



St. Theresa's Cathedral

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Bishop Wes Spiewak C.R.

Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda

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IN RESIDENCE: Rev. Julio Blazejewski, C.R.

Portuguese Episcopal Vicar

Visiting: Permanent Deacon David Swain

St. Vincent de Paul Society Parish Representatives:

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St. Theresa's Gift Shop: 292-0416

(Currently Closed)

Facebook: Our Catholic Diocese is on Facebook. Visit our page & "LIKE" us & join our on-line community.

All Mass intentions will be rescheduled for a later date.



WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Pentecost

It is important that we budget our hours as we budget our income, so we are able to give our time to be involved in church and community activities.

The month of May is traditionally a time that we set aside to honour our Blessed Virgin Mary. As we cannot honour her by bringing flowers to Our Lady's statue in Church, we ask you instead to offer a spiritual bouquet of rosaries to our Blessed Mother and to kindly remember our Parish in your prayers.

SUNDAY OFFERINGS ONLINE

Especially during this difficult time, Electronic contributions for your weekly collection are most welcome. Please make direct payments to St. Theresa's Cathedral at the Bank of Butterfield Account Number 20006060482732100 and include "Sunday Offering" in the memo field. You may also mail your cheque for your stewardship gift to the address listed above.

St. Theresa's uses your regular collection contributions to support Parish Operations.

Thank you for your continued support!



Parish

While the restrictions still remain in place, please join Bishop Wes, Fr. Vladimir, Fr. Julio and Fr. Attilio as they celebrate Sunday Mass, which is streamed live from St. Patrick's Church every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. on the Diocesan website at www.romancatholicbermuda.bm or www.facebook.com/CatholicDioceseBermuda. Daily Gospel Readings and reflections can be viewed this way as well. Let us hope that in this way social media will continue to keep us united as a Catholic community. Even though we cannot come together to worship at the Cathedral, may we continue to pray for one another!

Pentecost Sunday – Year A – 31st May, 2020

Acts 2:1-11; I Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. For Christians, it is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues, an event that took place fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus. The Paschal mystery -- the Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of Jesus -- culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father (at the request of His Son), on Jesus' disciples. The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian Church by the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian Faith. Pentecost is, thus, the official birthday of the Church. So, whose birthday is it anyway? You could say, Pentecost is the birthday of the Church Jesus established nearly 2,000 years ago. Today's Scripture readings remind us that Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. The main theme of today's readings is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others. In other words, the readings remind us that the gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others.

The First Reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, describes in detail the miraculous transformation that took place during the first Pentecost, thus fulfilling Jesus' promise to his apostles that they would receive "Power from on high." There was first "a noise like a strong driving wind." Then there were "tongues as of fire" resting on the disciples, and each of them was filled with the Holy Spirit. The first manifestation of their reception of the Holy Spirit came when the apostles burst out of doors and began to proclaim the Good News of Jesus; everyone there (regardless of their many different native languages), was able to understand them "in his own tongue".

In the Second Reading, St. Paul explains how the sharing of the various spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit enriches the Church. He refers to the varieties of gifts given to the Church as coming from the same Spirit, who activates all of them in Christians for the common good. They are described as the *gifts, fruits* and *charisms* of the Spirit. They may take different forms like prophecy, teaching, administration, acts of charity, healing and speaking in tongues, and they may reside in different persons like apostles, prophets, teachers, healers and so on. Paul insists that these spiritual gifts are to be used in the present time for the benefit of others, for the common good and for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Today's Gospel relates how the Risen Jesus gave his apostles a foretaste of Pentecost on the evening of Easter Sunday by appearing to them and sending them to carry on the mission given him by his Heavenly Father. He then empowered them to do so by breathing upon them and saying, "*Receive the Holy Spirit.*" On the day of Pentecost, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send the Advocate or Paraclete. The gift of the Spirit would enable them to fulfill Jesus' commission to preach the Gospel to all nations. Today's Gospel passage also tells us how Jesus gave to the Apostles the power and authority to forgive sins. "*Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.*" These wonderful words, which bind together inseparably the presence of the Holy Spirit with the gift of forgiveness, are referred to directly in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But they have a much wider meaning. Those words remind us of the Christian vocation we *all* have, to love and forgive as we have been loved and forgiven in the world of today, which is often fiercely judgmental and vengeful. (Fr. Antony Kadavil – EWTN))

"CARITAS", HOUSE OF PRAYER:

"Quiet Wednesdays" remain suspended at least until the end of phase two. Please take a few minutes of extra time each Wednesday to pray for all those who are suffering in any way, physically, emotionally, or financially.

REFLECTION: The coming of the Holy Spirit is described in the first reading for Pentecost Sunday which is from the Acts of the Apostles. It tells us how the disciples were all gathered together in prayer. This is a reminder of why we come together to pray each Sunday (before COVID-19) as while personal prayer is good, our coming together provides a special kind of support. The Gospel for Pentecost tells us of Jesus's appearance to the fearful disciples who were locked behind closed doors. His message, "Peace be with you." should fill our hearts with a true understanding that peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, one we need now more than ever through these scary and uncertain times. Our Triune God is with us always so let us frequently turn to the Father, Son and Spirit whenever we feel anxious or fearful. As we keep hearing, "We are all in this together", let us adhere to the rules to keep our island safe.

Sisters Dolores and Judith

BISHOP'S CORNER – Opening of Churches

Dear Fellow-Catholics,



As we are now in Phase 2 of the post shelter in place, our hope for re-opening our churches and re-starting services grows. God willing Phase 3 will not make us wait too long but what is necessary is to keep in mind our safety in this very fragile situation that we are still going through.

I would like to advise you that a precise documented plan in accordance with government regulations and new norms that we must follow for our churches to be re-opened, has been submitted to the Government for their approval. We must make you aware that things will not be the same. The number of attendees at our masses will be established by the Fire Department and will be part of the plan that we submit to the Government. If necessary, additional masses will be celebrated on weekends. All attending must wear masks and gloves and be prepared to have their temperature taken. Also, physical distancing must be maintained while entering and leaving the church, as well as during the liturgy. Masses will be no longer than 45 minutes in order to allow for the necessary sanitizing of the church after each mass, with this being just an example. Once our plan is approved by the Government, we will inform you about the details.

There is no doubt that this new reality will require a lot of discipline from all of us and much patience. It is not going to be easy but I know that you are good and brave people, and will understand that it is necessary for all of our safety and welfare. I would like to emphasize that abstaining from Sunday Mass because of illness, a temperature, coughing or simply not feeling well should not be considered to be a sin. In addition, not feeling comfortable, safe or being simply leery of attending Sunday Mass should also not be considered to be a sin. Please eventually consider attending weekday Mass instead.

I feel it necessary to urge the elderly and children to stay at home and refrain from attending church. I will continue to live stream the Mass on our Facebook page and family members, who attend church services, will be asked to bring Holy Communion to those who choose to stay at home, even if they have not been commissioned as Ministers of Holy Communion.

We have had to cancel First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies which would have taken place in May and June of this year. I would like to let you know that the new date for **First Holy Communion is Sunday, 25th of October, and the new date for Confirmation is Sunday, 22nd of November.** I hope that these dates are doable and far enough in the future so that we can all be safe. However, I want to let you know as well that each priest ministering in our diocese has exceptionally received the faculty to also administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. This means that families can approach their priest and set up a "private celebration" for First Holy Communion or Confirmation on another date, observing the new norms of course. I have asked our priests to be flexible and accommodating in their ministry.

I am very aware that there are many of you, for whom not being able to come to church on Sunday, will be big sacrifice. However, please believe me, it has been and still is necessary for your personal safety and the well-being of the entire island. These are unprecedented times and they require extraordinary decisions and actions. Stay well and safe! Remember we shall overcome...

Bishop Wes