



19 MAY, 2024



Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us this Pentecost Sunday.

Lectionary Readings

This week 19 May, 2024

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Next Sunday 26 May, 2024

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study will be meeting on Tuesday at 3pm in the chapel. They will be looking at study 5, 'Content when life is hard'.

Combined Churches Pentecost Service

You are invited to the combined churches Pentecost service to be held at Wentworthville Baptist Church, 18 Chelmsford Rd South Wentworthville at 6pm tonight.

Community Presentation on Dementia

Wentworthville Uniting Church is hosting (on behalf of Presbytery) a Face Dementia presentation led by Dr Meredith Gresham, at Wentworthville Uniting Church on 23 May at 10am.

Topics covered include:

- Learn about dementia and how to recognize the early signs and changes
- How to reduce your risk of dementia
- Tips to improve your brain health
- More details from Rev Meredith Williams, meri_will@hotmail.com

Thank You

A big thank you to Carol and Phil E for arranging and delivering the large number of leftover books from our book sale up to Lifeline in Bathurst.

Congregation Meeting Today

Today there will be a very brief congregation meeting after church to consider and vote on the election of Peter P to Church Council.



Greystanes Uniting Church

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REV GAIL'S COLUMN

In this Pentecost homily, Father Richard Rohr encourages us to recognize and call upon the Holy Spirit, a gift God has already given us!

It is a shame that the Holy Spirit tends to be an afterthought for many Christians. We don't really "have the Spirit." We tend, I'm afraid, to simply go through the motions. We formally believe, but honestly, there isn't much fire to it. There isn't much conviction. There isn't much service. We just sort of believe.

That's why in the Gospels there are two baptisms that are clearly distinguished. There's the baptism with water that most of us are used to, and there's the baptism "with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11); that's the one that really matters. The water baptism that many of us received as children really demands little conviction or understanding. Until that water baptism becomes real, until we know Jesus, and we can rely on Jesus, call upon Jesus, share Jesus, love Jesus, we're just going along for the ride.

We can recognize people who have had a second baptism in the Holy Spirit. They tend to be loving. They tend to be exciting. They want to serve others, and not just be served themselves. They forgive life itself for not being everything they once hoped for. They forgive their neighbours. They forgive themselves for not being as perfect as they would like to be.

Even though we so often pray, "Come, Holy Spirit," the gift of the Spirit is already given. The Holy Spirit has already come. You all are temples of the Holy Spirit, equally, objectively, and forever! The only difference is the degree that we know it, draw upon it, and consciously believe it. All the scriptural images of the Spirit are dynamic—flowing water, descending dove, fire, and wind. If there's never any movement, energy, excitement, deep love, service, forgiveness, or surrender, you can be pretty sure you don't have the Spirit. If our whole lives are just going through the motions, if there's never any deep conviction, we don't have the Spirit. We would do well to fan into flame the gift that we already have.

God does not give God's Spirit to those of us who are worthy, because none of us are worthy. God gives God's Spirit in this awakened way to those who want it. On this Feast of Pentecost, quite simply, want it! Rely upon it. Know that you already have it. <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/baptism-of-fire-and-spirit-2022-06-05/>