

Dear Friends, by June we have already progressed through the major festivals of the year connected to Christ's mission on earth – from Advent and Christmas all the way through Whitsun. We now progress through another cycle of the year where we can live into the journey of humanity - our own journey. One could see this journey of the second part of the year as commencing with St John's Tide, the only festival dedicated to a human being. But it could also be seen that the journey of humanity begins with Whitsun/Pentecost where the disciples received the Holy Spirit to help them make their own way along the path revealed by the Christ. We can use the example of St John's life and deeds as inspiration and encouragement for meeting the tasks placed before us on the journey. Before the end of this second half of the Christian year we will also come to Michaelmas and meet the Archangel Michael, who has fought the dragon on our behalf in the past, and who now helps us face our own dragons. We are not alone, we have support and we have been shown the way. It is still a long time before Christmas, and over the next months we will inevitably be tested in many ways, but we have received many blessings in the first part of the year that we can draw upon to find the courage and strength to meet the future.

I hope for all of us that the winter solstice and the return of the sun heralds a more light-filled journey in Christ.

Warmest regards,

Darryl

Pentecost/Whitsun – some thoughts from Darryl Coonan

The temperature on the surface of the Sun is around 5500 degrees Celsius. The power of the Sun is radiated into the cosmos and, thankfully, the earth - which is 150 million kilometres from the Sun - only receives a tiny portion of its power; this bestows on us a range of temperatures that enables life to exist as we know it. Life on planet earth would not be sustainable if the sun were to move closer to the earth.

Christ, the Being of the Sun, contracted himself in his journey to earth and diminished his radiance more and more as he descended into the physical human body of Jesus. His immense power would have otherwise completely burnt out the physical body into which he entered. Nevertheless, by the time of Golgotha the power of his Being had burnt up the last remnants of matter within his human form. He was no longer restricted by the material laws of the earth.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was heralded by a mighty roar of wind. He brought the spiritual power that human beings need for their future development. The Holy Spirit brought a flame as a gift of the Sun Being. It was a flame of an intensity that would not burn or destroy those who received it, but a flame that could enter their hearts and gradually begin a process of overcoming the deadening effects of the material form, taking them along the path that Christ had taken so that they could become ever more beings of spirit.

We can now achieve for ourselves what the Sun Being achieved in all his power, albeit more gradually. The flame that alighted above the apostles and entered them lights up above us as well. It was their yearning and love for Christ that allowed the Holy Spirit to enter them deeply, so that they could begin their work of spiritualizing the material in the world they encountered, and in their own inner world. It is the same for us; our love and yearning for the Christ allows the spirit to enter us and to guide us on our own path of resurrection – and to follow Christ to the Father.

When do we see and feel the Spirit working in us? When we choose to follow the examples of Christ; when we respond with love, in moments of selflessness, in caring and taking responsibility for those who need it; when we strive for self-knowledge and to be better people. These moments are powerful and allow the Spirit God to work in us.

At Pentecost and in every Act of Consecration, as we make the sign of the cross over our hearts, we can take in the words ever more deeply – the Spirit God Enlighten Us!

UPCOMING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY EVENTS

THE FUTURE OF OUR EARTH

A Spiritual Development Retreat

18th-20th August 2017

Presented by: Bastiaan Baan and The Movement for Religious Renewal

A weekend retreat where we have the opportunity to explore what mythologies say about the earth's future, to observe the phenomena of our present time and ask: What can I do for the future of the earth?

Venue: Harmony Centre,
11 Beresford St Mittagong NSW 2575

Cost: \$300 includes meals To register please contact Ioanna Panagiotopoulos ioanna.panagiotopoulos@gmail.com

“MEDITATIVE PRAYER TODAY”

A Retreat of The Movement for Religious Renewal for Priests and Community Members

13th-20th September 2017

Harmony Village 11 Beresford St.

Mittagong

<http://thechristiancommunity.net/> or email ioanna.panagiotopoulos@gmail.com for booking form

Darryl's absences

Darryl is on leave from 26 June until 17 July 2017

Darryl is attending the Pro-seminary training 14-18 August

Darryl is away at the Synod/Retreat from 13-20 September

On the Sundays when there is no priest there will usually be a '**Lay Devotional Gathering**' at 9am (check program). This will include reading the weekly Gospel passage then a discussion, reading of the Creed, the Lord's Prayer & reading the Last Supper from Mark's Gospel, and music if possible.

REGULAR EVENTS

!!!! Check the programme for variations!!!!

Tuesday mornings - weekly study group at 8.45am: we have been looking at "The Apocalypse" by Emil Bock and when this is finished we will move onto on "The Inner Nature of Music and the Experience of Tone" by R. Steiner

Last Friday of the month at 9 am: Death & Dying study and conversation: Friday 28th July, 25th August.

Friday morning Study Group (except for last Friday of the month) – we are interested in re-enlivening the Festivals and will seek inspiration from various sources including the new book by Martin Samson - '**Festivals in the Southern Hemisphere**'.

The Sunday Service for Children followed by a Festival/Devotional Circle and morning-tea, Sundays at 10.15am: 23rd July; 6th & 20th August; 3rd September; 1st October followed by the Michaelmas Festival.

The Act of Consecration of Man is celebrated on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8am and Sundays at 9am unless otherwise stated in the program.

“We make a living by what we get - We make a life by what we give”

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