31st May, Pentecost Sunday Year A

TEMORA MISSION AREA

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Ardlethan/Sacred Heart Ariah Park

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In our Prayers: Neville Caldow, Pauline O'Brien, Ray Fairman, Kashaya Kuemmel, All those affected by the Coronavirus, the unemployed, those with mental illness, families with financial struggles, primary producers, etc., For our Deceased: Sr Rita Corbett rsj, Joyce Baker, Liam Broderick O'Sullivan, Coronavirus Victims, Valma Cowell, Elaine Barry, Cecily Breust, Billy Dance *(anniversaries)*

No Mass or Liturgy

Reflection

I am sending you. The disciples of Jesus were transformed when they received Holy Spirit. They burst open the doors of the upper room, which they had locked in fear, and boldly proclaimed the Good News. May Holy Spirit fill our hearts this Pentecost giving us the courage to break down the walls we have built around ourselves. May Holy Spirit free us to proclaim the pace, joy and forgiveness of God to everyone.

Protocols

Liturgy will resume on **Sunday 14 June** at Ardlethan at **9.00 a.m.** Hopefully there will be a restart date for Ariah Park in next week's bulletin. We are reminded of the Government Guidelines which state, "*The health advice for seniors remains the same – we recommend you stay at home and avoid non-essential travel as much as possible. This is especially important for seniors over 70 years old or over 65 years old with a chronic illness."*

Bishop of Wagga Wagga

During the week Pope Francis appointed **Bishop Mark Edwards**, an auxiliary Bishop in the Melbourne Diocese, the sixth Bishop of Wagga Wagga. Bishop Mark is a member of the OMI (Oblates of Mary Immaculate) Congregation. "Bishop Edwards, who will turn 61 next month, was born in Indonesia and grew up in Adelaide, Darwin and Melbourne's southeast, attending St Leonard's Primary School and Mazenod College. Mazenod was founded by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the order he would eventually join. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1986 and has held leadership positions within the Australian Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne on November 7, 2014, and ordained bishop the following month." (Cath News, 27 May)

National Reconciliation Week

"The theme of Reconciliation Week (27 May-3 June) this year is In This Together. The celebration of the week is likely to be subdued, a victim of the restrictions imposed on us by the Coronavirus. ... Path to Reconciliation For Christians the celebration reminds us of the way that God came to share our life and so to be in this together. It reminds us also of how costly that path was for Jesus and that our path to reconciliation also involves self-sacrifice and going out with empty hands to people who are different from us. If we take this path we shall be with God and in this together." *Fr Andrew Hamilton sj*

Mary, Mother of the Church, Feastday

On Monday we celebrate the feastday of Mary as Mother of the Church. "Honouring Mary as mother of the church on the day after Pentecost also highlights for Catholics that Mary was present with the disciples on Pentecost, praying with them as the Holy Spirit descended. Mary, from the awaiting of the Spirit at Pentecost, has never ceased to take motherly care of the pilgrim church on earth." We ask Mary to intercede for each of us and all members of the Church.

Dear Friends,

Pope Francis, in Walking with Jesus writes, "A fundamental element of Pentecost is astonishment. Our God is a God of astonishment; this we know. No one expected anything more from the disciples: after Jesus' death they were a small, insignificant group of defeated orphans of their Master. .. The Church born at Pentecost is an astounding community because, with the force of her arrival from God, a new message is proclaimed—the resurrection of Christ with a new language, the universal one of love. A new proclamation: Christ lives, he is risen. A new language: the language of love. The disciples are adorned with power from above and speak with courage. Only minutes before, they all were cowardly, but now they speak with courage and candour, with the freedom of the Holy Spirit. ... Take note: if the Church is alive, she must always surprise. It is incumbent upon the living Church to astound. A Church that is unable to astound is a Church that is weak, sick, dving, and that needs admission to the intensive care unit as soon as possible!" What a challenging message Pope Francis gives us as we celebrate Pentecost—we, the church, are called to be people who astonish others. May Holy Spirit, the Breath of God, who breathes within us spur us on with a renewed sense of joy, life and hope.

Sr Maureen McDermott rsj

May we go forward walking with Spirit, eager to explore the deep mysteries of God which no eye has ever seen and no ear has ever heard -- yet still invite us to become love. Amen.

