spiritual experience which makes things on earth irrelevant, but to transform earth with the power of heaven, starting with the bodies, minds and hearts and lives of Jesus' followers.

The coming of the spirit at Pentecost is the flipside of Jesus' ascension. Jesus needed to return to his father to complete his work, but he would not leave us bereft, so he sent the spirit to live with us on earth. The gift of the spirit is the direct result of the ascension of Jesus. Because he is Lord of all, his energy, the power to be and do something quite new, is available through the spirit to all who call on him, all who follow him, all who trust him.



Wind and fire are wild, untamable forces, and the experience of the wind rushing through the house and the fire coming to rest on each person must have been terrifying and exhilarating. Of course, there are many other examples in the bible, as there are many times in the life of the church, when the spirit worked softly and secretly, quietly transforming people's lives and situations without noise and fuss.

Some people through the years have assumed that everyone must experience the spirit in noisy ways, particularly with speaking in tongues, and others have assumed that the noise is the exception and perhaps only for that day. Neither extreme is biblical, the spirit operates as is best for that person on that occasion. What happened on that day was something new, something that launched a new movement, it explains how a small group of frightened, puzzled and largely uneducated men and women could so quickly become a force to be reckoned with right across the known world.



The disciples were all together in one place when the spirit came. The spirit comes not to divide, but to unite. God moves mysteriously among his people, dealing with each individual in a different way. Some people are given remarkable experiences, perhaps so that they know how dramatically powerful and life-transforming God can be. Other people work, with the Holy Spirit, in quiet and patient ways and don't rely on a burst of power to fix all the problems which in fact need a more steady, perhaps much deeper work. Fire and a Dove are both used as symbols of the spirit.

God longs to give the holy spirit to people and all we need to do is ask. What the Holy Spirit will do when he comes is anybody's guess. It could be wind and fire, or some spring cleaning in our lives, it could be ideas about how we can serve each other or our community, or it could be a healing of all those times when we felt rejection, it could just be an overflowing of love and peace.



⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. ¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.



Many years ago, I asked God to bless me with his Holy Spirit, but I specifically asked him not to give me the gift of tongues. He was very gracious and nothing scary happened. Later, I realized that anything that God wanted me to have would be good, so I withdrew that request and discovered the joy of praising God in tongues, but more importantly through the years I have learnt the quiet joy of walking day by day with my Lord and letting him carry me through when I don't have enough strength.

On the occasion John recounts in our gospel reading Jesus simply breathed on his disciples for them to receive the Spirit. It was a peaceful occasion, Jesus simply said: "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." **As Jesus commissioned them, he gave them the Spirit to equip them to be able to do the work.**



God wanted to extend his kingdom, Jesus had commissioned his disciples to go to the ends of the earth, but on the day of Pentecost there were people from all over the known world who heard the disciples talking their own language. As the disciples spoke in all these languages others thought they were drunk but Peter spoke for all of them and explained what had happened and the gospel.

This was the fulfillment of everything the Jews had waited for. It had been promised, dreamed of, planned for, mulled over, prayed for, ached for: a time when things would work out at last. It's only by imagining that world, the world where people were puzzling over ancient texts, longing for that day, that we can understand why Peter would launch into this long quote from the prophet Joel. Peter connects this quotation directly with what had happened that day.



Up to that time God acted by his spirit among his people to individuals, the king, a prophet, or priest, or even a righteous person but now God's spirit has been poured out on a lot of people all at once. All divisions are broken, the nucleus of God's new people is formed.

The work of God is wonderfully inclusive because there is no category of people which are left out: all genders, all ages, all social classes, all nations. But it is wonderfully focused because there is one criteria: 'all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved'. Being saved is not 'going to heaven' but knowing god's rescuing power revealed in Jesus, through the spirit in our lives today.

Let's just take a moment now to be quiet and ask the Lord to bless us in whatever way he chooses. Whatever you need from the Lord, ask him. Do you need his spirit, do you need a refilling, do you need assurance of his presence with you or do you need peace in your life. Ask him, he is a good god who loves to give good gifts to his children.