



## ANZAC Memorial Chapel of St Paul

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF THE

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY SERVICES



Date: 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Pentecost Sunday Easter (A)

### Chapel Information

Mass Times

Sunday Mass – 1700

Confession – 1630 (or by appointment)

Holy Hour – Thursday 1800

### Chaplain Contacts

Fr Thomas Zaranski (ADFA Chaplain)

0477 326 342

Deacon Clint McGoldrick (RMC Chaplain)

0477 726 531

## Notices & Announcements

### Pastoral Message

Dear Faithful,

In Catholic theology, Pentecost is understood as the divine correction and fulfilment of the division introduced at the Tower of Babel in the Book of Genesis. The narrative of Babel (Gen 11:1–9) describes humanity, united by a single language, attempting to build a tower to “make a name” for themselves apart from God. Their pride leads to fragmentation: God confounds their speech and scatters them across the earth. This dispersion is not merely linguistic but symbolic of the spiritual fracture of human unity through sin. Humanity’s communion—with God and with one another—is broken through sin of which the capital sin is pride.

Pentecost (Acts 2:1–11), celebrated fifty days after Easter, reveals the theological reversal of Babel. When the Holy Spirit descends upon the Apostles, they begin to preach in different tongues, yet all present—people from many nations—understand them in their own language. Unlike Babel, where one language became many and communion collapsed, at Pentecost many languages are gathered into one proclamation of Truth. The miracle is not a return to uniformity but a transformation of diversity into unity through God’s grace. We see in this moment the birth of the Church as a universal communion: a people united not by language or culture but by the Holy Spirit.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church emphasises that at Pentecost the Holy Spirit “restores” what sin had disrupted, enabling the Church to speak to all nations (CCC 731–736). Where Babel represents human self-reliance and pride, Pentecost reveals divine initiative and humility—the Apostles do not exalt themselves but proclaim “the mighty works of God.” The Church Fathers frequently interpreted Pentecost in this light: as God

gathering the scattered children of Adam and forming a new people in Christ, reversing the alienation caused by sin.

This theological relationship also underscores the missionary nature of the Church. At Babel, humanity sought unity without God and was scattered; at Pentecost, God creates unity in Christ without erasing difference. Catholic Church continues to live this reality through its global and *catholic* (universal) identity: one faith expressed in many cultures and languages, yet united in doctrine and sacrament under the Pope, who is the successor of St Paul and the Vicar of Christ.

Pentecost also marks the culmination and conclusion of the Easter season in the liturgical calendar. Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Christ, the victory over sin and death; yet this victory must be applied and lived out in the life of the Church. Pentecost completes this paschal mystery by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who empowers the Apostles to carry the Resurrection into the world. In this sense, Easter is not merely an event but a season that reaches its fulfilment in mission as mission that has been handed onto us!

Liturgically, the Church celebrates Pentecost as the final day of the Easter season, after which Ordinary Time resumes. This transition is deeply symbolic: the extraordinary events of Christ's Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension give way to the ongoing life of the Church, animated by the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit who descended at Pentecost continues to guide the Church, sanctify the faithful, and sustain unity amid diversity.

Pentecost stands as both a theological correction of Babel and the completion of Easter. It bridges humanity's division and God's salvation, transforming scattered peoples into a communion of believers and sending them forth to proclaim Christ to all nations.

1. Prayer for a new bishop of the Diocese of the Australian Military Services

O God, eternal Shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, Grant in your boundless love a bishop for the Diocese of the Australian Military Services who will please You by his holiness and to us show watchful care.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. Mary, Help of Christians, Pray for us.

2. Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Has started! The fourth meeting will be 21 June 1500 at the chapel. Please pray for those on the journey to becoming Catholic.

3. Mary Help of Christians – Patroness of the Military Ordinariate

Mass Monday 25 May 2026 at 1215.