

May 23, 2010

TRINITY NEWS

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Pentecost in Jerusalem - Acts of the Apostles 2:1-13

Pentecost

Exaltation directs Spirit descent inside
Pentecost visions dreams soul warming
Speech praising freed adoration winging
Dove flying heavenwards draws earth. ALVJ

Recent research into *Ruach*, the Hebrew word for “Spirit (of God)”, suggests that the Spirit is more than “wind” or “breath” as we have supposed. It is both “wind” and “breath”, but it is also “a field of encounter”, the “open space” in which we meet God.

James Dunn teaches that “All sparks of the Spirit come from the one fire at Pentecost”. That ‘fire’ was at Jerusalem. The centrality of Jerusalem in Luke’s teaching is clear and intentional. The Upper Room may well have been a number of rooms with one central room where the core of the disciples gathered as they had with the Lord at the Supper.

On the day of Pentecost one hundred and twenty people were in an upper room in Jerusalem. We know that 120 made a full complement for a Sanhedrin and the number may be significant here in the Pentecost account. The emphasis on prayer in the midst of fear is notable. The mother of the Lord is included in that prayer and in the expression of fear. Her presence is significant because little is known about her involvement in the early Church. She must have known some of Jesus’ closest companions.

The “fire in the hearth” that warms us inside is just as important as the warmth of a fire on a bleak winter’s day. “Winter” doesn’t happen here! Both are linked to the realities of our lives. Do you see no “renewal” in the people of your Church family? Further, do you see no renewal in yourself? I hope not! Do you have a “fire in the hearth” in your sense of the presence of God’s Spirit in your life? Do you link this with how much sleep you had last night and how you are functioning as your own person today? Do you link it with how you relate to your family and your work and community relationships? Do you relate it to your fears of both life and death? If you do not, then we are shutting “The Spirit Jesus” (Acts 16:7) out of crucial daily and personal concerns.

The Spirit bears the imprint of Jesus, whether it comes in a glance of love today or a back aching from carrying a cross in some aspect of our journey. I suspect that “renewal” is a tough word for us because it cuts through the muck to our real but often hidden needs. But let it begin afresh in you and in me!

The first model of Christian community was the band around Jesus, and then the wider community of those who followed him. The Spirit of God at Pentecost creates a new community after the Resurrection of Christ.

Firmly I believe in the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Arthur Jones

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, JPeter, Beryl Tanner, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Ema Duhaylongsod, Ron Jacob, Merly Quiapos, Benjie Conzales, Loy Solasco, Ted Whale, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Johnny Manning Jr, Janet Johnstone, Richard Kendall, Carrie Angus, Augusto Natividad, Susan Dalmas, Reuben Longid, Nikolai Gordevich, Avelina Collado, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Sunny Cabanang, Christopher John Noppers

NOTE:

May 25, Tuesday: Bible Study, 10am

May 27, Thursday:

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel.
- Bible Study, 7pm, Rectory.

May 30, Sunday:

TRINITY SUNDAY.

- Regular service, 7:30.
- Installation of Bishop Jones as Rector, 9:30. Bishop Dixie preaching.

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	Proportionate Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P18,000	P1,803,973.82	P1,500,000.00	P3,900,000
Loose Plate	P14,950	370,722.85	P361,538.46	P940,000

Next week's readings:
 Isaiah 68:1-8;
 Psalm 29;
 Revelation 4:1-11;
 John 16:12-15