

CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MARY'S MACLEAN



ST JOHN'S CHURCH



ST MARY'S CHURCH



ST JAMES CHURCH

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PENTECOST SUNDAY, YEAR A: 24 MAY 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we celebrate today of descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The disciples of Jesus were internally transformed and spiritually equipped for their mission when they received the Holy Spirit. As the Lord Jesus called him, the Holy Spirit is the Paraclete, the helper and guide of his Church and of every follower of Christ.

In the Collect, we express firstly the fact that God sanctifies or makes holy with his holiness the whole Church present in every people and nation, in communities of disciples, parishes and dioceses. He does so by the mystery or event of the feast of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We then ask him to pour out "the gifts of the Holy Spirit" across the face of the earth and fill now once more the hearts of believers with this divine grace that was at work in the early Church and throughout the history of the Church.

The Holy Spirit is the gift of the risen Christ to his disciples. As the St John relates in his gospel account, Jesus told his apostles that he would ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to be with them and in them. He also said that he and the Father would send the Spirit. In the gospel reading, the risen Christ imparted his personal presence of the Holy on the apostles on Easter Sunday evening. He breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit is the Third Divine Person. He proceeds eternally from the Father and the Son. As such he is not an impersonal force or energy. As divine Person, pure spirit, he is all-knowing, all-powerful, all-present, all-loving as the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit is given to us to be with us, to make us holy, to enable to respond to the saving action of the Triune God, and enlighten and strengthen us. His presence in our lives, if we welcome him, makes us holy. His internal gifts enable to think and behave as disciples of Christ and children of God.

The first reading, Acts 2:1-11, affirms that when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they were able to do things that they were incapable of doing before. In other words, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit purifies us and makes us holy, the condition of being in communion of life and love with

the all-holy God. He gives us other supernatural gifts to enable us to think and act as children of God. He enables us to receive the word of God, to trust in his promise and his help, to love God and our neighbour, in short, to have faith, hope and love. St Paul, in the first reading, says: 'No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.'" He enables us, among others, to believe in Christ.

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit complete these capacities. The gifts of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord, are dispositions, habits or capacities that make us docile, sensitive or obedient to the saving action of the Holy Spirit who is always at work to enlighten and inspire us. When these internal, supernatural gifts that make us holy and pleasing to God and enable us to think and act as children of God are "used actively" they manifest in the fruits of the Spirit. St Paul names them: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Finally, the Holy Spirit endows the faithful spiritual gifts called "charisms." They are spiritual gifts that enable a person to serve others and build up the community of disciples, the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit transforms and equips ordained ministers so that they can act and speak in the person of Christ. As such, they can forgive sins, change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, among other things. But not only ordained ministers are enriched with charisms. As a matter of fact, every baptised is enriched with these spiritual gifts. St Paul says there are variety of these gifts to be used in different ministers. There are gifts that are related to teaching, worship, and pastoral care and leadership. However, it is the Holy Spirit who decides what charism or charisms he gives to a baptised person, whether lay, consecrated person or ordained. They are gifts to be used in one's ministry and mission.

As we celebrate the feast of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church into the world, let us ask the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts, to pour out his gifts anew and enkindle in the fire of his love.

Fr Roland

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *(Iluka)*

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

COLLECT

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. (R.)
2. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)

3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

SECOND READING *1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The word of the Lord.

SEQUENCE

Holy Spirit, Lord of light, // From the clear celestial height // Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure;
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best, // Thou, the soul's delightful guest, // Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine, // Visit thou these hearts of thine, // And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew, // On our dryness pour thy dew, // Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore // Thee confess and thee adore, // With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die;
Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven:

for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as promised by your Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For, bringing your Paschal Mystery to completion, you bestowed the Holy Spirit today on those you made your adopted children by uniting them to your Only Begotten Son. This same Spirit, as the Church came to birth, opened to all peoples the knowledge of God and brought together the many languages of the earth in profession of the one faith.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (*Iluka*)

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

Today's reading from Acts describes external manifestations that accompanied the outpouring of the Spirit. These phenomena were audible and visible though the actual outpouring of the Spirit was not. As those present were filled with the Spirit, they began to speak in other languages, a feat that could only have some supernatural origin. The crowd that gathered was confused, astonished and amazed. The exact nature of this marvel is less significant than is its meaning. It was clearly a manifestation of the universal presence and power of the Spirit. The outpouring of the Spirit and the preaching of the gospel to all nations are considered the reuniting of the human race and the gathering of all into the reign of God.

Three different yet related themes are found in the reading from 1 Corinthians: an acclamation of the lordship of Jesus; a defence of diversity within the community; the body metaphor characterising that diversity. Lord (*kýrios*) was the official title of the Roman emperor. It is also the Greek substitute for God's personal name. To proclaim Jesus as Lord both challenged the sovereignty of the emperor and testified to Jesus' divine character. Comparing the Christian community to the complexity of the human body, Paul insists that all of the functions within the community were manifestations of the Spirit, and none was to be considered superior to another. Rather, all gifts were given for the benefit of the entire community.

John's appearance account treats the resurrection and the bestowal of the Spirit as having occurred on the same day, the first day of the week. Where previously religious meaning was given to the Sabbath, the conclusion of the week, now the focus is on the beginning, on the future. The wish of peace, a common Jewish greeting, was also a prayer for eschatological blessing. Calling attention to his wounds, Jesus shows that he is the same man who was crucified, but now he is risen. Breathing the Spirit, the risen Lord portrays himself as one who can create or re-create. With the bestowal of the Spirit, the disciples are authorised to continue the mission of Jesus. © *Dianne Bergant CSA*



ONLINE GIVING

Internet donations to assist our parish are always welcome. Details for donating online via Electronic Funds Transfer BSB: 032582 Account Number: 810033 [Surname, parish envelope no]

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers for the Sick: Clive McLachlan, Audrey Hancock, Ben & Nadine Shaw, Patrick Wheeler, Denise & Bob, Tim Scherger, Jan Taylor, Miriam Scherger, Kathy Leseberg, Ava Blay, Mark Thurbon, Alma Bailey, Mary Wiseman, Sue Gravalin, Ron Weekes, Pam Lewis, Matthew & Paul Gallagher, Chris Naismith, Trevor Nicolai, Peter Burns, Matthew Tierney, Sharon Grayson, Dennis Catheral, Allan Dick. **Recently Deceased:** Sally Towns, Margaret Donges, Maree Hammond, Mary Thorne, Dennis Neville. **Anniversary:** John McMahan, Bernadette Castle, Jack Turk, Stan Formal. **Pray for:** Dulc Sinderberry, Valerie Woodroffe, Eva Gallagher, Clarice Loughman, Margaret Eggins, Jurgen Zoller, John Fox, Towell, Baker, Gough & Robertson families, Fran Eckersley, Robyn Smith, Pam Sutherland All the suffering souls in Purgatory especially the dec'd members of F.O.S.S.

MASS TIMES:

Sunday Masses: Yamba: 5:30pm (SAT); Maclean: 8:30am (SUN); Iluka: 10:30am (SUN).

Weekday Masses: Tuesday, 9:00am: Iluka; Wednesday, 9:30am: Yamba; Friday, 12:00am, Maclean; First Saturday: 11:30am, Maclean.

RECONCILIATION TIMES

Saturday, 11:00am, Maclean; 5:00pm, Yamba
Sunday, 8:00am, Maclean
Tuesday, 9:30am, Iluka
Wednesday, 10:00am, Yamba

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

First Wednesday: 10:00am, Yamba
First Saturday: 12:00pm, Maclean

MINISTRY ROSTER: 30/31 MAY 2026

Readers: Yamba: A Schofield/P Edgar; Maclean: R Harvey/R Wiseman; Iluka: D Speirs. **Commentators:** Yamba: B Cullen; Maclean: J de Roos, Iluka: H Naug. **E Communion:** Maclean: J Moloney. **Count team:** Davies/Stephenson.

READINGS: 30/31 MAY 2026

First: Exodus 34:4-6. 8-9; **Second:** 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; **Gospel:** John 3:16-18.

NEWS & EVENTS

Emergency contact: In case of emergency outside of parish office hours, contact Fr Roland 0401 508 812.

New office days/times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00am-2:30pm.

Parish bulletin online: Our bulletin is now uploaded weekly to our website <http://stmarysparish.org.au>

The 6th National Count of Attendance at Mass and Other (Sunday) Assemblies will take place in May 2026. This year marks a significant milestone—25 years of national attendance data, beginning with the first count in 2001. The 2026 results will provide valuable insights into long-term trends, particularly in understanding the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which influenced attendance patterns in 2021.

Morning Tea in Yamba: Please join us for morning tea in Ted Howe Room on Wednesday 27 May after morning Mass – approx 10:15am. Everyone most welcome!

Pastoral Council Meeting: The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 28 May, 5:00pm in the Cranny Room.

Vocations view: Vocations view: Do you know a Catholic man, aged between 18-35, whom God may be calling to the priesthood? Perhaps God is asking you to be the voice to prompt that man to consider the quiet whisper he already hears in his heart. Ask someone if they have considered the call. vocations@lismore.catholic.org.au

Passionist Family Group Movement: Please see the latest copy of the newsletter on the noticeboard.

Thinking of Becoming a Catholic? Contact Fr Roland 0401508 812

Preschool in St James School DA Application: We are excited to announce that we are supporting St James Catholic Primary School to submit a Development Application (DA) for a proposed new on-site preschool. If approved, the preschool building would be funded by the NSW Government's New and Upgraded Pre-School Funding Program. The proposed preschool would provide a high-quality early years education program for local children and in time support potentially a smooth and connected transition into Kindergarten at St James in line with diocesan policy.

Latest update from Halle: please find the latest copies of Halle's newsletter at the church entrance.

Mission Today Autumn/Winter 2026 issue: please find copies at the church entrance.

Pray for the Persecuted Christians in Nigeria:

Christians in Nigeria continue to suffer greatly for their faith, yet many persevere with deep trust in Christ and devotion to Our Lady. *Aid to the Church in Need* invites you to join with John, a Catholic farmer in Nigeria, in praying a decade of the Rosary this week for persecuted Christians and all who suffer for their faith.