

*“Pentecost ... where we make and take  
Christ’s Spirit as our own....”*

Fr Richard Leonard

Artwork: “The Road to Emmaus”, painted by Daniel Bonnell

*Reflection*

**W**e recently celebrated the feast of Pentecost, 50 days after the Easter celebration of the Resurrection. During those fifty days, our liturgies and experiences of the richness of the word of God have been more than food for thought. We have been challenged by the word of God, reminded of all that Jesus said and did while he was with his disciples. We have been comforted by Jesus’ words and we have pondered on what all of this might mean for us, followers of Jesus for today’s world. In one sense, it is easy to be caught up in the euphoria of being known as disciples of Jesus, knowing that in his resurrection to new life Jesus overcame suffering and death, and promised that his followers would also share in the experience of life to the full, in so far as they remained close to him and focused on his message.

The Scriptures we have heard proclaimed at Mass during the fifty days have been constant reminders of Jesus’ desire for us: that we come close to him, that we remain focused on his mission to all people, and that we learn the gracious art of being drawn into the love of the Trinity and caught up in God’s community of love where all of us may find a home. In his teachings, Jesus used real images from daily life to explore what he meant. The language he used was the language of inclusion: coming close in response to the Lord’s call, being connected and drawing life and sustenance from Jesus as the true vine, understanding that Jesus is the bread of life and living water that nourish us and sustain us. These powerful images of closeness surely gladden our hearts and minds for the journey ahead. They remind us that it is human to want to belong and to be close, and in the closeness to the Lord and to one another, we can become united in God’s life and love.

Fr. Richard Leonard reflects on the feast of Pentecost in this way:

“Pentecost is a wonderful final Easter feast where we make and take Christ’s Spirit as our own and listen before we speak; where we are open to wonder; where we share, especially with the poor; where we are filled with praise for how God works in and through the world; and discover Christ’s unique presence in the “breaking of the bread,” and are famous for our joyful hospitality.”

In the lead-up to Pentecost we focused on praying for Christian unity and fanning into flame the life-giving energy of the Spirit. Post Pentecost we celebrated the feast of the Sacred Heart that again calls us into intimacy with a loving God who

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wants only what is life-giving for us. All that has gone before this time has led to us understanding that as people of faith in the risen Lord, our call to discipleship is a call to be inclusive, welcoming and hospitable, and people whose lives in faith bring us closer to God and one another. There is a home for all in the heart of God, and the theme of abiding in God and God abiding in us surely calls us to be outward looking and welcoming to all who seek to find a place of well-being and meaning. In a very real sense, our call as Christians, as missionary disciples of Jesus, is to be on earth the heart of God – not, at times, an easy task, but as people called and sustained by the love of God, the challenge is to extend God’s hospitality and welcome to all who seek meaning and purpose in this community we call Church. As missionary disciples, impelled by the love of God, we can move forward boldly, proclaiming the gospel to all who are thirsting to hear the good news.

We are now in the period that is known as Ordinary Time: however, this is a time for us go forth boldly, living the gospel message and bearing witness to the Lord. This is the time of great missionary activity, following on from the riches of the Easter season, but still drawing on the faith and mission of the community. The command Jesus left his disciples with was “Go, make disciples of all people, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” We go forth as Spirit-filled evangelizers to bring the joy of the gospel to all people, returning continually to prayer, reflection and celebration of the Eucharist to nourish our lives.

**Kathy Horan**  
RCIA Coordinator

## Adult Confirmation

There will be an opportunity later in the year for adults who have been baptised Catholic but have not yet celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation.

**Adult Confirmation** will take place within the **6.00pm Mass** at **St. Francis Xavier’s Cathedral** on **Saturday, 4th September**. Archbishop O’Regan will be the celebrant.

Prior to the celebration of Confirmation, there will be three preparation sessions on the following Saturdays:

**Saturday, 7th August: 1.00 – 2.30pm**

**Saturday 14th August: 1.00 – 2.30pm**

**Saturday 21st August: 1.00 – 2.30pm**

All sessions will be held in a small meeting room in the Cathedral Hall building. Please advertise this event and preparation dates in your parish newsletters and ask potential candidates to contact Alison or Kathy at the Office for Worship on 8210 8130 or [worship@ow.adelaide.catholic.org.au](mailto:worship@ow.adelaide.catholic.org.au)

# Alive in the Spirit

Being The Community Christ  
Calls Us To Be

## Pastoral Ministry Virtual Conference

8th - 10th July 2021

Reconnect, Renew and Reimagine  
Community and Mission

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Lana Turvey-Collins, Richard Lennan,  
Leisa Anslinger

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Inspiration & Formation for everyone  
engaged in the life of our Church.

### Registration

Individual rate: \$40

Parish rate: \$200 (unlimited numbers)

### Contact

Lisa Bright | 0448 652 720  
[info@aliveinthespirit.com.au](mailto:info@aliveinthespirit.com.au)

[aliveinthespirit.com.au](https://www.aliveinthespirit.com.au)



# Mystagogia Mass

On Sunday, May 2nd, the Mystagogia Mass (formerly known as the Mass for New Catholics) was celebrated at the 11.00 a.m. Mass at St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral. Archbishop Patrick O'Regan welcomed and congratulated all candidates who celebrated the sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Many family and parish members were present to support and celebrate with these candidates.

