



# City Pastoral REGION

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

**Inner Newcastle Parish:** Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West; St Joseph's Church, The Junction; St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill; St Laurence O'Toole Church, Broadmeadow. **Mayfield Parish:** Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

## SUNDAY 23RD MAY 2021

### SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST SUNDAY, YEAR B

#### Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan  
Fr Peter Street  
Fr Peter Thoai  
Fr Matthew Muller  
Fr John Vo  
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

#### Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction  
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291  
P: (02) 4979 1101 F: (02) 4962 4644  
E: [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
W: [www.newcastlecatholic.org.au](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au)

#### Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)  
Anne Warren (*Business Manager Finance*)  
Jade Simonsen (*Business Manager Property*)  
Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin*)

#### Other Contacts

**Lingard Hospital Team:** Contact the Parish Office

**Mercy Pastoral Team:** Sr Patricia Whitten rsm  
(02) 4979 1116

**St Joseph's Pastoral Team:** Contact the Parish Office

**Parish Bulletin:** Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.



***Alleluia, Alleluia***

***Come Holy Spirit,***

***fill the hearts of***

***your faithful***

***and kindle in***

***them the fire***

***of your love***

***Alleluia,***

***Alleluia!***

*Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.*

## THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

8th Week of Ordinary Time, Year B

Monday—24th May

*Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians*

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Our Lady, Help of Christians, is one of the two Patron Saints of Australia.

Tuesday—25th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Wednesday—26th May

*Memorial of St Philip Neri*

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Thursday—27th May

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Friday—28th May

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield (if there is no Mass at St Columban school)

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

11am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—29th May

9.15am Mass @ The Cathedral followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (followed by Reconciliation)

5:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Sunday—30th May

*The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity*

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9am Mass @ The Junction

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

*Live streamed via the Diocesan website:*

[www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/)

11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

## AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FR PETER STREET

With the recent retirement of Fr. Brian Brock due to ill health, the Bishop has moved the parish Priest of Forster to the Parishes of Boolaroo/Warners Bay and Booragul as Fr. Brock's replacement. With that decision, of course, there then needs to be a new Parish Priest of Forster Tuncurry appointed. The Bishop has asked me to take on that role. As such, that means with the tight turn around, this weekend will be my last in the City Pastoral Region. I have enjoyed my time here! I am sad to leave! I am however, excited to begin this new chapter of my journey. I ask all parishioners of the City Pastoral Region to pray for me as I take up this new position. Please know that you will always be in my prayers. Thank you, to each and every one of you for your faithfulness as disciples of Jesus Christ. May the Gospel continue to be spread with joy in these parishes. May the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with an increased love of God and His Church. Thank You and may God bless you all.

Fr Peter

### FINDING GOD IN AUSTRALIA | RETREAT

Presented by Father John Hill, this retreat will be held at St Clement's from Friday 6 to Saturday 7 August. Bushfires, drought, the effects of Covid-19, church scandals - there are so many challenges to our faith in today's Australia. This retreat offers you the chance to come to a place of quiet, to take stock of your own life, to reflect about life here in Australia and to renew the foundations of faith for the future. In the retreat we will use the beauty and quiet of St Clement's to help us experience the presence of God, to pray and celebrate together and see how God is at work in our land and our lives.

Ensuite Room \$350, shared facilities \$300.

Please contact St Clement's to register: [info@stclement.com.au](mailto:info@stclement.com.au) or phone 02 6380 5222 Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm.

### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION:

Living Waters, 34 Kenrick St., The Junction:

Wednesday, 7.30 am

Friday, 11.00 am

Monday, 6.30 pm

CONTACT: [annecuskelly@hotmail.com](mailto:annecuskelly@hotmail.com) or  
0407 436 808

## NEWCASTLE UNITY IN DIVERSITY WORLD FOOD AND MUSIC FESTIVAL | 19 JUNE

To mark the beginning of Refugee Week, The Newcastle Unity in Diversity Festival will be held at the Newcastle Foreshore 11am – 3pm on Saturday 19th June. There will be a wonderful array of multicultural food stalls, cultural performances and activities.

You are very welcome to attend and enjoy the festivities.

With thanks to STARTTS, The City of Newcastle and The University of Newcastle for sponsoring the event.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/52071847855143>

### AROUND THE CHURCHES

**St Josephs** – the council will be out in the next two to three weeks to assess the safety of the trees and the litter they drop in Farquhar street. We will keep you updated in the progress of this matter.

**St Laurence O'Toole.** Clergy of the region met to discuss the Broadmeadow church. We await a broad spectrum analysis and quote on the electricals in the church. The electricals are currently unsafe.

**St Peter in Chains** is nearing completion. The stormwater works are finished and the reglazing is underway.

## Prayer Requests

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Ciaran Lambert

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Irene Licata, Anne Gilroy, Mary Elizabeth Dwyer, Winifred Rose Fitzgerald, Jack Wilcock, Eileen Russell, Elsie Wooden, Joyce Winder, Anna Cesta

**SICK:** John Cavenagh

Names may be placed here by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website—visit [www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads).

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 30th May, The Most Holy Trinity, Year B  
Dt 4:32-34.39-40, Rom 8:14-17, Mt 28:16-20

## PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home.

God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message.

Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link:

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/96144217758>

Password: pray

For more information contact:

[rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au)

## LECTIO DIVINA VIA ZOOM

View, Chew, and Chat continues to meet via Zoom. During the Easter Season, we will employ the practice of *Lectio Divina* to prayerfully reflect on the Gospel of the coming Sunday.

"Lectio Divina", a Latin term, means "divine reading" and describes a way of reading the Scriptures whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us. We meet via Zoom each Wednesday from 7pm.



To participate, please email the office.

## BOOK CLUB

**Sunday, 6th June @ 6pm:** Bookclub meets to discuss Miss Benson's *Beetle* by Rachel Joyce. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

## LORD MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle Councillor Nuatali Nelmes requests the company of you and your guests to attend the Annual Lord Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

This event will be held in The Arena Room, NEX Newcastle on Friday, 4 June 2021.

RSVP: 2 June 2021. Tickets available:

<https://ti.to/kingdomworks/2021-annual-lord-mayor-s-prayer-breakfast>



**VINNIES WINTER APPEAL  
COMING TO A CHURCH NEAR YOU!**

# DIVINE ENERGY AND BEING CATHOLIC

BY FATHER MICHAEL TATE

As summer progresses in Australia there is a sense of anticipation, of expectation. It is the bushfire season. Millions of eucalypts breathe their oils which hang as a potent haze over the hills. The prevailing conditions are just right. One spark and all that potential energy would be ignited and fire would sweep through with great intensity.

Those who report the infernos not only speak of the flames but often of a mighty roar like a great windstorm heralding the approaching fire.

The state of the world after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension was much like Australia in summer. There was a great air of expectation. After all, Our Lord had promised that he would send the Holy Spirit.

Death had been conquered and the world was supercharged with divine energy and vitality. And then, with the Divine potency hovering over humanity, into all this the Risen Lord sent his Holy Spirit.

This was like a lightning strike, a flaming spark. Divine energy was unleashed and St Luke portrays this event in our bushfire terms. The Holy Spirit, he says, was 'like tongues of fire' and 'like the sound of a mighty wind'. That was as close as the early church could get to describing the phenomena accompanying the descent of the Holy Spirit on a gathering of a fearful group of followers of Our Lord.

To return to the Australian landscape. There are few things more creative, more necessary than an intense fire to burst open the seedpods in our eucalypt forests. Not only to open them up but to clear away competing undergrowth and to allow new life to germinate in the ashes, to take root and to grow.

This is what happened to the early Christian community (Mary and some women and the main male disciples) at Pentecost.

The tangled undergrowth of fear, anxiety and timidity was cleared away. The new life of the church was germinated, took root and has been growing ever since. It is the birth-day of the church, the Catholic Church, the universal church.

The title 'Catholic' is only appropriate where race, ethnicity, nationality and language do not operate as causes of division or separation.

Pentecost ensures that language is not to be a barrier to people hearing and responding to the message which St Peter went out and boldly preached. Peoples from every part of the world hear the gospel in their own tongue. A new unity was possible for humanity in the core message preached by St Peter.

And that was that Jesus of Nazareth had conquered death and that Peter and others were witnesses to the Risen Lord. This is still the core message and task of the successor of St Peter. Everything else is peripheral. His role is to preach the resurrection in a way which is understandable by people of every culture, every ethnicity, every language group around the world.

The Church, at this beginning of this third millennium, has the opportunity to advance and manifest its worldwide character with greater recognition of the way in which Catholicism expresses itself in Asia and Africa.

But it is also important that we recognise the work of the Holy Spirit at our local and even parish level. We recall the youngsters who received First Holy Communion and Confirmation late last year, and the adults who did so at Easter only a few weeks ago.

They are like seedpods within whom the spiritual potential had been waiting to be ignited. The Holy Spirit has, in various appropriate ways, come into their lives and has begun to open up that depth in their personalities. Please God, it will continue to grow not only for them as individuals but for us as a parish community.

Let us pray for continuous Pentecosts in our midst, and in the universal Church. There is no better way than to do so in the words of the ancient prayer:

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful  
and enkindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they will be created  
and you will renew the face of the earth.*

© Michael Tate. <http://www.liturgyhelp.com>





## RETURN OF SOUTHERN CROSS HALL HOUSIE

5				49		63	75	80
		28	34		52	66	77	
6	11				59	69		82

The Sacred Heart Housie will return on Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup>. Covid restrictions will apply. Once we meet maximum capacity for allowable numbers access will be closed. There will be no pre-registration, it will simply be a first come best dressed situation. Doors will open at 5pm for check in. Please be mindful of social distancing when attending.

## TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Marriage breakdown is a distressing experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Office of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. You can be assured that your privacy will be respected. Should you choose to apply for an annulment, you will be guided and supported through the process. For further information please phone the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Office of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Sydney on 4979 1370 or email [tribunal@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:tribunal@mn.catholic.org.au)

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### Pentecost

*The word Pentecost comes from the Greek for fiftieth day. Pentecost Sunday ends the season of Easter and comes as a Sabbath day after seven weeks of seven days. In Jewish tradition the 50th day after the Passover was celebrated as a blessing of the harvest and rather than the unleavened bread of Passover it was celebrated by leavening the bread. It was for this reason that the disciples were gathered together when they experienced the Holy Spirit empowering them. In Christian tradition, Pentecost is celebrated as the arrival of the Spirit, promised by Jesus, that animated the disciples to spread the gospel of Jesus and gather believers to form what would eventually become the Church.*

## ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT | CONFERENCE 8-10 JULY 2021

The Conference, coordinated by the Lay Pastoral Ministry Network (formerly known as NAPPA) collaborating with the Christian Initiation Australia Network (CIAN), and the Mission Planners Network Oceania (MPNO) invites people to consider the events in our world, and within our Church, which present us with an opportunity to open our hearts and minds to act upon what the Spirit is asking of us at this time in Australia and Oceanic region.

The Conference encourages faith communities including clergy, staff, leadership teams, council members, ministers and volunteers; for those in pastoral care, for youth, family and education support, to engage in the life of Christ, and his Church, by exploring ways to:

engage the wounded, the disillusioned, the disaffiliated, the discontented & disconnected members of the Body of Christ;

heal the divisions that have caused pain in our Church; revitalise those Catholics who are just "hanging in there" so that they may once again share the Good News of Christ;

encourage and resource those who have brave and bold evangelisation ideas.

Visit the website for more information: <https://pastoralministrynetwork.org/>

## CHILDREN'S MISSION PARTNERS

The last donation to Children's Mission Partners was \$540, taking the grand total of money raised to \$36,500



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## **CONFIRMATION, BALLOONS**

### **& THE HOLY SPIRIT**

#### **A REPORT BY ANNE MILLARD**

Ninety children were confirmed in Sacred Heart Cathedral last week—45 on Tuesday and 40 on Wednesday. This coming week we will confirm another 35. I ask you to keep the children and their families in your prayers.

These children are pioneers in the Diocese because they received all their training for the Sacraments of Initiation online. Using a platform called Moodle, the children and their families logged on each week to watch a short instructional video about an aspect of the sacraments. They discussed the video as a family and were asked to post responses via a discussion forum.

The online platform ideally embodies the Diocesan directive that the Sacramental journey be family centred, parish based, and school supported. Almost all the videos are homemade featuring individuals from our Parishes. Although a bit cheesy, they have been well received and the children all seem to have learned from them.

The use of video for instruction ensures the learning is easily accessible for the whole family. Our school teachers have been incredibly supportive of the program. We are very blessed to have such incredible schools in our Parish!

A major part of the children's preparation for Confirmation is the Works of Mercy project, whereby the children with support from their families devise and carry out either a Spiritual or Corporal Work of Mercy. The reports are beautiful. Our children are caring, thoughtful, and compassionate.

Because the instruction is all online and we don't physically see the children, we thought it might be fun to mail them a letter. Physical mail is a treat (especially when it's not a bill). So we mailed out the following:

Dear ...

Very soon you will be confirmed, and that's something to celebrate. Enclosed with this letter is a balloon. Balloons often indicate celebrations—I love to have them at parties. The balloon I've sent you is red—the colour of Pentecost. Your confirmation takes place during the same week as Pentecost. We think of Pentecost as the birthday of the church. Another good reason for a balloon!

You can have a lot of fun with a balloon. But there is something lacking in the balloon you've received, isn't there? It needs to be filled with air! Before a balloon can fulfill its purpose, someone must breathe some life into it.

I think this balloon can help us understand the Holy

Spirit. Pentecost is the day that God sent the Holy Spirit to breathe life into the church so it would be all that God intended for it to be.

At the Last Supper, Jesus told his disciples that he would not be with them much longer and promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them. We hear about the arrival of the Holy Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles:

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Before God sent His Holy Spirit, the church was lifeless—like the balloon you received. After the Holy Spirit breathed life into the church, people began telling everyone they saw about Jesus. The church as we know it was born! The story of Jesus spread from that day throughout the whole world.

Now it's your turn! Breathe life into your balloon and remember that just as the balloon needs to be filled to be what it was intended to be, you and I need the Holy Spirit to fill us so we can be all that God wants us to be.

Happy ballooning.

To emphasize the metaphor of the balloon, a marvellous team of ten parish volunteers created an impressive swag of 150 red balloons that floated across the nave of the Cathedral. It looked amazing!

The confirmation liturgy began on Tuesday evening with much excitement. The Bishop was just beginning his homily and a balloon popped. The acoustics in the Cathedral are impressive (as a musician I know they are the best in Newcastle). Hence, that popping balloon in the Cathedral was mighty loud. After the laughter and reactions died down, the Bishop tied the moment right back to the violent wind that came from heaven on Pentecost.

There are just so many messages to take from this experience. I thought a balloon pop would be a catastrophe. I imagined people saying, "Remember that woman who worked here until the balloon incident?" But it wasn't a disaster. It was another beautiful piece in the metaphor. We like to have things perfect in our lives, don't we? But one popped balloon doesn't spoil the whole effect.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit is buoyant and makes our balloons fly high. Sometimes they pop. We can't control a balloon, just as we can't control the Holy Spirit. I hope the spirit soars in you this Pentecost.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING PLANNED GIVING TAX RECEIPTS

**Parishioners who require a tax receipt for Planned Giving for the 2020/2021 financial year must notify the Parish Office by 30 June 2021.**

Please notify by one of the following methods:

**Email to** [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au) - Use the wording, "Please provide me with a Planned Giving tax receipt" and include your name and envelope number.

**Phone:** Call the Parish Office on 4979 1101.

**Tax receipt data will be processed on 30 June 2021 and requests must be made by that date.**

No subsequent amendments are possible. Any requests received after 30 June 2021 will result in parishioners not receiving a tax receipt. In turn, they will not be able to claim a tax deduction. If you do not require a tax receipt for tax purposes, it is preferable not to request one, as this will enhance the tax deductibility for those who do use the tax receipt. If you do not submit a tax return (and therefore do not require a tax receipt), we can provide you with written confirmation of your contribution total. You can request this by emailing or by phoning the parish office.

Please note that due to limitations imposed by Section 83C of the NSW Education Act, letters relating to a School Building Levy (DFSBL) reduction can no longer be offered by the Parish.



### PLANNED GIVING

We are auditing our planned giving envelopes for the Newcastle parish this year. If you are a current planned giver and use envelopes please contact the CRCC office [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au) or PO Box 6, The Junction, 2291 or #49791101 and confirm your wish to continue with planned giving into the new financial year. Please provide us with: Name, Address, Email and phone number, and which church you attend. Please note that Mayfield and Stockton parishes will not be audited this financial year, but perhaps next.

## COVID-19-RELATED INFORMATION

### Maximum Number of Persons in Churches

Under the current Public Health Order, the limit on the number of persons who can be present in a church is now calculated by allowing 2 square metres per person within the building.

In our Region, those limits are:

Sacred Heart Cathedral	221
St Mary's, Newcastle	108
St Joseph's, The Junction	200
Mary Immaculate, Tighes Hill	110
St Laurence O'Toole, Broadmeadow	110
St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton	140
Christ the King, Mayfield West	140

The limit applies to all Masses and other liturgical celebrations, such as weddings and funerals.

### Provision of Contact Details

The Public Health Order requires the collection of contact details for those who attend any liturgical celebration in a church (e.g. Mass, weddings, funerals, Baptisms, etc.).

The contact details that are required are defined as a) name, b) phone number or email address, and c) the time of arrival. These details must be recorded for each attendee.

Attendees are able to use the Service NSW QR Code to provide their details—just like many other places—using the Service NSW app on your phone, or via a QR Code reader. A Contact Details Form will be provided at the door to permit the collection of these details.

### General Requirements

The requirements regarding cleaning, observing physical distancing, etc. remain in place for the time being, as does the requirement to refrain from physical acts of devotion that involve touching or kissing icons or statues.

Liturgical rituals have been adapted, and will continue to be adapted, in order to ensure the health and safety of all parishioners and visitors to our churches. We ask those who are particularly at risk – the elderly, those with compromised health, those who are sick – to refrain from returning to Mass for the sake of their own health. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass given by the Bishop remains in place in these circumstances.

### Requirements for Attending Mass

There is no need to register in advance to attend regular Mass. If you wish to return to Mass, you are at liberty to do so, though capacity limits will need to be observed at all Masses.

## The Holy Spirit came upon them

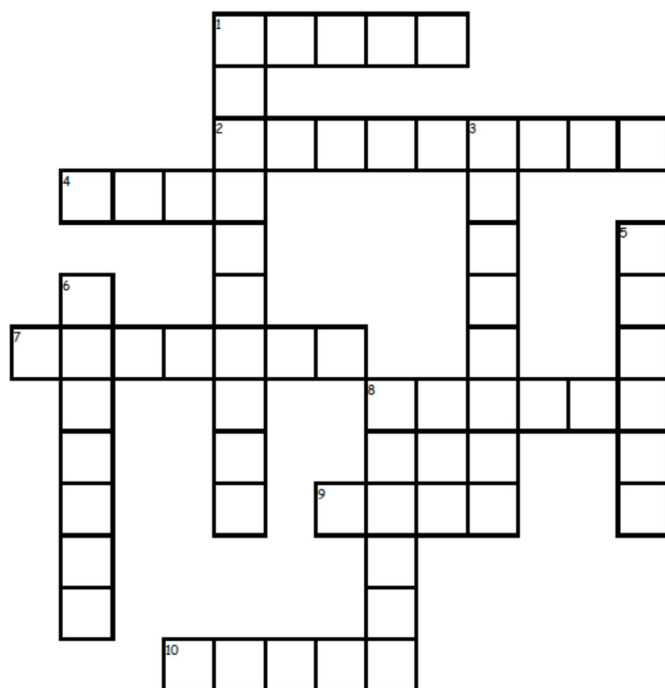
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 E Q U J O O R C E O E G A Z E I H  
 F P S V Q W H L V S U I E B O D Y  
 K K H Y T D V I R S D Z L S H X J  
 F F U Z D E R A E P P A U L Z T S

Try to find these words:

afraid  
 amazed  
 appeared  
 body  
 crowd  
 forgive  
 hand  
 happy  
 Holy Spirit  
 languages  
 middle  
 tongues

## CROSSWORD

## The Holy Spirit came upon them



## Across

- 1: the disciples felt this way when they saw Jesus appear  
 2: the people began speaking whatever \_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit let them speak  
 4: when we are baptised we become part of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ  
 7: Jesus said to the disciples, 'If you \_\_\_\_\_ anyone's sins, they will be forgiven!'  
 8: the disciples were \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jewish leaders  
 9: this part of the body has fingers and a thumb on it  
 10: a large group of people

## Down

- 1: the \_\_\_\_\_ came down and took control of everyone (two words)  
 3: Jesus did this after the disciples locked themselves in a room  
 5: another word for centre  
 6: Jesus' followers saw what looked like fiery \_\_\_\_\_ moving in all directions  
 8: the Jewish people were excited and \_\_\_\_\_ to hear Galileans speaking their language