

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost Sunday Flames of Glory and Inner Radiance

May Sarton speaks of “the wild irrational motions of the soul” which need discipline “to become formal and creative “ – Journal of Solitude.

The spirit is like a wild horse running free, flying over the ground. I once rode a grey stallion called Gillendoon. My uncle had sent me to fetch some fillies and mares. When I reached them in the upper paddock they took off, with Gillendoon in hot pursuit. When they sighted the horse yard in the home paddock they swung hard left. The stallion paused in mid-stride and turned sharply to follow them. I went straight on and I had the bruises to prove it. My uncle could barely restrain his hilarity! I couldn't see the joke!

The burning *seneh* bush at Mt. Horeb precedes Pentecost by centuries. But what appeared to Moses in the bush is related to what happened at Pentecost. The bush is not consumed by the fire of God, and the human recipients at Pentecost remained fully human after being immersed in the fire of the Spirit of God.

The voice from the flames of the bush that Moses saw burning declared that God was a God of being whose letting-be of being would prove wild and unstoppable. Jesus says this to Nicodemus when he asserts that the Spirit is like the wind blowing where it wills without any restrictions of time and space or human restraint.

The Messiah comes to visit at Pentecost. The Messiah would not be the Messiah if the Anointed One did not visit the marginalised, whether they are dirt poor or filthy rich. We are all marginalised in some way, because it is part of being human. Ira Groff says that the Messiah also comes to inhabit the marginalised parts of our own psyche. Will Messiah bring cleansing fire or soak our souls in peace?

Though the spirit is wild and free and uncontrollable, it is also capable of intense focus. There is a beautiful verse at Matthew 6:22, in words that surely come directly from the glistening awareness of Christ: “If your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light.”

Spirit goes with light at creation, and at Pentecost. The walls of communication are broken down and the Tower of Babel is reversed for a few moments in time. This may have been an experience compared to what Paul described as “speaking in tongues” in prayer and praise to God, as practised in the church at Corinth. But its primary focus seems to be that of bringing people together in community and allowing them to understand one another across linguistic and cultural and national boundaries. Now that would be freedom! Especially when it came with an overwhelming sense of the luminous and immanent presence of God!

We would never know the story of Pentecost and its outcomes unless it had been spurred on by the faithful witness of those who were there. Bearing witness to Christ is a primary exercise for a Christian. Some of us are reluctant witnesses, though some of my people do not hesitate to be quite clear about what they believe and where they are travelling with God. This is especially so they are challenged about their beliefs and their trust in the Messiah.

St. Paul says that we carry the *arrabon*, the “guarantee” of the Spirit within us, and even when we are reluctant the Spirit cries out to speak.

Bishop Arthur Jones

📖 NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Genesis 1:1-2:3; Psalm 150;
2 Corinthians 13:11-14;
Matthew 28:16-20



A Potluck brunch will be held on *Trinity Sunday, 19 June 2011* following the *combined service at 9.00 am*. Activities for that Sunday will include our children, the youth, and adults. The event will enable parishioners to get to know each other better. **All are welcome to attend!**

Please indicate your attendance by filling in the sign-up sheet on the Notice Board outside the main office, to ensure there are sufficient seats, cutlery, and array of food, etc., PLUS fun activities to cater for the various age groups. Thank you!

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday, June 14.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Bible Study, 7:15pm @ the Tutton's (#3 Sta. Potenciana, Urdaneta Village, Makati)

Thursday, June 16.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

Saturday, June 18.

- Membership Meeting, Parish Office.