



A Gift for All People of All Times

ANN M. GARRIDO

When reading aloud today's passage from Acts of the Apostles, do you stumble over the names of the peoples gathered as I do? "Parthians, Medes, and Elamites." Where is "Cappadocia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia"? And why were all these peoples in Jerusalem in the first place?

It might help to know that Pentecost did not originate as a Christian feast. There are three pilgrimage festivals that drew Jews from across the Mediterranean region to Jerusalem. Sukkot celebrates the fall harvest and God's protection during the exodus from Egypt. Two are in the spring: Passover, the Feast of the Unleavened Bread, recalling the night the Jews were freed from enslavement in Egypt; and Shavuot, or *Pentecost* in Greek, remembering the giving of God's law on Mount Sinai. The scene described in Acts echoes the story at Mount Sinai. The peoples who gathered outside the house in Jerusalem represent the breadth and diversity of peoples known at that time, and not just at that time. Some of the civilizations mentioned had not existed for hundreds of years. The book of Acts wants us to know that the gift of the Holy Spirit was an event of such significance that somehow *all* were mysteriously present—not just those of times gone by, but even we who live in such faraway, hard-to-pronounce places as Islamabad or Albuquerque. Today, we celebrate a gift that transcends time and geography. A gift that continues to draw all of us together in wonder and awe. ✨



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

***Do I often remember that the Church encompasses people of every nation:
those gone before us and those to come?***



[The Jews] were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language?"

ACTS 2:7–8



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

53 South Road, Paget PG 03 | P.O. Box HM 727, Hamilton HM CX

Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley, Vicar General • Cell: 705 0236

Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am
Saturday 7:00pm (Neo-Catechumenal Mass).

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & "LIKE" us | Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Administrator:

Karen Marsh
email: karenmarsh.bda@gmail.com
(c) 799 0842

Pastoral Council CCD Coordinator:

Patricia Carreiro
email: pcarreiro1976@gmail.com
(c) 737 1047

CHANCERY OFFICE
EMAIL orcc.bermuda@gmail.com



Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES . . .

MAY 23/24th - PENTECOST SUNDAY

5:00PM Lector: Karen Marsh EM: Peter Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Cherry Ramdass EM: Lucy Attride-Stirling
Collection: Karen Marsh

May 30/31st - THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Joshua Blee EM: Susan Shreeve
10:15AM Lector: Jesse Almeida EM: Joyce Lee
Collection: Carlos DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS . . .

MAY 23/24th - PENTECOST SUNDAY

5:00PM For the Sick and Suffering
10:15AM For St. Michael's Parishioners

May 30/31st - THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM St. Michael's Parishioners
10:15AM St. Michael's Confirmandi Candidates

Thank you for your generosity.



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

May 16/17th COLLECTION: \$1,037.00
Votives: \$60.00 Poor Box (SVdP): \$45.00
Monthly Maintenance Collection:
\$1,481.00

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
to St. Michael's Church's: BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

WHEN MAKING YOUR ONLINE TRANSACTION, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND "COLLECTION" AS YOUR MEMO ON YOUR BANKING TRANSACTION.

Pastor's Point . . .

Dear Parishioners,

"On the day of Pentecost, when the seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ's Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, manifested, given, and communicated as a divine person: of his fullness Christ, the Lord, pours out the Spirit in abundance" (CCC 731).

The Old Covenant holy day of obligation (pilgrim feast), known as the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot in Hebrew), was established by Yahweh during the covenant formation at Mount Sinai. The Jews in Jesus's time called it the Feast of Pentecost from the Greek he pentekoste hermea, meaning "the fiftieth day," since God ordained its celebration to fall fifty days after the Feast of Firstfruits (Lev 23:9-20). At the beginning of the great adventure at the crossroads of salvation history, the Sinai Covenant, God ordained that the Israelites must commemorate seven annual feasts as His covenant people. During those festivals, the covenant people would relive the themes of mercy and redemption played out in the Exodus liberation. Three of the yearly feasts were designated "pilgrim feasts," in which every man of the covenant must present himself before Yahweh's holy altar of sacrifice. Scripture identifies the three "pilgrim feasts" as Unleavened Bread, Weeks/Pentecost, and Shelters, also called Booths or Tabernacles (Ex 23:14-17, 34:18-23; Dt 16:16 and 2 Chron 8:13).

According to Leviticus 23, of the seven annual God-ordained feasts, only Firstfruits and Weeks/Pentecost did not have dates assigned to them. The covenant people were to celebrate the Feast of Firstfruits on the day after the Saturday Sabbath of the holy week of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Lev 23:11). It was a perpetual feast always to fall on the first day of the week, our Sunday (Lev 23:9-14). The covenant people were to count seven full weeks from the Feast of Firstfruits. On the fiftieth day after Firstfruits, they were commanded to celebrate the Feast of Weeks/Pentecost, as the ancients counted with no zero place-value by counting the Sunday of Firstfruits as day #1 (Lev 23:15-16). Therefore, the Feast of Pentecost also fell on the first day of the week, our Sunday (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, 13.8.4 [252]). The Feast of Firstfruits in AD 30 was the day Jesus rose from the dead. Christians continue to celebrate that day as Easter Sunday, and fifty days later (as the ancients counted without the concept of a zero place-value) was the first Christian Pentecost.

After His Resurrection, Jesus taught the Church for forty days until His ascension to His Father's heavenly Kingdom (Acts 1:3). At that event, Jesus instructed the Apostles and disciples to return to Jerusalem and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit, telling them: John baptized with water but, not many days from now, you are going to be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). The Apostles and the disciples were obedient to Jesus's command. They prayed together as one community with the Virgin Mary, with one petition for nine days, asking God to send His Spirit until the tenth day, fifty days after Christ's Resurrection. The fiftieth day was the first day of the week (our Sunday) and the Jewish feast of Pentecost, which commemorated the birth of the Old Covenant Church at Mount Sinai and became the birth of the New Covenant Church of Jesus Christ.

On the Feast of Pentecost in AD 30, God the Holy Spirit baptized and indwelt the 120 New Covenant people of God, praying with the Virgin Mary in the Upper Room in Jerusalem (Acts 1:15). He gave them the gift of one language, the Gospel of salvation, to unite all the world's peoples. His gift removed the curse of the confusion of tongues and separation of the peoples of the Earth in God's judgment at the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9). The Spirit of God brought humanity back into one family, which was torn asunder at the judgment on Babel (Acts 1:13-15; 2:1-11; Gen 11:1-9). He infused Jesus's disciples with new life as He sealed the New Covenant, which Jesus had brought as the Redeemer-Messiah and Son of God. Jesus's new Law of love is written not on stone tablets like the old Law at Mount Sinai, but on the hearts of New Covenant believers, as promised by the prophets, Jesus, and St. Paul (cf. Jer 31:31-34; Jn 16:22b; Rom 8:2-11; 2 Cor 3:2-8).

Our Easter season ends by being crowned with three feasts celebrating God's love for us: Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and Corpus Christi. These feasts are intimate reminders of how God chose us as His own from before the foundation of the world to be children in His holy covenant family (Eph 1:4-5).

We are called to continue the birth of the Church by the way we live our lives daily. Let's do our faith with energy and intentionality.

God bless, Christ is Risen, He is truly Risen,

Fr. Joe, Pastor & Vicar General

SOURCE - Agape Bible Study, Cycle A, page 1 on The Solemnity of Pentecost Day Mass.



Bishops Corner . . .

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Nestled among the vineyards of a hilly valley south of Rome in the Castelli Romani region of Italy is the town of Velletri. With a population of about 50,000 it has fully embraced the colours of Mary every May for decades. During the first weekend of May, its historic centre exudes a distinct, unmistakable atmosphere. It isn't just the arrival of spring that fills the townspeople with joy, but the feast of their patroness, Our Lady of Graces.



The scents of camellias, hydrangeas, and star jasmine mingle in a uniquely Marian fragrance. Balconies display blue banners and drapes proclaiming “VV Maria”. The cobblestone streets are covered with sky-blue cardboard, every shop window features a small altar dedicated to the Madonna, and thousands of people flock to the long evening procession holding three-foot candles. This tradition of paying homage to Our Lady of Graces dates back more than 400 years. According to municipal archives, the earliest records of this celebration date back to May 1613. While many rural customs have fallen by the wayside, the deep affection for their beloved Image, depicted in an ancient icon believed to date back to the 8th century hasn't wavered. For her annual outing in May, the painting is mounted in a frame studded with rivers of precious stones. Devotees dressed in the traditional garb of ancient brotherhoods take turns carrying the heavy frame for several miles. In the dead of night, the singing procession winds through the narrow streets, passing in front of every church in the historic centre.

This candlelit march is a true phenomenon. Shopkeepers leave their doors open until the Madonna passes by, even if it's midnight. Thousands of people gather in the streets. As the painting goes by, the most enthusiastic devotees shout out, “Viva Maria!” and the crowd joins in the chorus. Surrounded by these ovations and welcomed like a star, the Icon journeys up and down the steep slopes of the city. Alongside her, the faithful walk over large sheets of cardboard rolled out along the route. While these conveniently catch the hot wax dripping from the candles, they also highlight the community spirit of the festival. The children of Velletri spend the entire morning

decorating the cardboard, sitting in the streets and chatting away among colourful crayons.

Have a serene weekend and a good week!

+ Wes Jurek
Bishop Wes



Dear Padre,

I am a senior Catholic woman. All my life, I have waited for the Church to welcome women as priests. I have volunteered with numerous faiths over the years and have worked with pastors and rabbis who are women. Why does the Catholic Church not recognize that women have callings to the priesthood?

My answer will probably not be acceptable to you, and it might even make you a little more frustrated and perhaps even discouraged. The understanding of the Church is that the call to priesthood is not based on merit. If it were based on merit, and that was the single important criterion, your question might be phrased in a different way. I will let you imagine what that might be!

The tradition, practice, and discipline of the Church continues to insist that the call to ordained priesthood requires the respondent to be male. Any explanation beyond this simple statement would be strained and of little use. We are aware of the traditions that are practiced in other Christian denominations. We are probably aware of the Roman Catholic theology of priesthood that is offered in support of the practice. We can probably offer example after example in support or in disagreement of the practice. None of it matters when it comes up against the hard truth of the tradition, practice, and discipline: the priesthood requires a baptized male for validity. *



CARLOS DANIEL / CATHOPIC

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- **SYNODAL BIBLE STUDY** - each **Wednesday at 3:00pm** in the Pastor's office, is inspired by the method of **Spiritual conversation** used during the Synod on Synodality. It is leading a small group using the texts from the Sacred Scriptures in a structured format. Make sure to bring your **Catholic Bible**. Contact Fr. Joe at 705-0236
- EMMAUS Bible Study: Each Tuesday at 3pm
- Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist celebration - Saturdays at 7:00pm

St. THERESA'S

- During the winter season St. Theresa's Cathedral will be locked at 4:00pm from Monday to Friday.
- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
- Noon Day Mass in St. Theresa's Cathedral: The 12:10pm Mass is celebrated each Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday - Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- Praying the Rosary is on each Wednesday at 10:00am
- A weekly Portuguese Mass is celebrated each Wednesday at 7:00pm.
- Adoration each Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP

- *Opening hours* - 10:00am-2:00pm. Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards are on sale for only \$2 each, and great Gift ideas too for your special confirmandi.
- **VOLUNTEER NEEDED** that can assist for 2 hours/week on Saturdays from 12-2PM, or as a fill-in for any absences. If you can assist, please call 292-0416 or drop by in person. Thank you

CAN YOU HELP? We are looking for a Carpenter to make a Glass and wood display case for a special statue and relic which has been donated to St. Michael's. If you can help would you please email stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com, or call Karen at 799 0842. Thank you in advance.

Upcoming Events



Please congratulate these young people who will be Confirmed by Bishop Wes **this Sunday at 2pm** at St. Theresa's Cathedral.
Patrick McDowell
John Jefferis Jr.
McKenna Redcliffe

May the Holy Spirit fill their hearts and become an integral part of their continuing Faith journey now and forever.

God bless you and your families on this special occasion and always.

DISCOVER OR REDISCOVER CATHOLICISM (DORC) is open for anyone - converts, reverts, life-long catholics, the curious, those interested in the faith, those questioning the faith - and is based upon 88 common questions with many answers by using the Sacred Scriptures (SS) and the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). We will meet on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30 pm starting on May 27 at St. Michael's Church (South Shore) in the Pastor's Office. This is based upon the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in a casual group discussion setting, Contact Fr. Joe at 705-0236 for further details.

SUMMER LUNCH & MOVIE Bishop Wes and Fr. Dandy are planning to have a Summer Lunch & Movie Thursdays in St. Theresa's Hall. The event will take place on Thursdays in July and August, starting with the 2nd of July and ending on the 27th of August. This event will include lunch (soup + sandwiches/bread + ice-cream + coffee/tea) at 12:00pm, with the movie starting at 12:30pm. We are looking for volunteers to assist with organisation of the lunch. If you want to commit for the entire program time, or just for a part of it, please send an email to sttheresas@northrock.bm or orcc.bermuda@gmail.com

SUMMER FUN!!! A DINNER BINGO NIGHT

hosted by Trish and Debbie are hosting a
on Saturday, May 30th at 7:30pm
Tickets: \$30 for adults, includes water or a soft drink
Children under 12 years are FREE

Tickets can be purchased at weekend Masses at St. Anthony's or by email to Debbie or Trish please note no tickets available at the door!
Bingo cards \$5 each

Donations of prizes are welcome!
Hope to see you there!
Debbie (newdebnik@gmail.com)
Trish (pschrah@gmail.com)