

## SUNDAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

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

### FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-11.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 104.

### RESPONSE:

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

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
O Lord my God, how great you are.  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
The earth is full of your creatures. **R**
2. You take away their breath, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, and they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth. **R**
3. May the glory of the Lord last forever!  
May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
I will rejoice in the Lord. **R**

### SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

### GOSPEL: John 20:19-23.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

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

## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

### Mon 25 May Our Lady, Mother of the Church

Genesis 3:9-15.20; Psalm 87; John 19:25-34

"If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady, just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit, this prayer has never failed me." – St Teresa of Calcutta

### Tue 26 May St Philip Neri, Pr

1 Peter 1:10-16; Psalm 98; Mark 10:28-31

St Philip Neri, the "Apostle of Joy," emphasized humble, cheerful service to God, famously stating that, "A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one".

### Wed 27 May (St Augustine of Canterbury, B)

1 Peter 1:18-25; Psalm 147; Mark 10:32-45

Known as the Patron Saint of England, St Augustine's perseverance amidst obstacles and only partial success teaches today's apostles and pioneers to struggle on despite frustrations.

### Thu 28 May Liturgy of the Day

1 Peter 2:2-5.9-12; Psalm 100; Mark 10:46-52

"Faith is stepping off the map of what's known and making a new road by walking into the unknown. It's responding to God's call to adventure, stepping out on a quest for goodness." – Brian McLaren

### Fri 29 May (St Paul VI, P)

1 Peter 4:7-13; Psalm 96; Mark 11:11-25

"Somebody should tell us, right at the start of our lives, that we are dying. Then we might live life to the limit, every minute of every day. Whatever you want to do, do it now! There are only so many tomorrows." – St Paul VI

### Sat 30 May Liturgy of the Day

Jude 17:20-25; Psalm 63; Mark 11:27-33

"Jesus calls us to be willing to change, but many of us are not willing to change, simply because we're not willing to turn away from ourselves!" – Fr Richard Rohr OFM

### Sun 31 May TRINITY SUNDAY

Exodus 34:4-6.8-9; Resp: Dan 3:52-56; John 3:16-18

"A great mystery, a mystery of love, an ineffable mystery, before which words must give way to the silence of wonder and worship." – St John Paul II, on the Trinity.

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)  
Pr=Priest; B=Bishop; P=Pope

# Catholic Link

## PENTECOST

Pentecost • Year A  
Divine Office: Week IV • 24 May 2026

## Mary and Pentecost

May being Mary's month, we opened our *Link* reflections on Mary and the Resurrection. Today we focus our reflections on Pentecost, too, in Marian terms.

As Fr Sean Wales writes in his book on Mary, *O Mother Blest*, the life of Mary could be considered as a series of "Pentecosts". From her Immaculate Conception to her Glorious Assumption, the Holy Spirit hovered over her, or as St Luke writes, "overshadowed" her.

The "overshadowed" image is eminently biblical. Recall how God's chosen people were "led by day by a pillar of cloud" and "by night by a pillar of fire" (Exodus 13:21). On Mount Sinai, the cloud overshadowing the mountain became a symbol of the presence of God, called in Hebrew the *Shekhina*.

When Mary questioned the angel about God's plans for her, she was told: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow" (Lk 1:35).

On the night of the birth of Jesus, the glory of the Lord (*Shekhina*) shone around the shepherds and led them to the new-born king. Forty days later another manifestation of the Spirit occurred when Mary and Joseph presented their child in the Temple. The Holy Spirit rested on Simeon, fulfilling a promise made to him that he would not die before he set his eyes on the Saviour.

That Mary was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit and radically involved in the mystery of the Incarnation has been a pillar of the Church's faith from the beginning. The Church has always seen that Mary was touched by

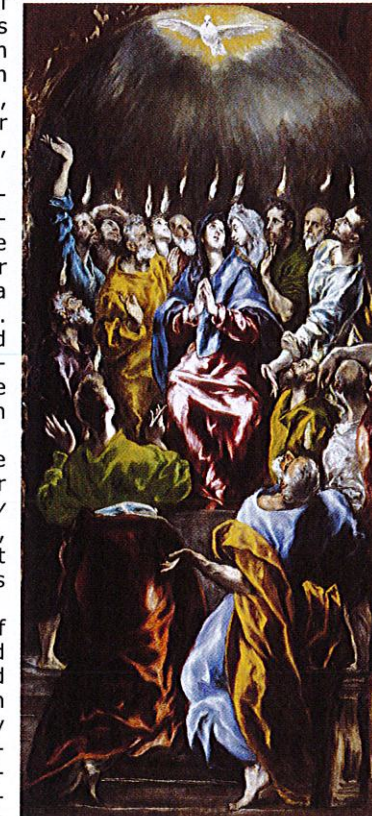
the Spirit of God from the moment of her Immaculate Conception and played a central role in the drama of our redemption by "standing at the foot of the Cross".

Jesus' death is described variously as "he breathed his last" or "he yielded up his spirit" or "he gave up his spirit". However, the words of St John (Jn 19:30), "he handed over the Spirit", have been described as a 'royal' distribution of the Spirit. It means that in his dying moments Jesus breathed out the Holy Spirit, first on Mary who stood nearest to him, and then the little group of disciples. Another Pentecost moment!

The great public Pentecost which occurred nine days after the Ascension of Jesus into glory is an event which is celebrated in the life of the Church to this day. The second volume of Luke's writings, *The Acts of the Apostles*, is sometimes called the *Acts* or the *Book of the Holy Spirit* in the way it describes everything under the power and control of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit guides the early Church, confirming the Gospel in acts of power and glory.

Just as Mary had an intimate part in the Incarnation of the Word and in the Passion and Death of the Redeemer, so too she is part of the Pentecost experience

and the birth of the Church. In preparation for the release of the Spirit, Mary is found among the eleven: "All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women, including Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers" (Acts 1:14). When Pentecost day came round, "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4).



El Greco's Pentecost, in the Museo del Prado, 1597

In his book "**O Mother Blest**", Fr Sean Wales highlights the role of Mary in our lives. Taking us on a tour through icons and feasts of Mary, inspiring explanations of the Marian prayers we know so well, and other Marian themes, he offers us a spiritual gem that will not only deepen our devotion to Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, but will also lead us closer to Jesus, her Son.

### O Mother Blest



Seán Wales CSsR

**R150**  
plus delivery

Order from our website [www.rpp.org.za](http://www.rpp.org.za) or email [orders@rpp.org.za](mailto:orders@rpp.org.za). Enquiries: 082 667 3857.

Parish Priest: Fr David Evans  
 Parish Secretary: Judy Joseph  
 Bookkeeper: Tanya Charles  
 Office Hours: Mon to Fri 08h00 to 16h00  
 Website: www.stpatricksbenoni.co.za



Phone: 060 327 2998  
 office@stpatricksbenoni.co.za  
 bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za  
 106 Woburn Avenue, Benoni

Mass Times	Tues 09h30	Wed No mass	Thurs No Mass	Fri 08h00	Sat 08h00 17h00	Sun 07h30 10h00	Confessions Tues 10h00 Sat 08h30
------------	------------	-------------	---------------	-----------	-----------------	-----------------	--

Baptism of children: Book with the parish secretary and collect the form. Attendance of one short instruction is required.

Please support your parish: "St Patrick's Catholic Church" Benoni, Standard Bank. Current Account number: **021 095 612** (Branch code: 013042). To join our monthly Dedicated Giving contact Tanya; bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za or on 060 327 2998.

Our "Society of St Vincent de Paul" helps the poor – on our behalf – irrespective of race, colour or creed. Please support them: Society of St Vincent de Paul, Standard Bank, Boksburg, Current Account no. 220930287.

This coming weekend a second collection for the Priests' Education Fund will be taken. This is used for the ongoing formation of the Clergy.

The Divine Mercy chaplet will be said every Friday at 3.15pm. Everyone is welcome.

The Knights of da Gama are having a **Bingo** Evening after Mass on Saturday 20 June in the Hall at 6.30pm. Please bring your family and friends along. Light snacks will be on sale. The bar will be open. Contact Jose 082 546 8505.

On behalf of St Patrick's St Vincent De Paul Society Benoni Conference, we would like to thank you, most sincerely, for your generous donations and continued support. The need is so great and with your support we are doing our best to assist those in need. We are in desperate need of blankets.

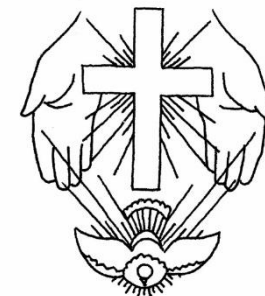
To make a donation to St Patrick's or give your collection at mass: Use SNAPSCAN by downloading the app on your phone and holding it over the QR code on the right.



PKW231147

*They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:4)*

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told the apostles that they would be "baptized with the holy Spirit". So together with Mary, they "devoted themselves with one accord to prayer". And sure enough, the Holy Spirit came-with wind and fire and with a new boldness to preach the gospel.



Pentecost tells a beautiful story about God's power and the apostles' transformation. But they didn't receive the Spirit just that one day. They were immersed in the Spirit again and again. The Book of Acts records at least seven times that the apostles were "filled" with the Spirit and this doesn't count all the other times that never made it into the Bible!

The same is true for us. Although we received the Holy Spirit in Baptism, we too need more of the Spirit's power and gifts to follow the Lord and proclaim the good news.

Jesus knew how much we would need the Holy Spirit, and so even long before his Ascension, he encouraged his disciples to pray for this gift: "If you... know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit?".

And John's Gospel assures us that God "does not ration his gift of the Spirit". There is always more that God has for us!

Today, follow the apostles' example. Believe in God's promise of the Spirit and then pray for it. Keep praying, not just on this special feast, but every day. You might even ask a few faith-filled friends to pray with you for a new outpouring of the Spirit in your life. You may not see wind or fire, but the Spirit will come to you in new, unexpected, and even extraordinary ways -not only for your benefit, but for the good of his body, the Church!

*"Holy Spirit, make your home in my heart, today and every day."*

We need parishioners to operate the overhead and laptop at weekend masses. Speak to the person operating at mass or the organist.