



DU Grape Vine



JUNE 2026

PENTECOST

St. Faithful's, Havnot, a fictional Anglican parish appearing on Facebook— by Canon Tom Kennar

Pentecost is one of those great feasts of the Church which, if we are honest, we have tidied up a bit.

We have made it red and respectable. We have given it proper hymns, a place in the calendar, and a tasteful dove on the service sheet, looking calm and holy, as though the Holy Spirit were mainly in the business of gliding gently over laminated notices.

But the first Pentecost was not tasteful. It was noisy, confusing, and faintly alarming. It involved wind, fire, public speaking, allegations of drunkenness, and a group of Galileans suddenly becoming comprehensible to people from everywhere. ...

Pentecost is not the birthday of the Church in the sense that God founded a calm religious institution with minutes, policies, and a subcommittee for biscuits. Pentecost is the moment when the Spirit of God blows through frightened people and turns them outward.

The disciples had been waiting. They had seen Jesus crucified. They had encountered him risen. They had been told to stay where they were until power came from on high. And then, suddenly, the house cannot contain what God is doing. That is the first thing Pentecost says to us: God is not easily contained.

We try, of course. We contain God in buildings, doctrines, traditions, and respectable behaviour. We contain God in the sentence, "We've always done it this way," which must be one of the most spiritually dangerous sentences ever uttered, usually just before someone moves a pew.

But the Spirit comes as wind. Not as a memo. Not as a diocesan initiative. Wind. Breath. Movement. The thing you cannot grasp, cannot own, cannot put in the safe with the silver chalice.

And the Spirit comes as fire. Not fire that destroys, but fire that rests on each person. Fire that gives courage. Fire that warms cold hearts and burns away fear. Fire that is not reserved for the religiously impressive. It rests on all of them.

Pentecost is not God saying, "I have selected the most competent disciples." Thank goodness. If competence were required, the Church would have ended somewhere around Acts chapter two. Pentecost is God saying, "These people will do. These frightened, muddled, argumentative, hopeful people. I can work with them."

Which is good news, because, looking at us all, here today, that appears still to be the recruitment policy. Then comes the miracle of languages. And notice what the miracle is not. It is not that everyone suddenly speaks one holy language. It is not that diversity is flattened into uniformity. It is not that everyone becomes the same, thinks the same, worships the same, votes the same, or agrees about the temperature of church coffee. The story is that people hear good news in their own language. ...



Our Pentecost display

PENTECOST (continued)

So whenever Christianity becomes obsessed with making everyone conform — whenever it mistakes uniformity for unity, control for holiness, nostalgia for faithfulness — it has wandered a very long way from Pentecost.

But Peter stands up and explains that this is what the prophet Joel promised: sons and daughters shall prophesy, young people shall see visions, old people shall dream dreams, and even slaves — those right at the bottom of the social order — shall receive the Spirit. That little word “even” is where the revolution begins.

Pentecost says that God is not the private possession of the powerful. God is not locked behind priesthood, privilege, gender, age, class, education, respectability, or any of the other barriers human beings are so wonderfully inventive at constructing. The Spirit is poured out on all flesh.

All flesh. Not approved flesh. Not familiar flesh. ...

Sometimes the Spirit throws open the doors and sends us into the street. Sometimes the Spirit comes to us when the doors are locked, when we are frightened, when all we can do is sit in the ruins of what we thought we understood. Sometimes the Spirit is not fireworks. Sometimes the Spirit is breath enough for the next hour.

Jesus does not shame the frightened disciples. He comes among them. He gives peace. He breathes Spirit. Then he sends them.

That is the rhythm of Pentecost: peace, breath, sending. Not peace as avoidance. Not breath as private comfort. Not sending as religious busyness. But peace that heals fear, breath that restores life, and sending that carries love into the world.

So perhaps Pentecost asks us a simple question: where have we locked the doors?

Where have we decided God cannot possibly be speaking? Through that person? Through that generation? Through that culture? Through that awkward new possibility? Through that change we would rather avoid. ...

And where might the Spirit already be making herself inconveniently known?

Perhaps in voices we have not listened to. Perhaps in young people dreaming a Church that looks different from the one we inherited. Perhaps in old people dreaming dreams we have mistaken for memories.

Pentecost does not give us a tame God. It gives us wind, fire, breath, courage, speech, listening, peace and movement. It gives us a Church that begins not with certainty, but with astonishment.

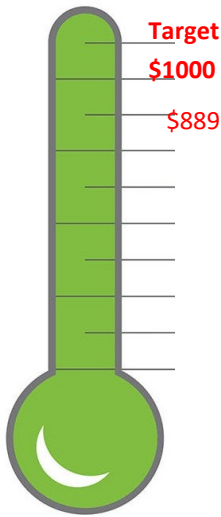
And discovering, to our surprise, that the Spirit of God is not finished with us yet. Amen.



VALE HAZEL JAMES

Hazel joined our church in 2007 when she and Lindsay retired to Clifton Springs to be closer to family. They became involved in the life of the church and the Uniting Op Shop - Lindsay was the roster manager. Hazel was born in Bendigo and lived in Yarrawalla South and leaving school worked in her parent's Post Office and Telephone Exchange. She married Lindsay in 1951 and had five sons and one daughter; there are now 15 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. They worked a farm in Calivil with sheep, pigs, cows and cropping and attended the Calivil Methodist Church/UC. They sold the farm in 1993 and moved to Queensland but returned to Bendigo missing the family. Lindsay died in 2018. Hazel moved to Arcare Point Lonsdale in 2021 after a fall. She was 96 when she died on 13 May. We record our thanks for her contribution to our church community and our condolences to her family.

LOOSE CHANGE



Last month for our loose change offering for the Victorian Farmers Federation Disaster Relief Fund, to support farmers affected by fires.

To date we have raised \$889.35

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to Christos De Lange who is celebrating his 60th birthday this month, We wish you a happy birthday with lot's of God's blessings.

RETREAT

Saturday 27 June at Portarlington Guide Hall, 9.30 am— 4.00 pm. Bookings can be made now on the sheet on the foyer table. Guest presenter is Rev Narelle Collas with the workshop titled "Painting from the Inside Out".

ANNIVERSARY QUILT

In celebrating the 138th anniversary of the current church building last week we displayed the alter quilt made in 1894 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Drysdale Wesleyan Church with blocks for each family. A valuable part of our history.



This months' services

- 7 Jun — 10.30 am Rev Karen
HC & Loose change
- 14 Jun — 10.30 am Jenni's Team
- 21 Jun — 10.30 am Rev Karen
- 28 Jun — 10.30 am Wayne's Team

MORNING TEA WITH THE MINISTER

Friday 5 June Karen will host morning tea from 10.30 am—12.00 pm. This month it is also a fund raiser for the Cancer Council with donations gratefully accepted—cash or EFTPOS. Come along, bring a friend.



Happy birthday!

- JUNE**
- Christos De Lange
 - Renee Colley
 - Elizabeth Thomas
 - Grant George
 - Joyce Branagh
 - Harry Cooper

Happy birthday!

OUR BANK DETAILS

BSB: 083-623
ACC: 035333892
REF: Surname purpose

	MORNING TEA	WELCOME	VESTRY	READING	PRAYERS	COUNTING FLOWERS	COMMUNION
JUN 7	Pat & Andrea	Denise	Ian	Andrea	Carol	Margo	Val & Wayne
14	Marg & Maggie	Val	Denise	Jenni's Team	Ian	Denise	
21	Belinda & Darren	Rhonda	Val	Margaret	Val	Brenda	
28	Melva & Brenda	Melva	Rhonda	Wayne's Team	Jonnie	-	

Web site: <http://drysdale.unitingchurch.org.au>

Facebook: [Drysdale Uniting Church](#)

Our Vision—Reaching out with God's love and care