

June 2020 Newsletter

Pentecost

The universal Church celebrated the feast of Pentecost this year on the 31st May. According to Wikipedia the Christian holiday of Pentecost, which is celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

Since mid-March we have all been experiencing a new form of life due to the coronavirus. Our fifty days since the initial lockup until the easing of restrictions was a time of uncertainty. How long would this last? What will life be like after we get through this? Now that things are beginning to return to a sense of normality how will people react? Will life ever return to 'normal'? Perhaps the early Christian community were asking similar questions...we really don't know but we do know that like us, that there was fear and uncertainty.

We are the people of the Holy Spirit through our baptism and membership of the Christian community. As such each of us is challenged to be living members of that community. One of many, but in my mind the most important, signs of a Christian community is how it cares for others.

As the early Christians responded to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in their unique way I am wondering how we the modern Christians will continue to respond to the present crisis and its aftermath. In the coming months we will see many in need due to loss of employment. Some will struggle to find meaning and be affected by mental illness.

A challenge for us, amongst many, will be how do, we as volunteers and we as The Shopfront respond to our changed and changing world. Perhaps the feast of Pentecost offers a model: Support each other with love and compassion; Respond without judging; Be open to new opportunities; Embrace what life has to offer; Know that God is all around us.

I often say that the volunteers are the lifeblood of The Shopfront. You offer service without expecting any return. During this period of unprecedented change and challenge we have received support via small parcels of food, phone calls asking how we are going, and volunteers asking how they can assist even whilst not being able to be physically present. A small team have been able to come in each week to assist Rosemary prepare the takeaway lunches. I see all of these actions as being signs of the Holy Spirit at work.

Damian

Volunteer Update

As many of you will know, the WA Government have eased some restrictions as of this coming Saturday, but these will not affect us and the way we are operating currently. We will continue to operate as we are until such time as restrictions are eased further.

We are still managing to serve lunch to, on average, 500 visitors a month. Food hampers are proving to be in high demand with around 120 per month, which is more than we were doing pre COVID19. We see a lot of the regular visitors and everyone seems to be in good spirits.

You'll all be pleased to know that we've had no "tomato allergies" as of late!

New Build Update

The new building is almost finished with the certificate of completion scheduled for Tuesday 16th June. We will then need to look at the fitout and source furnishings such as office desks, tables, shelves etc. but will wait until we see the layout and what is needed.

Once we have the keys we will start to arrange times for you, our volunteers, to visit the new home of The Shopfront. We will be in touch as soon as we have this organised.

Moving to the new premises will be dependent on the fitout and also the COVID19 restrictions.

PERMANENT PART TIME EMPLOYMENT (0.40 FTE)

PASTORAL WORKER

THE MINISTRY WITH DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE

The Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, Ministry with Deaf and Hard of Hearing People has a vacancy for a permanent Part-Time (16 hours per week) Pastoral Worker to assist the Catholic Chaplain. Applicants with either a formal qualification in Pastoral Work or proven Pastoral Work expertise in a parish, school or organisational setting should apply as well as those with basic accreditation in Adult Faith Education and Religious Education teaching or equivalent. The applicant will have good organisational and admin skills and a current driver's license together with an understanding of the Catholic ethos and values, be familiar with Catholic rituals and commit to working in a team. Desirable skills include Auslan or Signed English, experience with websites, social media and Facebook and the ability to use Word, Outlook and PowerPoint. To receive the Job Description and submit your application by Monday 15 June 2020, please contact Barbara Harris by email: emmanuelcentre@westnet.com.au