

Pastoral Letter.

Dear Friends,

This June ushers in a new season in the church calendar, that of Pentecost. The season begins with the celebration of the day of Pentecost on Sunday 4th June, and will continue until November. Pentecost (Greek fiftieth) occurred 50 days after the Jewish Passover when Jesus was crucified, followed on by His resurrection and ascension. The day came in fulfilment of Jesus' promise that His followers would receive the gift of His Holy Spirit. The Spirit coming gave the disciples power, transforming their lives forever (Acts 2). With conviction, and with incredible courage, they went out on the streets of Jerusalem, and beyond, with the life transforming message of Jesus. Not only was this their new beginning, it was also the birthday of the Christian church.

Today Pentecost is ongoing - the Holy Spirit comes to renew and empower us to engage in God's mission, sharing the good news of Jesus in our broken world. By words and actions the message: *Jesus lives - Jesus loves - Jesus saves!* must flow from us to others in our church, neighbourhood, workplace, community, and among family and friends. As we celebrate the birthday of the church, and the continuation of its life, let us reflect on the question - is there any new beginning of the Holy Spirit worthy of celebration and living out in our lives? As the hymnwriter says: *breathe on me breath of God, fill me with life anew...until this earthly part of me glows with Thy fire divine.*

May we all be renewed with the life-giving breath of the Holy Spirit.

Every blessing!

Irene John