



News Letter

5th June 2022 **Pentecost** No 18



What is the Origin of Pentecost?

Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early weeks of harvest. In Palestine, there were two harvests each year. The early harvest came during the months of May and June; the final harvest came in the Autumn. Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early wheat harvest, which meant that Pentecost always fell sometime during the middle of the month of May or sometimes in early June.

There were several festivals, celebrations, or observances that took place before Pentecost. There was Passover, there was Unleavened Bread, and there was the Feast of Firstfruits. The Feast of Firstfruits was the celebration of the beginning of the barley harvest.



Here's the way you figured out the date of Pentecost. According to the Old Testament, you would go to the day of the celebration of Firstfruits, and beginning with that day, you would count off 50 days. The fiftieth day would be the Day of Pentecost. So Firstfruits is the beginning of the barley harvest and Pentecost the celebration of the beginning of the wheat harvest. Since it was always 50 days after Firstfruits, and since 50 days equals seven weeks, it always came a "week of weeks" later. Therefore, they either called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks.

Why Is Pentecost Important to Christianity?

Modern Christians observe Pentecost as a holiday, not to celebrate a wheat harvest, but to remember when the Holy Spirit invaded the Church in [Acts 2](#).

1. On Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit filled the Church with power and added 3,000 new believers. The account in Act 2 reports that, after Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus' followers were gathered together for the Feast of Harvest (aka Pentecost), and the Holy Spirit "*filled the whole house where they were sitting*" ([Acts 2:2](#)). "*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them*" ([Acts 2:4](#)).

This strange occurrence drew a large crowd, and Peter stood up to speak to them about repentance and the gospel of Christ ([Acts 2:14](#)). By the end of the day that the Holy Spirit came, the Church grew by 3,000 people ([Acts 2:41](#)).

This is why Christians still celebrate Pentecost.

2. The Holy Spirit was prophesied in the Old Testament and promised by Jesus. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit in [John 14:26](#), who would be the Helper for his people. "*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*"

The Significance of Pentecost Today

The significance of Pentecost to the church is something that we need to walk through carefully, and we shouldn't ignore, because Pentecost was a Jewish celebration. And so in our modern day of the New Testament church, we don't celebrate Pentecost in the way that the Old Testament Hebrews did. But Pentecost was the moment in history after Christ had ascended. He had promised that he would leave and that he would send the comforter, he would send the holy spirit. And it was at that moment in Pentecost where the spirit came, and he empowered the early believers, specifically the apostles that were left, and Peter, who is almost a comedic personality in the gospel narratives.

This New Testament event is also significant because it fulfills an Old Testament prophecy in [Joel 2:28-29](#).



Peter is the one who constantly puts his foot in his mouth, constantly is having to be corrected by Jesus, but is in the inner circle. He is chosen to be the one who stands up in front of this throng and say "And let me tell you about the Messiah, who is the eternal protection for all of humanity. Let me tell you who he is."

And so Pentecost becomes this marker in history to really what many people would say, "And that's the moment that church is born."

Excerpts from "Keep Believing Ministries"

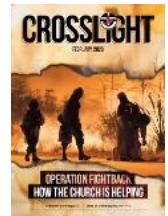


Bible Readings for June 5th Pentecost (the readings used in our service may differ slightly)

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-8 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17, (25-27)

CROSSLIGHT is available on the internet - click on the following link or the CROSSLIGHT image to view online. www.crosslight.org.au

Print copies of CROSSLIGHT usually available at the entrance of the Black Rock Uniting Church. Latest CROSSLIGHT now available from David Vine, 4 Jedda Crt. Cheltenham 9583 7373.



Prayers of the People



Virginia (*Nan's friend*)

Betty Kneen

Dawn's daughter Carol

Pete, Christine, Bruce & Valda
(*friends of Jo-ann & David*)

Grace Fairbank

Rosemary & Bob

Gemma and Teresa

We pray especially for -

Stuart as he struggles with
addiction

Jenny, Janine and June

Bartholomeusz

Audrey Fewster

Margaret's neighbour Joan

Anita and Kingsley

Susan Bartell

Bronwyn

Gloria, Samson & Family

Barb Loosemore

Isobel Churchward

Jo-ann (*cataract op this week*)

Fiona (*cataract op next week*)

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

Envelopes: If you wish your offering to be specifically for Cheltenham , please place it in an envelope marked "Cheltenham" and place it in the offering bowl at church.

Direct Debit: Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our new Westpac account at Southland, **BSB number is 033 358, Account Number is 664 881**

Payee "Uniting Church in Australia Cheltenham Mentone Parish Council"

The former Commonwealth Bank - BSB 06 3119, Account Number 1014 1206 - is still active for the time being.

Cheltenham-Mentone Members: Please bear in mind that although we are worshipping at Black Rock, the expenses of electricity, water, insurance, maintenance and Minister's stipend are still ongoing at Cheltenham.

Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am (*virtual doors open 9:45 am*)



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download>

Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85247373230?pwd=WIM2UHJEemFWS3RScnNqM3puagDZdz09>

Otherwise open Zoom and enter the following - **Meeting ID: 852 4737 3230 Passcode: 836844**

You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.



Videos on the Internet



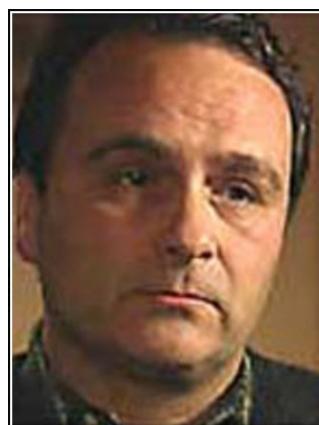
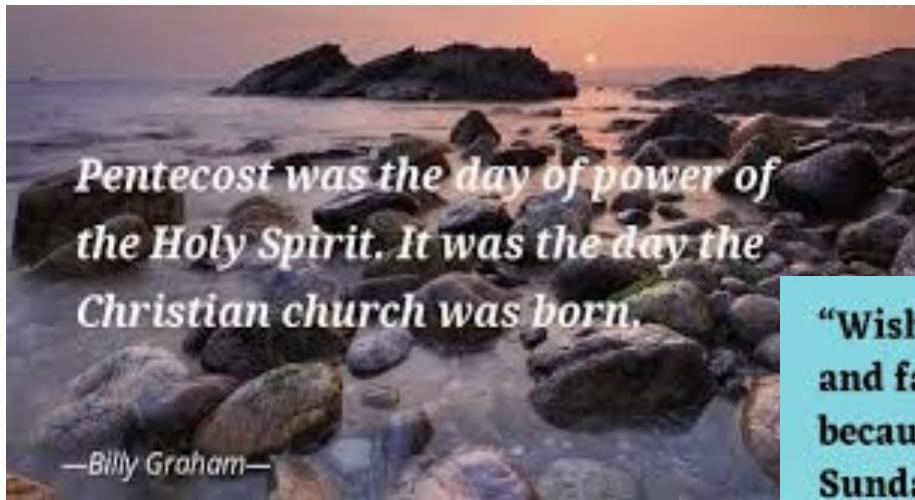
NEW YouTube Channel; Follow this link or click on the YouTube logo
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH-y4pZ_f_lezegzNZi6nnQ
to view a selection of **over 50** sermons and service preludes



Social Collection Department

BayCISS - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them (Graeme & Joan Wood) on 9555 0462

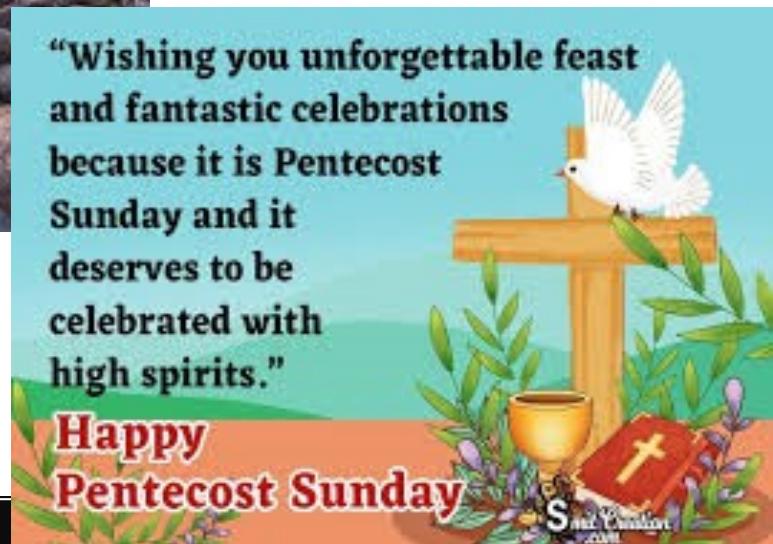
Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to take items to the Moorabbin office if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale.



Bethlehem was God with us, Calvary was God for us, and Pentecost is God in us.

— Robert Baer —

AZ QUOTES



Don't forget the June Challenge - read the Book of Acts

Study Resources:

“Acts - A Bible Study Commentary” by FF Bruce is a Kindle (electronic) Book \$6.26 . Click [HERE](#) or on image below or - <https://www.amazon.com.au/Acts-Bible-Commentary-F-F-Bruce-ebook/dp/B074KJWDBT>

“Acts for Everyone” by Tom Wright Click [HERE](#) or on image below or - https://www.koorong.com/product/acts-for-everyone-part-2-chapters-13-28_9780281071852

To view the “Book of Acts” video click [HERE](#) or image below or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGbNw855ksw>

