

At St. Bernard's Prep, we are now continuing our journey of faith as we enter the season of Pentecost — a time when we reflect on the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Church's mission in the world.

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and growing in faith as we live out our mission as followers of Christ.

Pentecost is a major Christian feast celebrated **fifty days after Easter**, marking the fulfilment of Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit to his followers. It commemorates the moment the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, transforming them from a group of fearful disciples into bold witnesses. This empowerment enabled them to speak in many different languages, a miracle known as the "gift of tongues," which allowed people from diverse cultures to hear the message of Jesus in their own native speech. Because this event launched their global mission to share the faith with everyone, it is widely considered the **"birthday" of the Church**.

Symbols of Pentecost

Several powerful symbols are used to represent the arrival and presence of the Holy Spirit during this event:

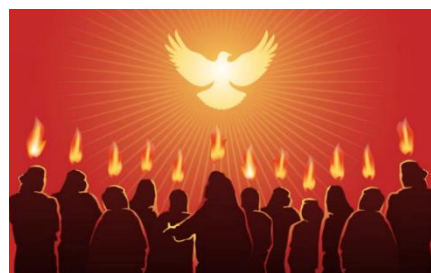
- **Fire:** This is one of the most prominent symbols, often shown as "tongues of fire" resting on the apostles' heads. It represents the **transformative power**, zeal, and purification the Spirit brings to believers.
- **Wind:** The Bible describes a "mighty rushing wind" filling the room before the Spirit appeared. It symbolizes the **breath of God** and the invisible but powerful movement of the Spirit in the world.
- **The Dove:** While the dove is famously associated with Jesus' baptism, it is a universal symbol for the Holy Spirit representing **peace, gentleness, and hope**.
- **Red:** This is the liturgical colour of the day. Priests often wear red vestments to symbolize the **burning fire of God's love** and the fiery tongues seen on the first Pentecost.
- **Water:** Sometimes used to represent the **cleansing and life-giving** nature of the Spirit, often linked to the thousands of baptisms that occurred on that first day.

Religious Education at St. Bernard's Prep

This term we will be focusing on two key themes:

To the Ends of the Earth: We begin by exploring the excitement of the early Church. Following the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Apostles were empowered to share the Good News far and wide. Our children will reflect on how we, too, are called to be modern-day witnesses of Christ's message in our own community.

Dialogue and Encounter: As we move through the term, we focus on our place in a global family. The children will learn the importance of "encounter" reaching out to understand and respect people of all faiths and backgrounds. This theme encourages our children to build bridges of friendship and work towards a more compassionate, peaceful world.



So, what happens at St. Bernard's Prep during Pentecost?

Friday 1st May	May Procession
Wednesday 6th May	Trans B Liturgy
Friday 8th May	Upper Trans Mc Assembly
Wednesday 13th May	Lower Trans Liturgy
Friday 15th May	Trans K Assembly
Wednesday 10th June	Upper Prep Liturgy
Friday 19th June	Prep G Assembly
Wednesday 1st July	Prep A Liturgy
Thursday 9th July	Remove Leavers' Mass



IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

MAY

The month of May is dedicated to Our Lady

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (14th May)

After his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples over a period of forty days. Ascension Day is when we celebrate Jesus' return to his Father in Heaven.

PENTECOST SUNDAY (24th May)

This is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church.

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (31st May)

Today we celebrate our belief in the Trinity, the three persons of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

(4th June)

On this feast we give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus in the form of bread and wine.

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS (12th June)

On this day we remember how much Jesus loves us all.

SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES (29th June)

We celebrate the lives of these important saints who helped establish the Christian Church.

St. Bernard's Preparatory School



Religious Education Newsletter

PENTECOST 2026

