

## 2017 Pentecost Penning

50 days following Easter comes Pentecost. We won't let the biblical images of Pentecost in wind and fire escape our minds as we embrace the red liturgical colour up in the sanctuary today. That surely serves as a strong reminder to us about how the Holy Spirit incredibly empowered the disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

Yet, it's not only about the disciples on that first Day of Pentecost after Christ's resurrection 2,000 years ago. It's also about us being filled by the Holy Spirit as to move on day in and day out to walk in the path of love, faith and hope. It's also about us bearing fruits of the Holy Spirit in our thoughts, words and deeds on a daily basis: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

The Holy Spirit may not come as fire and wind every day. Yet let's not forget: the Holy Spirit also comes to us as Jesus breathed upon his disciples and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit' (John 20:22), and the Spirit entering the very dry bones brought them back to life and strength (Ezekiel 37:1-14).

It's been church tradition over centuries to hold confirmation during Pentecost season. It's our plan that on June 3 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost) 2018, we'll hold confirmation when the Bishop comes to visit us. Baptized members of the parish desiring to be confirmed – whether young people desiring to go deeper in faith with their coming of age, or unconfirmed adults wishing to renew their baptismal commitment and to be renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit through confirmation - please let me know, as I prepare for classes for confirmation candidates.

Have a Blessed Pentecost

*Parvula Lee*



## 2017 聖靈降臨節隨筆

今天當我們看到聖壇上換上代表聖靈的紅色禮儀顏色時，我們的腦海就會很自然的記起聖靈降臨時的「火」與「風」，及其如何有力地叫當時的門徒從軟弱轉化作剛強。

然而，聖靈降臨並不單限於二千年前基督復活後第五十天聖靈如何以風、火和能力沛降於當時的門徒身上。聖靈降臨更是在今時今日與我們有不可分割的關係 — 叫領受過聖靈的我們可每天行在「信、望、愛」中，也叫我們在日常生活中可活出聖靈的果子：仁愛、喜樂、和平、忍耐、恩慈、良善、信實、溫柔、節制。聖靈未必每天以火和風臨到我們當中，但我們可不要忘記聖靈的降臨，也是透過主耶穌向門徒吹一口氣說：「你們受聖靈」。（約 20:22）而當上主的靈以氣息吹進枯骨中就叫做骸骨復生。（結 37:1-14）

普世教會有遠超數百年的傳統，就是在每年聖靈降臨的節期中舉行堅信禮。我們教會也計劃在明年六月三日（聖靈降臨後第二主日），於主教來訪本堂時舉行堅信禮。已受洗的教友中（不論是孩童受洗者達到可更深入理解信仰的青少年期，或是未領受過堅信禮的成年信徒盼望重申其領洗時的承諾並讓聖靈內住的能力得以被更新），如欲在當天領受堅信禮者，請跟我聯絡，因我現已開始為準備堅信課程，為切合將受堅信禮者的需要。

祝各位聖靈降臨節蒙福！

李志敏

