

# St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta

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Bishop of Parramatta, Most Rev. Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD

Sunday 31 May

Pentecost Sunday

## From the Dean's Desk

Dear friends,

One of the ravages of our Australian summer is the ever present danger of bushfires. We know how devastating these fires can be. The devastation we saw during the 2019/20 summer is still fresh in our minds – properties, house and entire landscapes scorched and barren. Yet as devastating and terrible as these bushfires are, without them there would not be new life in our forests and the wilderness. The very nature of the eucalypt tree, which dominates so much of the Australian bushland breathe out their oils into the atmosphere, creating an almost permanent haze over the bushland. The conditions then are apt for just one spark to set the bush on a terrible and destructive path as fires take hold of the land with all their intensity and energy.

As terrible and as destructive as these fires can be, without them, the Australian bush would not have the possibility of regeneration and growth, since the eucalypt seed pods require the intense heat generated from bushfires for them to burst open and generate new trees. One has only to visit a once scarred bush a year or two after a devastating fire to see a completely new and regenerated forest.

Fire is one of the symbols that is used in the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** to describe the actions of the Holy Spirit. It states that: ***"While water signifies birth and the fruitfulness of life given in the Holy Spirit, fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions.... The prophet Elijah... was a "figure" of the fire of the Holy Spirit, who transforms what he touches. John the Baptist, who goes "before [the Lord] in the spirit and power of Elijah," proclaims Christ as the one who "will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire [Luke 1:17.3:16]. Jesus will say of the Spirit: "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled [Luke 12:49]. In the form of tongues "as of fire," the Holy Spirit rests on the disciples on the morning of Pentecost and fills them with himself [Acts 2:3-4]. The spiritual tradition has retained this symbolism of fire as one of the most expressive images of the Holy Spirit's actions [see the works of St John of the Cross]. [#696]***

This image of the Australian bushfire, then, can become an image of the Solemnity we celebrate today. At the time of the first Pentecost, described in the first reading [Acts 2:1-



11], the disciples were overcome with doubts, uncertainty and fear as they tried to come to terms not only with the tragic death of Jesus, but also with the more astounding rumours concerning the empty tomb and talk of his appearance among his followers.

Amid all this clamour, the Spirit descends upon them, and Luke describes this in beautiful and powerful images: ***'they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house...and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit'*** [Acts 2:2-4]. Luke's progression in speaking about the event is interesting: they **hear** at first a **powerful wind**; its **noise** fills the house; they **see** something like **tongues of fire**; they become **filled** with the **Holy Spirit**. The effect on the disciples of this event is indeed transformational. They immediately leave the safety of the upper room and begin with zeal and energy their mission to preach the Gospel, which continues to this day.

Like a bushfire, Pentecost – and the presence of the Holy Spirit – clears the 'undergrowth' of fear, doubt and anxiety in our lives. The Spirit's presence in us and in our Church is a unifying force for good. As we celebrate this great event, we can ask ourselves: what is the condition of my spiritual 'undergrowth'? Is there a need for the fire of the Holy Spirit to burn away this needless mass in my life, leaving me in a better position to grow in the gifts of the Spirit? Pentecost, even though it signifies the end of the Easter season, allows us to keep alive and deepen the very mysteries that we have celebrated over the last six weeks. May we be always open to the presence of the Spirit and to his promptings:

***'Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they will be created and you will renew the face of the earth.'***



Fr Bob Bossini,  
Dean and Parish Priest

## Updated Covid-19 Restrictions and how they will affect us.

### Mass, Weddings and Funerals at St Pat's

'The NSW Government have revised restrictions for places of worship to take place from Monday 1 June 2020'. These include:  
up to 20 people can attend weddings, 50 at funerals and 50 at places of worship, subject to the four square metre rule.  
Pews in the Cathedral & Chapel have been marked with a sticker to help you maintain the 1.5m social distancing requirement.

If you wish to attend Mass you will need to register with **MassRegister.com.au** just once, to provide your contact details. You do not need to nominate a Mass day/time as we will move away from the roster system and go to a 'first in' system. Numbers will be counted on entry to the Cathedral. Once numbers reach 50, you are welcome to join in the celebration of Mass in the Cloister via the sound system.

Online Masses can be viewed at the Cathedral's Facebook page.  
The 11am Mass on Sundays can also be viewed on this Youtube [link](#)

### Reconciliation

Reconciliation for Mon 1 June to Friday 5 June - 11.15am - 12.20pm. Please note that strict social distancing rules will be applied. Confession will take place in the Cloister Function Room.

### Pentecost Retreat Saturday 30 May

The feast of Pentecost brings the season of Easter to a glorious close. Every year here at St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, the Pentecost Retreat is our way to remind us of the outpouring of the Spirit and the launch of the Church.

On **Saturday, May 30**, St Patrick's Cathedral Live Christ Share Christ Pentecost Retreat will help us look at the writing of St Paul about the Holy Spirit and his presence in us.

We will explore the Holy Spirit in Scripture and learn about the importance of the Holy Spirit in the Church, from Pentecost to the Church today.

This will be followed by Adoration, and Confession.

#### Retreat Session Program

- **3:00 pm to 3:20 pm - Rosary;**
- **3:20 pm to 4:00 pm – "The Holy Spirit in the Writing of St Paul" by Fr Bob;**
- **4:00 pm to 5:15 pm - Liturgical Bible Study (LBS) "Break Open The Word" by Annette Hartman;**
- **5:15 pm to 6:00 pm - Adoration by Fr. Chris & music by Credo, at the same time;**
- **5:15 pm to 6:00 pm - Confession will be available at the Parish Cloister; and**

we do hope you and your family, friends, relatives, colleagues, will be able to join us. You can find us on St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta Facebook page to access our livestream.

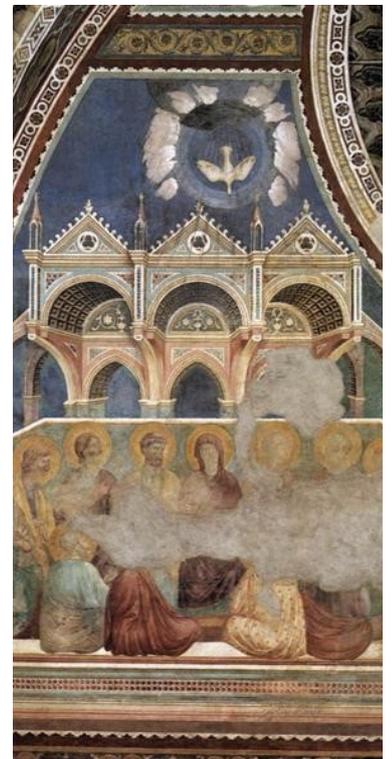
Please share this good news in your household and others.

You are welcome to send us your feedback via email: [mguillema@bigpond.com](mailto:mguillema@bigpond.com)

We wish you every blessing in these challenging times. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

In Christ

**Michael & Marietta Guillema**



## Planned Giving

Thank you to the many parishioners who have been dropping in their Planned Giving envelopes and have kept up their automatic deductions. We also have another option if you would like to make a donation/payment to St Pat's. Visit our website and on the top menu you will see a tab 'donate'. You can make a Planned Giving payment, pay an invoice or make a 'one off' donation. Many thanks for your continued support of your parish.



## The Catholic Toolbox, Radio Show and Podcast

**Host:** George Manassa

**Time:** Tuesdays 8pm-9pm

**Network:** 1701AM and cradio.org.au

**Topic:** Dress to Evangelise by Andre Abuharb



ST PATRICK'S  
GIFT SHOP

## St Patrick's Gift Shop

Mobile 0419 153 195

The Gift Shop is now open to limited number of three customers at a time. Only Credit card and eftpos facilities will be accepted for the time being.

We stock Religious goods, Ethical products, Sacramental gifts and many more items to celebrate a time in your life or someone special.

**Please note varied shop days/hours (as of this weekend).**

**OPEN:**

Tuesday to Friday 10am – 2pm & Sunday 10am – 12pm.

**CLOSED:**

Mondays and Saturdays.



## From the Diocese

### Pre Marriage Weekend Courses to Recommence

I am very happy to inform you that as COVID-19 restrictions are being eased we have reinstated our weekend Pre Marriage Courses. The first weekend course, provided no new restrictions are imposed, will be held on the 24th & 26th July at our usual venue at Blacktown. To book for the Weekend Course or the online SmartLoving Engaged preparation please go to [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) We will observe all social distancing and hygiene provisions. We look forward to welcoming you or your family and friends to our Marriage Preparation Program. For more information and assistance please contact Marisa on 8838 3460. Should there be newer restrictions introduced, we will advise.

*Life Family & Marriage Office - Diocese of Parramatta*

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**Perpetuals:** Paula Loto'aniu, Peter Van Tilburg, Margaret Angela Roberts, Norm Hector, Sally & Frank Martlew, Sherwood Family, Pat & Jim Hartman, Royan & Andrews families, Don Andrews, Juliet Noronha, Dr Joseph Malouf, Abel Moses, Jimmy & Anna & Frank Grainda, Frank Agostino, Bernadette Melhen and Sally Boujandy, Jack Barrett, Ann O'Brien, Ian & Pat Sanders, Bill & Alice Kendall, Allan Kendall, Maria Patterson & Ellen Bancan, Giuseppina & Giovanni Rechichi, Mary Coady, Mary & Jack White, Vincent & Rebecca Vella, Walter Townsend, Watson Lee, Ferris Grugeon, McInherny, White, McWilliam and McGuckin families, Mary Abela, Robert Andrews, Sylvester Family, Rogan Family, Adcock, McMillan families, Love family, Hooper family, Gabrielle Baker, Paula Cowling, McDermott & Starr families, Repose of the Souls in Purgatory, Deceased Parishioners of St Patrick's and St Monica's.