



Diocesan News Letter Madurai

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June 2014

(For Private Circulation Only)

No. 614

**Sacred Heart of Jesus
Have Mercy on us!**



**Immaculate Heart of Mary
Pray for us!**

Pope's General Intention for June 2014: *That the unemployed may receive support and find the work they need to live in dignity.*

Pope's Mission Intention for June 2014: *That Europe may rediscover its Christian roots through the witness of believers.*

PLEASE NOTE

1. **The Monthly Recollection for June** will be held at 10.30 am on 10th June 2014 at Archbishop's House. The recollection consists of a conference, adoration, confession and benediction. All the parish priests and the assistants are invited to attend this recollection without fail after a holiday month.
2. **The Solemnity of Sacred Heart of Jesus** falls on 27th June, Friday which day is celebrated as **Priests' Sanctification Day**. Priests are exhorted to spend the day in prayer and reflection on the dignity and sanctity of priesthood that we hold and exercise after the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the High priest, and celebrate the feast with the people in order to highlight the sanctification of priesthood in the modern world today.
3. **The Solemnity of St. Peter and Paul** (29th) falls on Sunday this year. Kindly announce on 22^{inst} about the *special collection for the "Society of St. Peter the Apostle"* to be made on the 29th. Kindly facilitate a good collection for the maintenance of seminaries and seminarians. DNL appreciates those parishes which regularly contribute towards this fund.
4. Kindly make use of all the **Orphanages and Boarding Schools** that obtain subsidy through the archdiocese for admission of the poor students. The list is published in DNL May 2014.
5. **For admission of poor boys** in our hostel, kindly contact the parish priest of Thiruthangal who would admit them at Krishnaperi school with free Boarding. The Archdiocese would assist more deserving poor students.

PENTECOST - SHAVUOT - FEAST OF WEEKS

Pentecost or Shavuot has many names in the Bible (the Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Harvest, and the Latter Firstfruits). Celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover, Shavuot is traditionally a joyous time of giving thanks and presenting offerings for the new grain of the summer wheat harvest in Israel. The name "Feast of Weeks" was given because God commanded the Jews in Leviticus 23:15-16, to count seven full weeks (or 49 days) beginning on the second day of Passover, and then present offerings of new grain to the Lord as a lasting ordinance.

Shavuot was originally a festival for expressing thankfulness to the Lord for the blessing of the harvest. And because it occurred at the conclusion of the Passover, it acquired the name "Latter Firstfruits." The celebration is also tied to the giving of the Ten Commandments and thus bears the name Matin Torah or "giving of the Law." Jews believe that it was exactly at this time that God gave the Torah to the people through Moses on Mount Sinai.

Time of Observance:

Pentecost is celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover, or the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan (May or June).

See Bible Feasts Calendar for the actual dates of Pentecost.

Scripture Reference:

The observance of the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost is recorded in the Old Testament in Exodus 34:22, Leviticus 23:15-22, Deuteronomy 16:16, 2 Chronicles 8:13 and Ezekiel 1. Some of the most exciting events in the New Testament revolve around the Day of Pentecost in the book of Acts, chapter 2. Pentecost is also mentioned in Acts 20:16, 1 Corinthians 16:8 and James 1:18.

About Pentecost:

Throughout Jewish history, it has been customary to engage in all-night study of the Torah on the first evening of Shavuot. Children were encouraged to memorize Scripture and rewarded with treats.

The book of Ruth was traditionally read during Shavuot. Today, however, many of the customs have been left behind and their significance lost. The public holiday has become more of a culinary festival of dairy dishes. Traditional Jews still light candles and recite blessings, adorn their homes and synagogues with greenery, eat dairy foods, study the Torah, read the book of Ruth and attend Shavuot services.

Jesus and Pentecost:

In Acts 1, just before the resurrected Jesus is taken up into heaven, he tells the disciples about the Father's promised gift of the Holy Spirit, which will soon be given to them in the form of a powerful baptism. He tells them to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, which will empower them to go out into the world and be his witnesses.

A few days later, on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples are all together when the sound of a mighty wind comes down from heaven, with tongues of fire resting on them. The Bible says, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." The crowds observed this event and heard them speaking in different languages. They were amazed and thought the disciples were drunk on wine. Then Peter got up and preached the Good News of the kingdom and 3000 people accepted the message of Christ! That same day they were baptized and added to the family of God.

The book of Acts continues to record the miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit that began on Pentecost. Once again we see the Old Testament revealing a shadow of the things to come through Christ! After Moses went up to Mount Sinai, the Word of God was given to the Israelites at Shavuot. When the Jews accepted the Torah, they became servants of God. Similarly, after Jesus went up to heaven, the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost. When the disciples received the gift, they became witnesses for Christ. Jews celebrated a joyous harvest on Shavuot, and the church celebrated a harvest of newborn souls on Pentecost.

More Facts About Pentecost:

Shavuot is one of the three pilgrimage feasts when all Jewish males were required to appear before the Lord in Jerusalem.

One theory on why Jews customarily eat dairy foods such as cheesecakes and cheese blitzes on Shavuot is that the Law was compared to "milk and honey" in the Bible. Read more.

The tradition of decorating with greenery on Shavuot represents the harvest and the Torah's reference as the "tree of life."

Because Shavuot falls around the end of the school year, it is also a popular time for holding Jewish confirmation celebrations.

- Courtesy: Catholic.com



FEAST OF HOLY PENTECOST

INTRODUCTION

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.



BIBLICAL STORY

The story of Pentecost is found in the book of The Acts of the Apostles. In Chapter two we are told that the Apostles of our Lord were gathered together in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like a rushing wind, filling the entire house where they were sitting. Then, tongues of fire appeared, and one sat upon each one of Apostles. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as directed by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

This miraculous event occurred on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, celebrated by the Jews on the fiftieth day after the Passover as the culmination of the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10). The Feast of Weeks began on the third day after the Passover with the presentation of the first harvest sheaves to God, and it concluded on Pentecost with the offering of two loaves of unleavened bread, representing the first products of the harvest (Leviticus 23:17-20; Deuteronomy 16:9-10).

Since the Jewish Feast of Pentecost was a great pilgrimage feast, many people from throughout the Roman Empire were gathered in Jerusalem on this day. When the people in Jerusalem heard the sound, they came together and heard their own languages being spoken by the Apostles (Acts 2:5-6). The people were amazed, knowing that some of those speaking were Galileans, and not men who would normally speak many different languages. They wondered what this meant, and some even thought the Apostles were drunk (Acts 2:7-13).

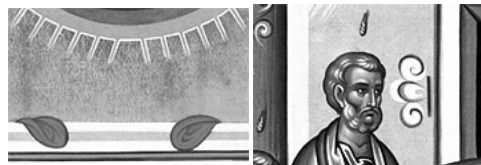
Peter, hearing these remarks, stood up and addressed the crowd. He preached to the people regarding the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He spoke about Jesus Christ and His death and glorious Resurrection. Great conviction fell upon the people, and they asked the Apostles, "What shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38-39).

The Bible records that on that day about three thousand were baptized. Following, the book of Acts states that the newly baptized continued daily to hear the teaching of the Apostles, as the early Christians met together for fellowship, the breaking of bread, and for prayer. Many wonderful signs and miracles were done through the Apostles, and the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47).

ICON OF THE FEAST

The icon of the Feast of Pentecost is known as "The Descent of the Holy Spirit". It is an icon of bold colors of red and gold signifying that this is a great event. The

movement of the icon is from the top to the bottom. At the top of the icon is a semicircle with rays coming from it (1).



The rays are pointing toward the Apostles, and the tongues of fire are seen descending upon each one of them signifying the descent of the Holy Spirit (2).

1. Semicircle of rays pointing to each of the Apostles (detail).
2. A tongue of fire rests above the head of Saint Peter (detail).

The building in the background of the icon represents the upper room where the Disciples of Christ gathered after the Ascension. The Apostles are shown seated in a semicircle which shows the unity of the Church (3). Included in the group of the Apostles is Saint Paul (4), who, though not present with the others on the day of Pentecost, became an Apostle of the Church and the greatest missionary. Also included are the four Evangelists—Matthew, Mark (5), Luke (6), and John—holding books of the Gospel, while the other Apostles are holding scrolls that represent the teaching authority given to them by Christ.



3. The Apostles in the upper room being filled with the Holy Spirit.



4. Saint Paul, who was not present on the day of Pentecost, is included amongst the twelve (detail).



5. Saint Mark the Evangelist, who was not present with the twelve Disciples on this day, is included (detail).

6. Saint Luke the Evangelist, who also was not present on this day, is included (detail).

In the center of the icon below the Apostles, a royal figure is seen against a dark background. This is a symbolic figure, Cosmos, representing the people of the world living in darkness and sin, and involved in pagan worship (7). However, the figure carries in his

hands a cloth containing scrolls which represent the teaching of the Apostles (8). The tradition of the Church holds that the Apostles carried the message of the Gospel to all parts of the world.



7. The Cosmos, appearing in the center of the icon, representing the people of the world (detail).

8. The scrolls that are carried by the Cosmos are representing the teachings of the Apostles (detail).

In the icon of Pentecost we see the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, sent down upon the Apostles who will teach the nations and baptize them in the name of the Holy Trinity. Here we see that the Church is brought together and sustained in unity through the presence and work of the Holy Spirit, that the Spirit guides the Church in the missionary endeavor throughout the world, and that the Spirit nurtures the Body of Christ, the Church, in truth and love.

Holy Childhood Collection -2014

Collection as on 29/04/2014	72,179.00
St. Mary's Church	15,000.00
Sivakasi	6,100.00
Virudhunagar	4,000.00
Bastin Nagar	3,000.00
K. Pudur	3,000.00
Railway Colony	1,250.00
Y.Othakadai	546.00
Karumathur	500.00
Palanganatham	500.00
Thirumangalam	300.00

Collection as on 27/05/2014 **1,06,375.00**

Holy See Collection -2014

Sivakasi	5,400.00
Anjal Nagar	5,040.00
Virudhunagar	3,500.00
Bastin Nagar	3,000.00
Hanumanthanpatti	2,300.00
K. Pudur	2,000.00
Batlagundu	1,000.00
Karumathur	500.00
Kavirayapuram	500.00
Mangudi Meenatchiapuram	500.00
Palanganatham	500.00
Y. Othakadai	455.00
Thirumangalam	300.00
Melur	250.00
Iyyampalayam	200.00

Collection as on 27/05/2014 **25,445.00**

Hunger & Disease Collection -2014

Collection as on 29/04/2014	1,65,405.00
Palanganatham	79,000.00
Virudhunagar	61,000.00
Bastin Nagar	35,000.00
St. Mary's Church	30,000.00
Thiruthangal	25,500.00
Ellis Nagar	18,000.00
Sundaranatchiapuram	16,210.00
Ayravathanallur	10,200.00
Hanumanthanpatti	5,500.00
Melur	5,000.00
Mangudi Meenatchiapuram	3,000.00
St. Annes Convent, Mepalayam	2,500.00
Y. Othakadai	2,210.00
R.R. Nagar	2,200.00
Uthamapalayam	2,000.00
Iyyampalayam	2,000.00
Karumathur	2,000.00
Thirumangalam	1,500.00

Collection as on 27/05/2014 **4,68,225.00**

Good Friday Collection -2014

Collection as on 29/04/2014	1,01,846.00
St. Mary's Church	40,000.00
Virudhunagar	35,000.00
Bastin Nagar	20,000.00
Kadachanendal	20,000.00
Palanganatham	16,000.00
Ellis Nagar	15,000.00
Thiruthangal	10,000.00

Hanumanthanpatti	9,500.00
Sundaranatchiapuram	9,320.00
Y. Othakadai	9,280.00
Ayravathanallur	5,160.00
R.R. Nagar	3,300.00
Uthamapalayam	3,000.00
Thirumangalam	2,500.00
Karumathur	1,500.00
Melur	1,200.00
Mangudi Meenatchiapuram	1,000.00
Iyyampalayam	800.00

Collection as on 27/05/2014 **3,04,406.00**

Vocation Sunday Collection -2014

Bastin Nagar	3,000.00
Batlagundu	1,000.00
Y. Othakadai	501.00
Karumathur	500.00
Melur	500.00
Palanganatham	500.00

Collection as on 27/05/2014 **6,001.00**

Seminarians Fund

Kalladipatty	5,000.00
Railway Colony (Bination)	200.00
Mrs. Mary Grace, Silukkuvarpatti	200.00

Collection as on 27/05/2014 **5,400.00**

Greetings on Happy Birthdays

Fr. Rex Peter	on	10.06.1973
Fr. Britto Suresh	on	11.06.1975
Fr. John Martin	on	11.06.1963
Msgr. Joseph Selvaraj	on	12.06.1948
Fr. Antony Irudhayaraj	on	12.06.1978
Fr. Arockiam Y.	on	13.06.1965
Fr. Pari Valan	on	22.06.1973
Fr. Joseph Antony	on	23.06.1968



Adoration Sunday

June	July
01 Munjikkal	06 Virudhunagar
08 W. Puduppatty	13 Thirumangalam
15 Ayravathanallur	20 Kadachanendal
22 Sindalacherry	27 Nagamalai
29 Srivilliputhur	

Necrology

Fr. Maria Pancras	-	01.06.1992
Fr. Irudayam	-	06.06.1969
Fr. Arulanandam M.A.		06.06.1966
Fr. Manuvel N.A.		12.06.2003
Fr. Susai R.		13.06.1979

