From +John...

Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, we will hear a reading from the Acts of the Apostles. It's the story of Pentecost. Part of the reading says:

"Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, 'Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travellers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

Those cities which are listed are much more than an amusing way to make the Sunday reader become tongue-tied or confused. The names listed, from Parthians through to Arabs, represented international visitors from around the Mediterranean world and beyond, who had come to Jerusalem to worship. We know that many of these international visitors went on to accept the Gospel. They provide us with an example, even today, of how nations and believers from all over the world heard the Gospel, believed it, accepted it and lived together as fellow Christians.

Our parish and school communities today are made up of people from many different countries. We speak dozens of different languages and express ourselves very uniquely - even in prayer - but we have all been baptised and we have all received the same Spirit. Our parishes and schools are deeply blessed and enriched by the presence of people from all over the world.

At Pentecost *"they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language."* We may also be confused at times if all we see and hear is a person from another country. We have all been gifted with the same Spirit. It does not matter where we come from. The Spirit is God's Spirit and that is what unites us in speaking a language we all understand, the language of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22).

As we prepare for Pentecost Sunday we pray that the Spirit of God lives forever in our hearts, that the Spirit of God both comforts and disturbs us, and that above all the Spirit moves us always - no matter what part of the world we come from - to speak the language of love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness gentleness and self- control, the language of the Holy Spirit

With every blessing

+John

NEWS . . .

- **Lutheran - Catholic Commemoration of the Reformation:** This Sunday afternoon, 4 June at 3pm there will be an Ecumenical Worship Commemorating the Reformation at Sacred Heart Cathedral. A new Catholic - Lutheran Dialogue will be announced as we look for ways to continue the dialogue of journeying towards Christian Unity. All are welcome.
- **Welcome to New Catholics Mass**. This Sunday evening, 4 June at 7pm in the Cathedral we will celebrate the Mass to welcome all those who were baptised or received into the Church at Easter to the wider Diocesan Community. All are welcome to this Mass to pray with and welcome those who have joined our Archdiocesan Family.
- **Congratulations to** Te Wairua Tapu Parish on the Blessing and reopening of the recently moved, renovated and extended Church of St Patrick in Wainuiomata. Congratulations also to St Mary's School Carterton on the Centennial of the school to be celebrated this weekend.
- **Mass of Jubilee Celebration**. All are welcome to attend Mass Tuesday 20 June at 11am at St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie. **All Clergy** wanting to attend lunch at **the Pines** following Mass please advise Fr Tony Kearns as soon as possible. (tkearns@clear.net.nz)

"O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams."

Augustine of Hippo