

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin



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MASS TIMES

Sunday

9.00, 10.30, 12.15

Saturday Vigil 6.15pm

Weekdays

9.30am

Eve of Holydays

7.30pm

Holydays

9.00, 10.30 &

7.30pm

Pentecost Sunday (B)

23rd May, 2021

Acts 2:11, John 20:19-23

Our Church's Birthday

As the day on which the Holy Spirit commissioned the Apostles, Pentecost Day is the Church's birthday. So, today is a day for celebration. It is a day of appreciation, of taking stock, of renewing commitments and for creative initiatives. It is a day to re-engage.

We are this Church. Together we are responsible for our faith individually and as a community, nourishing it for one another by prioritising it in family life and in society. Birthdays are good occasions to reach out and to awaken dormant bonds, to leave behind blame, guilt and recriminations, to be open again to mercy and forgiveness.



We are this Church. Our Church is haemorrhaging members from among the young and the not so young. It is like a pandemic. In this case, the virus is amnesia. It is prevalent in society worldwide. We choose to forget the fundamental truth that we are all the beloved children of God, the creator of all we are and have. This forgetfulness is the highly transmissible virus that undermines both our relationships and the goodness God has implanted in our hearts. Jesus came to alert us constantly to the wonder of the Father's love and to inspire us to live accordingly. To help us to do so He left us the Church where we always celebrate the Eucharist in remembrance of Him.

To be merely a fully paid-up card carrying member of the Church is no longer enough. Necessary reorganisation of Church structures, services and finances will not overcome the current malaise. The fundamental requirement for vibrant membership is to be a spirit imbued disciple of Jesus, loving Him each day through reflective prayer and generous service. This may be fruitfully supported by forming a small group that meets regularly to pray and to absorb the Gospel.

Living examples of God's care among believers moves others to re-engage. Rather than preachers, the Church of 2021 needs witnesses.

It is a time for each one to see and seize the opportunity that is ours uniquely, to meet a need and to enhance the experience of Church for everyone.

Are you ready for the challenge? Happy birthday.

Fr. Tom Clancy



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PARISH BULLETIN

The Parish Bulletin is available **weekly** on the Parish Website: or can be e-mailed by forwarding your e-mail address to the Parish Office.

