



The Miracle of Change

After Pentecost the apostles were changed people. That is the real miracle of Pentecost. However, it is a mistake to think that the change came about in an instant. It had to be a gradual thing, a growth process set in motion by the action of the Holy Spirit. Growth happens gradually. Though we are dealing with mystery, that doesn't mean we can't understand anything about it. Let us look at how spring goes about its work of change and renewal.

Each year in Ireland towards the middle of March you will see patches of green begin to appear in the fields and on the hillsides, new patches on an old garment. Day by day the patches get bigger. A month or so later spring will have woven a completely new garment. Yet spring doesn't make anything happen. It is only a facilitator. It merely creates a climate in which things can grow. The new life comes from within. It cannot be imposed.

What spring does is provide living things with the opportunity, gives them the impulse to realise what is already inside them in a germinal state. Its task is to awaken and call forth. This calling forth is a gentle process. Force is out of the question. Persuasion is the only effective weapon. For unless there is a response from within, all spring's efforts will be in vain.

People too need to renew themselves. This renewal, however, cannot be imposed. If this is attempted it will merely result in an outward show, a dressing up. It will not enrich the person, and will soon fade and eventually wear out like a garment.

What we need is someone to awaken us to what is inside us, to bid us live, and help us grow. But growth is slow and painful. We don't let go easily of the old garment, woven out of old attitudes, old ways, and old habits. This probably accounts for the fact that many people are left unawakened and die without having experienced even one spring. This gives us some understanding of what happened to the apostles at Pentecost, and what can happen to us too. The power that changed the apostles is available to us too. The Holy Spirit is the most wonderful facilitator of all. The Spirit awakens us to the mysterious power within us, bids us live and helps us grow.

St Paul says that the Holy Spirit is "no timid spirit" (2 Tim 1:7). The Holy Spirit can awaken us and breathe new life into us.

FLOR McCARTHY SDB

PARISH NEWS

Legion of Mary ~ UPDATE

Senior Legion of Mary:

Our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium - meet every Wednesday at 7.10pm in the classroom.

Mary Mother of Grace Praesidium - meet every Friday at 7pm in the classroom.

Junior Legion of Mary:

Mary Mother of Good Counsel Praesidium meeting every Friday at 5.30pm in the classroom. Children under 18 can join regardless of whether they have received the sacrament or not.

Blessed Virgin Mary

Would you like the Blessed Virgin Mary to visit your home?

Members of The Legion of Mary can leave her statue at your place for 2 weeks. Gather the whole family and pray the rosary daily. Receive a special protection and greatest blessings through her intercession. If you are interested, please contact [Marilyn on 021 299 4357](tel:0212994357).

International Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

Do you believe Jesus Christ is really present in the Eucharist? Come and see our exhibition (in the parish crypt) conceived and designed by Blessed Carlo Acutis. Sponsored by the Legion of Mary.

Saturday 10th June 4pm -7pm.

Sunday 11th June 10am -12pm and 4.30pm -7pm.

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

On Sunday 11th June, there will be an Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (in the church) from 2pm-4pm.

DIOCESE NEWS

Joshua Men's Fellowship

Their monthly prayer and fellowship gathering will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 31 May in the St Joseph's Centre, 1 Fred Thomas Drive, Takapuna. All men are welcome. [Inquiries call Greg 021 437 747](tel:021437747).

Marriage & Family Life

At M & FL we are again offering the course starting in August and finishing in October. The feedback we had last year was awesome so we've decided to offer it again.

Alpha for Couples via Zoom – Are you dating, engaged or a married couple and want to improve and deepen your communication with your partner/spouse? This is a free course and you don't have to be a Catholic to register. Registration open until 20th July 2023. To register or find out more - www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/alpha-couples/ or contact [Gerry Smith 021 02247 442](tel:02102247442)

Approved Diocesan Marriage Preparation Course - Are you getting married? Please book your Diocesan Marriage Preparation Course at www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/discipleship/our-courses/ Please book 1 year (if getting married in NZ) or 18 months (if getting married overseas) in advance your wedding date. For more information email marriageandfamily@cda.org.nz or contact [Gerry Smith](tel:02102247442).

MASS TIMES:

Mon: 9am
Tues/Wed/Thurs 6.30pm
Wed: Novena 6pm
Fri: 9am
Sat: 5pm Vigil
Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5pm

**Reconciliation by appointment,
contact the parish office**

Divine Mercy Devotion

Mass on Friday 2nd June 7.00pm at St Mary's Church, 20 Kitenui Ave, Mt Albert. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Chaplet of Mercy Sung, Benediction, Mass followed by general blessing of St Faustina's relic. All welcome.

Mass of the Neophytes – Sunday 28 May 4.30pm

All those baptised or received into full communion at Easter or throughout the last 12 months are invited by Bishop Steve to join him at the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph. Validated parking available.

If you wish to place a notice in our parish newsletter, email the parish office by Wednesday.

Please Pray for our Sick Parishioners:

Violet Furtado, Yvonne Sommers, Mary Holmes, Kanesi Masae, Ethan Peter Lelo, Rosalen Ahearn, Saulius David Balsys, Kalameli Tauta, Joan Unkovich, Lloyd Ball, Pauline Caffell, Louisa Baptist, Robert Shearman, Siufaga Maileoi Lili, Lee Dunn, Alex Soniega, Barbara Lynch, Fata Peter & Lenora Fuiava, Priscilla Fernandes, Nellie Lemusu-Kea, Aaron Ablan, Joy Rapcsak, Gerard Hoover.

Last Week's Collection:

House - \$ 861.00

Parish - \$1,298.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Readings for the upcoming week

Mon 29 May: Acts 1:12-14
Jn 19:25-34

Tue 30 May: Sirach 35:1-12
Mk 10:28-31

Wed 31 May: Rom 12:9-16
Lk 1:39-56

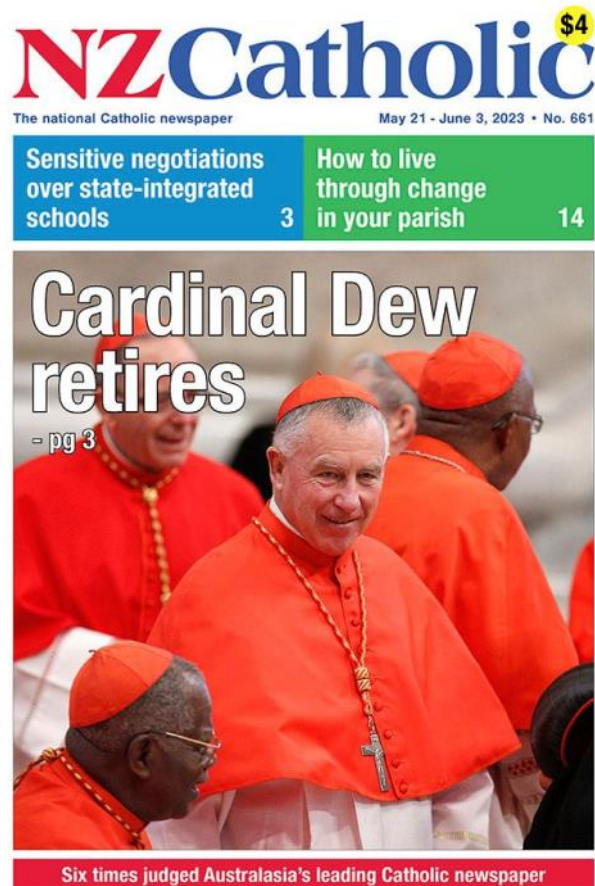
Thu 01 Jun: Sirach 42:15-25
Mk 10:46-52

Fri 02 Jun: Sirach 44:1, 9-13
Mk 11: 11-26

Sat 03 Jun: Sirach 51:12-20
Mk 11:27-33

Sun 04 Jun: Ex 34:4-6, 8-9
Cor 13:11-13
Jn 3:16-18

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