

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church (1930)

SHRINE TO INFANT JESUS of PRAGUE (2003)



PARISH WEBSITE

www.qop.ca

e-mail: office@qop.ca

PASTOR: Rev. John Domotor
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Carol Molloy
 PARISH MUSIC DIRECTOR: Helen Krauch

HUNGARIAN Mass: Rev. John Domotor
 SPANISH Mass: Rev. Benoit Laplante
 TRADITIONAL LATIN Mass: Rev. John Domotor

WWW.LATINMASSVICTORIA.COM

Our Lady Queen of Peace, 849 OLD ESQUIMALT Road, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA V9A 4W9

MONDAYS: CHURCH & PARISH OFFICE ARE CLOSED

PARISH OFFICE OPEN TUESDAY – FRIDAY 9.00 – 12.00 & 1.00 – 4.15 ☎ 250.384.3884 Fax: 250.384.3664

		SUNDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
M A S S	Weekday	-	12.10	12.10	12.10	12.10	-
	Weekend	10.00	-	-	-	-	5.00
	TRADITIONAL LATIN	12.00	-	-	-	9.00	-
	SPANISH 2nd & Last Sunday of the month	2.00	-	-	-	-	-
	HUNGARIAN 3rd Sunday every month	2.00	-	-	-	-	-
ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT every Tuesday and 1 st Friday of the month		-	10.00	-	-	10.00	-
ROSARY - 1st Friday of the month - 10:30 am		-	11.00	11.30	11.30	11.30	-
Devotion to MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP		-	-	after Mass 12.10	-	-	-
Devotion to INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE		-	-	-	after Mass 12.10	-	-
CONFESSIONS: 1st Sat. of every month 3:00- 4:00pm. Ring the bell and enter when GREEN light is ON.		9:15am- 9:30am	10:15 – 11:30am	11:00 – 11:45am	11:00- 11:45am	10:15 – 11:30am	4:00-4:30pm

BAPTISMS: To have your child baptized at Our Lady Queen of Parish, please call the Parish Office at least 3 months in advance to arrange an appointment with the Pastor. Parents are expected to participate in the Baptismal preparation course TBA.

MARRIAGES: If you wish to have your marriage solemnized at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, please call the office at least 6 months prior to the intended date as the preparation for this life commitment takes time, thought and considerable paper work. If you are not registered at Our Lady Queen of Peace parish have the documents prepared in your own Parish.

The CWL: meets on the 2nd Wed. of every month after Noon Mass
PRESIDENT: ELSIE LAMBTON
No meetings in July & August

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS – *meeting held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Community Centre
 *4th Degree-3rd Thurs. of the month - 7pm **Contact: FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR: Michael O’Rielly - 250.477.8950**
 3rd Degree(Council 1256) -1st Mon. & 2nd Thurs. at 7.00 p.m. **Grand Knight: Don Lambton - 250.995.1531**

IMPORTANT: IN THE HOSPITAL?

If you or family member is hospitalize or is going to the hospital and would like to be visited by your PARISH PRIEST, Please call the PARISH OFFICE to make this request.

HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ONLY!

After office hours including weekends, holidays or during the night, you can call: the Hospital Chaplain: ☎250.889.3761

KEEPING IN CONTACT: We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you here, celebrating with us, whether long time residents or newly arrived in the Parish. We thank God that you are with us. If we may assist you, please fill out the form below and place in the collection basket or mail to the PARISH OFFICE (address on top) . THANK YOU. Please mark the proper BOX (below on the left side).

- New Parishioner
- Have moved here is new address
- I am home-bound and would like someone to visit me
- I am going to be in the hospital, please call on me

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

☎ HOME ☎ WORK

e-mail: _____@_____

SUNDAY DONATIONS can be done by using:
 boxed Sunday Envelopes or by automatic bank withdrawal. (The PARISH OFFICE can supply you with necessary documents).

'Legacies'

Our Lady Queen of Peace acknowledges with gratitude past legacies which we use to maintain the integrity of our Church.

Please include us in your 'LAST WILL', how will we survive without it?

Legacies are a way of providing assurance that the parish has income or savings in the event of unforeseen emergencies.

The monthly 'Building Fund and Collection' pays for maintenance/replacement items.

Baptism at Our Lady Queen of Peace

To have your child Baptized at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, you must **call the office at least 3 months in advance to arrange an appointment with the Pastor.** It is assumed that the family has Our Lady Queen of Peace parish connection and practices the faith by attending Sunday Mass on a weekly basis. You may meet with the Pastor and take the course even if your child has not yet been born. **Parents are expected to participate in the Baptismal preparation.** At least one Godparent or both must be baptized and confirmed and are practicing Catholics. **Non-parishioners are required to have a Letter of Recommendation from your Pastor to have your child Baptized in our parish.**

Respect Life Ministry

If you are expecting a child and are feeling confused; if you are thinking that there is no way out of this situation for you; if you want to talk to someone, call, text 250.812.0087 email: respectlifem@gmail.com

Please Note

If you suffer from Celiac disease, we are able to offer a low-gluten Host. If you are interested, please come to the sacristy before Mass and inform the priest.

Piano Lessons!

Queen of Peace Music Director, **Helen Krauch**, offering piano lessons in your own home all ages and levels

Contact: 778-922-3684 - Email: krauchenator@gmail.com



Catholic Women's League

CWL members and all women of the parish, our last meeting will be on **Tues., June 7 at 1:00pm.** To wrap up for the summer, we will meet for lunch at **Gaby's Resturant at West Bay Marina in Esquimalt.** Please remember, to bring unwrapped baby gifts as this will also be a **"Baby Shower" for Birthright.**

Birthright is a crisis pregnancy service offering loving support and concrete assistance to women in troubled pregnancies

MASS	INTENTIONS	For: Requested by:
May 17	TUESDAY	Jeannine Wauthy+ Yves Wauthy
May 18	WEDNESDAY	Holy Souls in Purgatory Augustina Manguerra
May 19	THURSDAY	Melanie Espineli+ Joey Espineli
May 20	FRIDAY	Amparo Clarito+ Augustina Manguerra
May 21	SATURDAY	Holy Souls in Purgatory Anne VanNoordt

May 24	TUESDAY	
May 25	WEDNESDAY	Rafaela Escano+ Joel & Irene Liggay
May 26	THURSDAY	Bernard Wauthy+ Yves Wauthy
May 27	FRIDAY	
May 28	SATURDAY	

May 31	TUESDAY	NO MASS (Fr. John on Retreat)
June 1	WEDNESDAY	NO MASS (Fr. John on Retreat)
June 2	THURSDAY	NO MASS (Fr. John on Retreat)
June 3	FRIDAY	NO MASS (Fr. John on Retreat)
June 4	SATURDAY	MASS – 5:00pm

Please remember the following persons who are ill in your prayers: Carly Eagan, Barbara Dunahee, Lucy Praud, Lorna Cue, Dina McGregor, Ann VanNoordt, Lynn Wood, Agnes Berard, Christine Stornebrink, Frank Domotor, Anneke McKay,

Financial Statement (Collections) - JAN. 2016

Sat./Sun. (Envelopes)	\$ 5,336.70
Sat./Sun. (Loose)	\$ 698.95
Latin Mass (Envelopes)	\$ 2,501.00
Latin Mass (Loose)	\$ 394.70
Spanish/Hungarian Mass	\$ 343.90

Direct Deposit \$ 785.00

TOTAL COLLECTIONS \$ 10,060.25

Building Maintenance Donations \$ 0

Financial Statement (Collections) - FEB. 2016

Sat./Sun. (Envelopes)	\$ 4,210.00
Sat./Sun. (Loose)	\$ 563.55
Latin Mass (Envelopes)	\$ 1,610.00
Latin Mass (Loose)	\$ 387.50
Spanish / Hungarian Mass	\$ 279.30

Direct Deposit \$ 785.00

TOTAL COLLECTIONS \$ 7,835.35

Building Maintenance Donations \$ 425.00

An estimated \$10,000 per month (\$2,500 per week) is required to cover our operating expenses.

Thank you to all who contributed to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish to assist with our operating expenses.

Traditional Latin Mass for May

Fri. May 20th – 9:00am: Whitsun Friday

Sun. May 22nd – Noon: Trinity Sunday

Mon. May 23rd – 9:00am: Votive Mass to celebrate the 90th birthday of Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada (Mass of the 1st Sunday after Pentecost) with commem. pro rege

Thurs. May 26th – 9:00am: Solemn Feast of Corpus Christi (no procession, exposition or adoration to follow)

Fri. May 27th - 9:00am: Feast of St. Bede the Venerable, Doctor of the Church.

Sun. May 29th – Noon: Second Sunday after Pentecost (no Corpus Christi rites to follow)

Traditional Latin Mass for June

Sun. June 5th – Noon: Third Sunday after Pentecost

Thurs. June 9th – 9:00am: First Anniversary Requiem Mass for Bernard Wauthy, with Sequence & Absolution

Fri. June 10th – 9:00am: Feast of St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland, Widow

Sun. June 12th – Noon: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Wed. June 15th – 9:00am: Mass of the Dead for Constance Brown

Thurs. June 16th – 9:00am: Unprivileged Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Fri. June 17th - 9:00am: Feast of St. Gregory Barbarigo

Sun. June 19th – Noon: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day

Fri. June 24th – 9:00am: Feast of St. John the Baptist

Sun. June 26th – Noon: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Wed. June 29th – 9:00am: Feast of SS. Peter & Paul, Apostles

Sat. July 2–10am: Feast of the Visitation of Our Lady

Special Collection – (next weekend)

Fort McMurray Wildfire

As you are aware, Fort McMurray has suffered a disastrous wildfire. **Bishop Gary has invited parishes** to participate in supporting the Diocese of St. Paul with a **special collection next weekend May 21 & 22. Cheques can be made out to Our Lady Queen of Peace Church but please mark in the Memo “Fort McMurray Fire Disaster Relief”** Special envelopes are available.

"Parenting for Character in Today's World"

Please join us for a seminar entitled "Parenting for Character in Today's World" presented by Dr. Andrew Mullins, Associate Adjunct Professor at the University of Notre Dame (Sydney, Australia) and author of "Parenting for Character: Equipping Your Child for Life". To be held on **Wed. May 25th, at Seghers Hall (St Andrew's Cathedral). Registration at 7pm, presentation begins at 7:30pm.** Suggested donation of \$10 per person at the door For details, please **contact Ulrika Drevniok at 250.743.8444 or ulrika.drevniok@gmail.com**

Garden Babies for Birthright Plant Sale

Featuring dwarf and low varieties: ground covers and rock plants, & the usual favourites, including flowering shrubs, perennials, herbs & veggie starts. Bring your **plant donations** to the Parish Hall on **Fri., May 27- 3-5pm** (Birthright is a pro-life crisis pregnancy service offering loving support and concrete assistance to women in troubled pregnancies Please contact Peggy: 250.478.5372 or peggymc@spinnaker.com for questions or to volunteer at the sale.

Sacred Heart Parish

Invites you to our celebration of Sacred Heart on **Fri., June 3rd**, we will begin our feast with a Procession at 5:30pm – from the base of the carpark (meet outside of Parish Hall) Mass at 6:00pm, followed by BBQ and Potluck and festivities.

St. Andrew's High School – “Car Wash”

SARHS after grad 2016, **Car Wash & Bottle Drive Sat. June 4th, 2016** at St. Andrew's Regional High School - 880 McKenzie Ave. – 10am to 2pm. All proceeds go towards the after grad celebration. Please come out and support our grads.

Women's Breakfast

Sat., June 4th at 8:00 am at the Horseshoe Clue, 620 - Kenneth Street. Cost is \$12 and the Guest Speakers will be: Camille Santos and Tanner Logan. Topic: “A Heart for Him.” Register at the Women of Faith and Fellowship Breakfast and complete the form: <http://goo.gl/forms/YZBsVBBYrz>

St. Joseph the Worker Parish

Come and See! Pope Francis' new letter on the "Joy of Love" is profound and life giving. Mr. Glen Palahicky, Director of Religious Education, will animate reflection on this letter at **St. Joseph the Worker, (753 West Burnside Rd) and on Wed. June 8th, 7:00-8:30p.m. and at the Church of the Ascension, Parksville on Wed. June 15, 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

St. Patrick's Church

June 10th at 7:30 pm at St. Patrick's Church enjoy the live multimedia drama presentation of Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy, performed by Maria Vargo, admission \$10.00, suitable for all ages 13 & up. For information, contact St. Patrick's office at 250-592-7391 or email: www.divinemercydrama.com

Men's Breakfast

Our final Men's Breakfast is our annual **Family Breakfast**. This event will be on Sat. **June 18**, at **St. Joseph the Worker Gym and Hall**. The Knights of Columbus have graciously agreed to cater the breakfast. \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth **Please invite your family. To register contact Men's Breakfast Group info@mcaff.org**

Ordination to Diaconate

Mr. Michael Tinh Tran, a seminarian for the Diocese of Victoria, presently in formation at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario, **will be ordained to the Order of Deacon on Friday, July 8th, 2016 at 6:30 pm at Christ the King Parish in Courtenay**. A reception in the parish hall will follow, and all are welcome to attend the Mass and celebration.

Summer Day Camp

For 12 to 17 year olds, **July 11 to 15, 9am - 2pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 798 Goldstream Ave**. Email: olor@shaw.ca or call 250-478-3482. Learn to defend the faith, Catholicism and have fun. Cost is \$70.

Cathedral Bible Camp

St. Andrew's summer camp will take place **July 18 to the 22 at St. Andrew's High school**. This camp runs from 9:00 to 4:00 each day with an extra hour of care before and after at no extra charge. We provide T-shirts, snacks and plenty of opportunity for activity. We will have two field trips and will be taking Wilson transportation to transport the children. Camp is faith based and open to children from the ages of 4 to 12. The cost of camp is \$50.00/child, to register please call the Cathedral office at 250-388-5571 or standrewscathedral@gmail.com

Diocesan Family Conference

Please save **Aug 12-14** on your calendar for a wonderful opportunity to join other Catholic families from around the island and spend precious time with your family on the shores of Nanoose Bay at the 4th annual Diocesan Family conference. With plenty of opportunity to rest and play in the ocean, we will also be treated to a wonderful keynote speaker, the holy, dynamic Fr Clair Watrin, founding chaplain of CCO (Catholic Christian Outreach) who loves families and youth. Bishop Gary will join us too as we pray, play and deepen our family relationships. To **register** please go to diocesan website: rcdvictoria.org

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has revised its Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide webpage to centralize resources from several organizations and dioceses across Canada, you can access their page in two ways diocesan homepage: www.rcdvictoria.org or directly on the CCCB site: <http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/media-room/euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide>

St. Andrew's Regional High School

Applications are being accepted for Grades 8-12 Please contact the school office for more information or to book a tour. 250-479-1414. Andrew J. Keleher, **Principal, St. Andrew's Regional High School**

Eucharistic Adoration

St. Patrick's Church in Oak Bay has a Eucharistic Chapel that is available day and night (24 / 7). The chapel can be accessed through the Parish Centre between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. For visits after office hours, a person must register with the parish office (250-592-7391) to be assigned a code which will allow entry through the door at the back of the church. Access to the back of the church is from Carrick Street."

ST. PATRICKS CWL NEWS AND INVITATION

Allan York, who has a Masters Degree and 48 years of experience in counselling will once again be speaking on the subject of **MENTAL ILLNESS IN ADULTS** on **Tuesday June 7 from 7:00 - 7:45** in Our Lady of Lourdes Hall. Allan will be discussing the effects of mental illness on spouses and family , the stigma and importance of honest communication regarding this illness, and accessing support services. A brief question period will follow. The CWL meeting will proceed after the question period. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.**

Overcoming the “Huh” Factor:

Clarifying the Jubilee Indulgence

by Bishop-elect Scott McCaig, CC

Companions of the Cross, Spring 2016

Recently someone came to me holding a pamphlet that announced the Jubilee of Mercy Indulgence – and wearing a rather puzzled expression. The words on that pamphlet read, “An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. Indulgences help to purify us from the effects of our sins, such as bad habits and attachments to worldly things.” The question he asked me matched the one written all over his face: “Huh? What in the world does this mean?!” I could sympathize. When I was first investigating the Catholic faith some 30 years ago I had the same puzzled expression when someone tried to explain to me the meaning of an indulgence. In fact, I think my verbal response may have been “huh?”

What I eventually discovered all those years ago is that indulgences are actually fairly easy to understand – and very biblical! To explain what an indulgence is let me begin with an analogy: Imagine for a moment that you ran a red light in your car and crashed into another vehicle. Now, there are two major consequences to your action. The first is that you are guilty of breaking the law. The fine that you incur has to be paid or you will end up in jail! The second consequence is all the damage that you caused to your car and to the other person’s car. These vehicles need to be repaired or they will remain damaged and dangerous.

In a similar way....when we sin we break God’s law and there are also two major consequences to our actions. The first is eternal and spiritual: In the case of mortal sin the spiritual consequences are the worst imaginable – loss of friendship with God and eternal damnation! In the case of venial sins there is a wound to, and a weakening of, our relationship with God. Just like the traffic ticket the debt of our guilt must be paid. When we seek forgiveness from God with a humble and contrite heart (and confession for serious sins) God forgives our guilt and the debt of our sins is washed away in the Blood of Jesus. Jesus paid the price for our violations of God’s law!

But that is not the end of the matter. As it says in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “the forgiveness of sin and restoration of communion with God entail the remission of the eternal punishment of sin, but temporal punishment of sin remains” (CCC 1473). Just as the cars were damaged and needed to be

repaired, when we sin we also cause damage to our souls and the souls of others! Sin wounds us. It forms evil habits and attachments in us. It warps our understanding of spiritual realities. It weakens and wounds are spiritually dangerous and must also be healed.

There is also a communal dimension to our sins. In fact, Pope St. John Paul II declared in his 1984 exhortation *On Reconciliation and Penance* that “ a soul that lowers itself through sin drags down with itself the Church and , in some way, the whole world.” Our sins hurt others even if they are private and personal. Right at the beginning of creation we view the temporal effects of our first parent’s sin: “To the woman he said, I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing: in pain you shall bring forth children (Gen 2:16).” And we see in the life of David that even after sin is forgiven the temporal effects of the sin remain: “Then David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’” Nathan answered David: “The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin; you shall not die. But since you have utterly spurned the Lord by this deed, the child born to you must surely die” (2 Sam 12:13-14). God forgave David but David still had to suffer great loss as well as other temporal punishments (2 Sam 12:7-12). It is not that God is taking revenge for our sins but rather it is the very nature of sin that we push away the hand of God’s blessing and loving protection.

This explains why we receive a penance after confessing our sins and receiving absolution. In addition to demonstrating contrition for our sins, our penance helps to heal the damage we have caused to our souls and helps make reparation for the damage we have caused to others. We find deeper healing for the wounds of sin and ‘raise up’ the world! Our penance is a help to our ongoing conversion, and as the Catechism affirms, “a conversion which proceeds from a fervent charity can attain the complete purification of the sinner in such a way that no punishment would remain” (CCC 1472).

This is also where indulgences come in. They assist us in healing the temporal effects of sin in our conversion process. Essentially, the Church exercises the authority given her by the Lord (Mt 18:18) and designates certain acts of prayer, penance, or charity for the remission of these temporal punishments due to our sins. The Catholic Catechism explains that, “an indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of temporal punishment due to sin” (CCC1471). What an amazing gift of God’s mercy!

Indulgences can even be applied to those who have passed away. We know that ‘nothing unclean will enter into heaven’ (see Rev 21:27), so in purgatory souls are healed and cleansed from the temporal effects of their sin. In this way they are purified and prepared for heaven. Indulgences can be applied to them by way of prayer and this greatly assists them. It is an act of charity for the faithful departed. The Catholic Answers website illustrates an example of this from the Old Testament.

Judah Maccabee finds the bodies of soldiers who died wearing superstitious amulets during one of the Lord’s battles. Judah and his men “turned to prayer, beseeching that the sin which had been committed might be wholly blotted out” (2 Macc 12:42). The reference to the sin being “wholly blotted out” refers to its temporal penalties. The author of 2 Maccabees tells us that for these men Judah “was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness” (verse 45); he believed that these men fell asleep in godliness, which would not have been the case if they were in mortal sin. If there were not in mortal sin, then they would not have eternal penalties to suffer, and thus the complete blotting out of their sin must refer to temporal penalties for their superstitious actions. Judah “took up a collection, man by man, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin offering. In doing this...he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin” (versus 43, 46). Judah not only prayed for the dead, but he provided for them the then-appropriate ecclesial action for lessening temporal penalties: a sin offering. Accordingly, we may take the now-appropriate ecclesial action for lessening temporal penalties – indulgences – and apply them to the dead by way of prayer.

(<http://www.catholic.com/tracts/prime-on-indulgences>)

It is important to realize that one must have the proper disposition to receive an indulgence. And that disposition is faith! God cannot be bribed or fooled. We cannot perform some good deed with evil or unrepentant hearts and think that we can thereby manipulate God into granting these graces. It is gravely sinful to attempt to do so. This evil disposition can even wound the Church. It was in large part the abuse of indulgences that sparked the Protestant Reformation that so deeply wounded the unity of the Church. The proper disposition that the Church requires of us to obtain an indulgence is that we have no deliberate attachment to sin. This doesn’t mean that we are sinless or that we must already be saints, but that we are sincerely trying to

live out our Baptismal promises to reject evil and live for God.

You have probably noticed that there are conditions applied to indulgences; one must receive certain sacraments and pray certain prayers. Why is this? Simply to help safeguard the purpose of indulgences and the intention of the person seeking to obtain it. The healing grace of the indulgence is all about growing closer to the Lord! What better way to properly dispose our souls than sincere prayer and reception of the Sacraments!

Indulgences are great blessings of the Lord’s healing grace and goodness. There are many ways to receive an indulgence and we can receive them at any time, but they have special significance during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

At the outset of this jubilee, Pope Francis stated that he wanted the “celebration of the Holy Year to be for all believers a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God.” He said that, “it is indeed my wish that the Jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective.” And for this reason he announced a special Jubilee of Mercy Indulgence. He has invited each of the faithful to take these steps:

- Make a brief pilgrimage and pass through a Door of Mercy as a sign of your deep desire for true conversion
- Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (up to 20 days before or after your pilgrimage).
- Participate in a celebration of the Holy Eucharist.
- Reflect on the mercy of God.
- Make a profession of faith (like the Apostles Creed)
- Offer a prayer (such as an Our Father) for the Pope and his intentions.

And the mercy just keeps coming! For those whom it is impossible to enter a Holy Door, such as the sick and the elderly, Pope Francis invites them to live a deep closeness to the Lord in their suffering. To obtain the indulgence they need only receive communion or attend Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication (e.g. television, radio, internet, etc.).

For those incarcerated they may obtain the indulgence in the chapels of their prisons.

And any of the faithful may obtain the indulgence by performing one of the temporal works of mercy (to feed the hungry; to give drink to the thirsty; to clothe the naked;

to harbour the harbourless / shelter the homeless; to visit the sick; to ransom the captive / visit the imprisoned; to bury the dead) or the spiritual works of mercy (to instruct the ignorant; to counsel the doubtful; to admonish sinners; to bear wrongs patiently; to forgive offences willingly; to comfort the afflicted; to pray for the living and the dead). We can easily see that there could be a veritable waterfall of Mercy if we all take advantage of this marvelous grace.

Let us pray that the goal of Pope Francis for this indulgence is fully realized, the intention he articulated in this way: "I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God's mercy, which comes to meet each person in the face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed." Instead of a hesitating "huh?" let us offer a hearty "Amen!"

What is the Christian Celebration of Pentecost All About?

By Rev. Dr. Mark D. Roberts. Reprinted with permission.
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<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/markdroberts/>

On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon those followers of Jesus who had gathered together in Jerusalem. What happened on the first Pentecost continues to happen to Christians throughout the world today, though usually not in such a dramatic fashion. We rarely get a heavenly wind and tongues of fire anymore. Nevertheless, God pours out the Spirit upon all who put their faith in Jesus Christ and become his disciples (see Romans 8:1-11).

Christians are meant to live in the presence and power of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit helps us to confess Jesus as Lord (1 Cor 12:3), empowers us to serve God with supernatural power (1 Cor 12:4-11), binds us together as the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:12-13), helps us to pray (Rom 8:26), and even intercedes for us with God the Father (Rom 8:27). The Spirit guides us (Gal 5:25), helping us to live like Jesus (Gal 5:22-23).

Personal Implications: Pentecost presents us with an opportunity to consider how we are living each day. Are we relying on the power of God's Spirit? Are we an open channel for the Spirit's gifts? Are we attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Is the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc.) growing in our lives? Most Christians I know, including me, live in the presence and power of the Spirit,

but only to an extent. We are limited by our fear, our sin, our low expectations, not to mention our tendency to be distracted from God's work in us.

Pentecost offers a chance to confess our failure to live by the Spirit and to ask the Lord to fill us afresh with his power.

The Central Role of the Church in God's Work in the World

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on individual followers of Jesus as they were gathered together in Jerusalem. This gathering became the first Christian church. New believers in Jesus were baptized as they joined this church. They, along with the first followers of Jesus, shared life together, focusing on teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. They shared their belongings so that no one was hungry or needy. As these first Christians lived out their new faith together, "the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). Thus we speak of Pentecost as the birthday of the church.

In theory, the Spirit could have been poured out on the followers of Jesus when they were not gathered together. There are surely times when the Holy Spirit touches an individual who is alone in prayer, worship or ministry to others. But the fact that the Spirit was given to a gathering of believers is not incidental. It underscores the centrality of the church in God's work in the world. The actions of the earliest Christians put all of this in boldface. The Holy Spirit is not only given to individuals, but also, in a sense to the gathered people of God. Thus, in 1 Corinthians 3, the Apostle Paul observes that the church is God's temple and that the Spirit dwells in the midst of the church (3:16-17); in 1 Cor 6:19-20 we find a complementary emphasis on the dwelling of the Spirit in individual Christians.

Personal Implications: Many Christians, especially those of us who have been influenced by the individualism of American culture, live as if the church is useful but unnecessary. We seem to believe that as long as we have a personal relationship with God, everything else is secondary. But Pentecost is a vivid illustration of the truth that is found throughout Scripture: the community of God's people is central to God's work in the world. Thus, Pentecost invites us to consider our own participation in the fellowship worship, and mission of the church. It is a time to renew our commitment to live as an essential member of the body of Christ, using our gifts to build the church and share the love and justice of Christ with the world.

The Multilingual Nature and Mission of the Church

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit empowered believers in Jesus to praise God in many languages that they had not learned in the ordinary manner (Acts 2:5-13). Symbolically, this miracle reinforces the multilingual multicultural, multiracial mission of the church. We are to be a community in which all people are drawn together by God's love in Christ. As Paul writes in Galatians 3:28: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Personal Implications: Although there are some glorious exceptions, it seems that the church has not, in general, lived out its multilingual mission. We are often divided according to language, race, and ethnicity. Pentecost challenges all of us to examine our own attitudes in the regard, to reject and repent of any prejudice that lurks within us, and to open our hearts to all people, even and especially those who do not share our language and culture. Yes, I know this is not easy. But it is central to our calling. And it is something that the Spirit of God will help us to do if we are available.

The Inclusive Ministry of the Church

After the Holy Spirit fell upon the first followers of Jesus, Peter preached a sermon to help folks understand what had just happened. In this sermon he cited a portion of a prophecy from Joel:

'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—and they will prophesy. (Acts 2:17-18; Joel 2:28-29).

Later, Peter explained that the Spirit would be given to all who turned from their sin and turned to God through Jesus (Acts 2:38). This was a momentous, watershed event. For the first time in history, God began to do what he had promised through Joel, empowering all different sorts of people for ministry. Whereas in the era of the Old Testament, the Spirit was poured out almost exclusively on prophets, priests, and kings, in the age of the New Testament, the Spirit would be given to "all people." All would be empowered to minister regardless of their gender, age, or social position.

Although this truth would not mean that every Christian would be gifted for every kind of ministry, it did imply that all believers would be empowered by the Spirit. The church of Jesus Christ would be a place where every single person matters, where every member contributes to the health and mission of the church (see Eph 4:11-16).

Personal Implications: Each Christian needs to ask: Am I serving God through the power of the Spirit? Am I exercising the gifts of the Spirit in my life, both in the gathered church and as I live for God in the world? Pentecost is a time to ask God to fill us afresh with the Spirit so that we might join in the ministry of Christ with gusto. And it is a time to renew our commitment to fulfilling our crucial role in the ministry of God's people in the world.

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