



Charman Uniting Church

News Letter

7th June 2026 Vol 7 No 19 Pentecost 2



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The origin of Pentecost

History: Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early weeks of harvest. In Palestine, there were two harvests each year. The early harvest came during the months of May and June; the final harvest came in the Fall. Pentecost was the celebration of the beginning of the early wheat harvest, which meant that Pentecost always fell sometime during the middle of the month of May or sometimes in early June.

There were several festivals, celebrations, or observances that took place before Pentecost. There was Passover, there was Unleavened Bread, and there was the Feast of Firstfruits. The Feast of Firstfruits was the celebration of the beginning of the barley harvest. Here's the way you figured out the date of Pentecost.

According to the Old Testament, you would go to the day of the celebration of Firstfruits, and beginning with that day, you would count off 50 days. The fiftieth day would be the Day of Pentecost. So Firstfruits is the beginning of the barley harvest and Pentecost is the celebration of the beginning of the wheat harvest.

Since it was always 50 days after Firstfruits, and since 50 days equals seven weeks, it always came a "week of weeks" later. Therefore, they either called it the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks.

Why Is Pentecost Important to Christianity?

Modern Christians observe Pentecost as a holiday, not to celebrate a wheat harvest, but to remember when the Holy Spirit invaded the Church in Acts 2.

1. On Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit filled the Church with power and added 3,000 new believers. The account in Act 2 reports that, after Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus' followers were gathered together for the Feast of Harvest (aka Pentecost), and the Holy Spirit *"filled the whole house where they were sitting"* (Acts 2:2). *"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them"* (Acts 2:4)

PENTECOST
the birth of the church

ACTS 2:1-21

2. The Holy Spirit was prophesied in the Old Testament and promised by Jesus. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit in John 14:26, who would be the Helper for his people.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you".



This New Testament event is also significant because it fulfills an Old Testament prophecy in [Joel 2:28-29](#):

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

The Significance of Pentecost Today:

In a video for Christianity.com, Phillip Nation explains why Pentecost is significant for Christians today. The significance of Pentecost to the church is something that we need to walk through carefully, and we shouldn't ignore, because Pentecost was a Jewish celebration. And so, in our modern day of the New Testament church, we don't celebrate Pentecost in the way that the Old Testament Hebrews did.

But Pentecost was the moment in history after Christ had ascended. And he had promised during the gospel narratives, during his earthly ministry, that he would leave, but that he would send the comforter, he would send the holy spirit. And it was at that moment in Pentecost where the spirit came, and he empowered the early believers, specifically the apostles that were left, and Peter, who is almost a comedic personality in the gospel narratives.

He is the one who constantly puts his foot in his mouth, constantly is having to be corrected by Jesus, but is in the inner circle. And because of grace and mercy, he is chosen to be the one who stands up in front of this throng, probably thousands, maybe tens of thousands of people to proclaim the gospel, there in the midst of a Hebrew celebration that was intended to remind the Hebrews of how God had always protected them.

And here Peter stands up and says, "And let me tell you about the Messiah, who is the eternal protection for all of humanity. Let me tell you who he is." And so Pentecost becomes this marker in history to really what many people would say, "And that's the moment that church is born."

That is when thousands come into the faith. And it goes from this little sect of believers who followed a Jewish rabbi from Nazareth who died and rose again, and suddenly the church breaks forth into the culture. Suddenly it is that unstoppable force that no one can really deny any longer. Pentecost has taken on a new significance for us. It, at one point, is just a historical memory. Now it is the living reality of the moment that the spirit of God seemingly burst forth.

3 Historical Insights into Pentecost

There are three things you need to know about Pentecost that will help you understand Acts 2.

1. **Pentecost was a pilgrim festival.** That meant that according to Jewish Law, all the adult Jewish men would come from wherever they were living to Jerusalem and personally be in attendance during this celebration.
2. **Pentecost was a holiday.** No servile work was to be done. Schools and shops were closed. It was a day to celebrate.
3. **There were certain celebrations and sacrifices and offerings which were prescribed in the Law for the day of Pentecost.** On Pentecost, the High Priest was to take two loaves of freshly baked wheat bread and offer them before the Lord. The wheat bread was made from newly harvested wheat.

In short, Pentecost in the time of the Apostles was a great and grand harvest celebration. The streets of Jerusalem were clogged with thousands of pilgrims who had come from every point of the compass to celebrate the goodness of God and the bringing in of the wheat harvest.

Read the full article at ->



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE FLOWER ROSTER

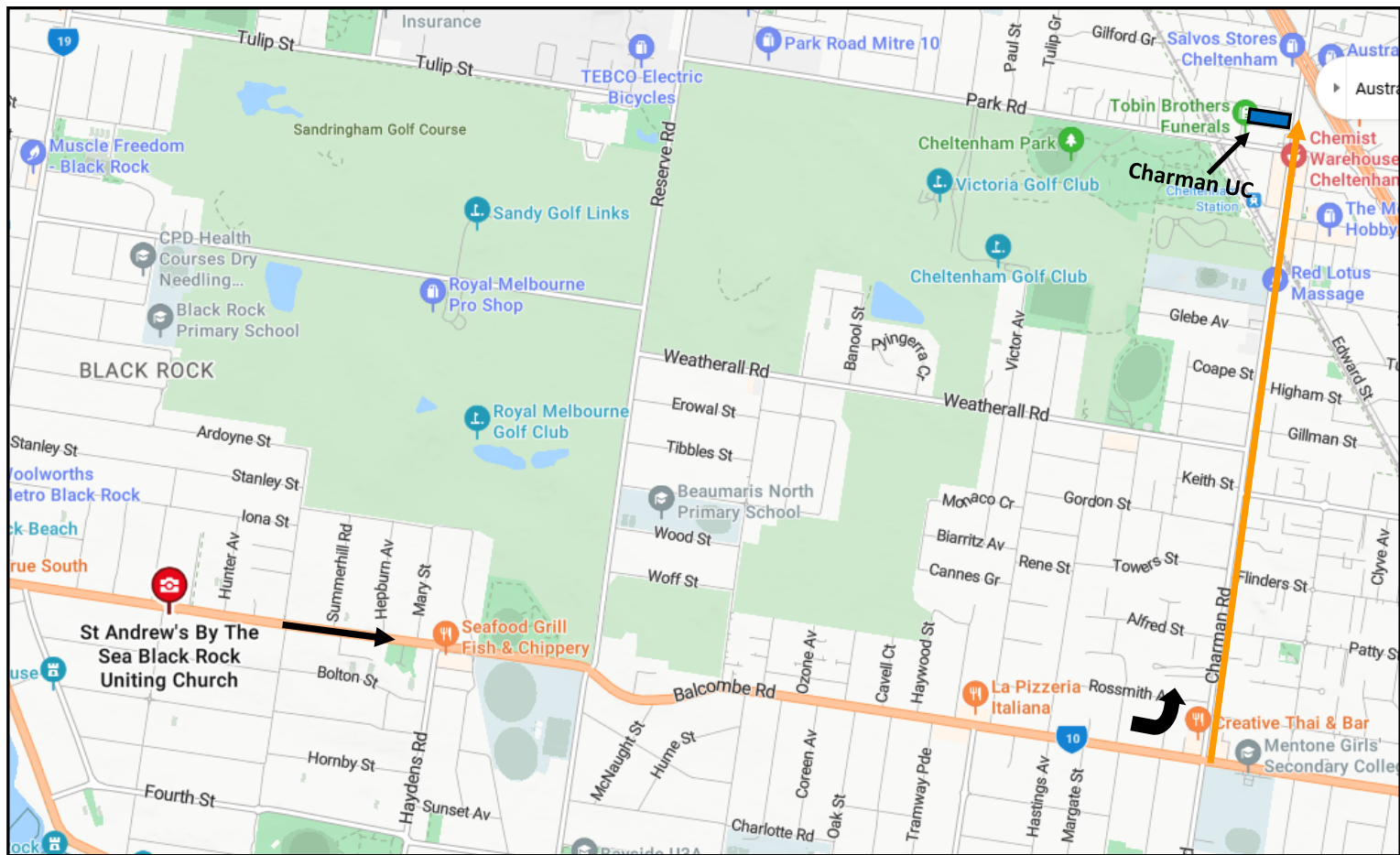
A warm invitation is extended to congregation members interested in assisting with flowers at the Church and being part of the Church Flower Roster.

Names of flower roster volunteers to date include Jenny Bartholomeusz, Jenny Collins, Joan Lum and Irene Ewers, Barbara Shying, Barbara Allan, Elizabeth Costello and Cheryl Threadgold.

An artificial floral arrangement will be used on the first and fifth Sunday of each month and during January. No flowers are in Church during Lent. Please email Cheryl Threadgold on thrdgld@optusnet.com.au if interested in joining the Flower Roster.



How to find us at 313 Charman Rd..



Finding 313 Charman Rd is very easy.

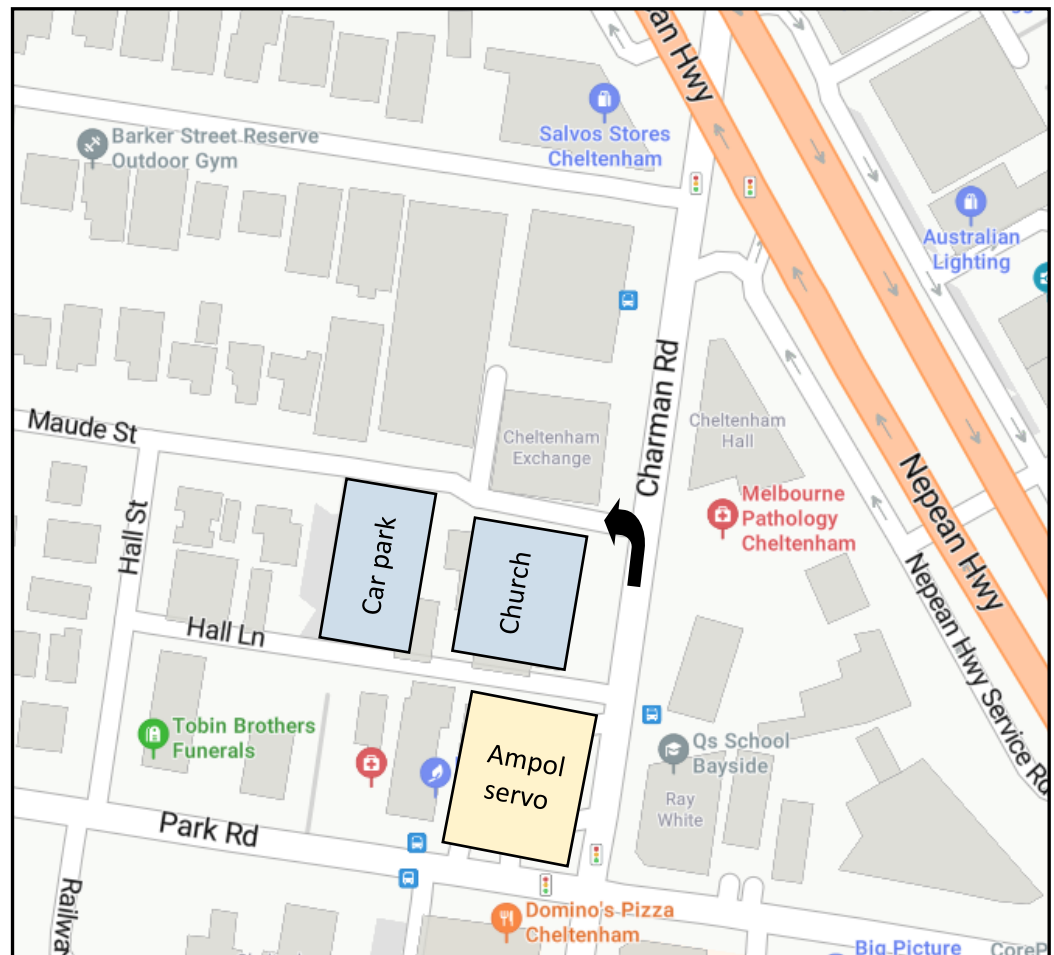
From St Andrews by the Sea travel east along Balcombe Rd towards Mentone.

Turn left at Charman Rd and continue through the Cheltenham shopping centre.

On the corner of Park Rd there is an Ampol service station, our church is just past the servo.

Turn left into Maude St and you will see our carpark. There is a boom gate which should be up for church functions. Otherwise the gate code is 9195#.

WARNING: DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ENTER VIA THE EXIT GATE - THERE ARE **ROAD SPIKES** IN THE GROUND TO PREVENT UNAUTHORISED ENTRY





Bible Readings June 2026 *(the readings used in our service may differ slightly)*

June 7th	Pentecost 2	Genesis 12:1-9, Hosea 5:15-6:6	Psalm 33:1-12 Psalm 50:7-15	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 14th	Pentecost 3	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Exodus 19:2-8a	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Psalm 100	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
June 21st	Pentecost 4	Genesis 21:8-21, Jerimiah 20: 7-13	Psalm 86: 1-10,16-17 Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18	Romans 6:1b-11	Mathew 10:24-39
June 28th	Pentecost 5	Genesis 22:1-14 Jerimiah 28:5-9	Psalm 13 Psalm 89:1-4,15-18	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42

We pray for all in need especially -

Prayers of the People



Emily's family & friends
Katherine's cousin David & Family
Pastor Di
Joc
Joan Wright
Tina, friend of Joan Wood
Phillip (Barbara's nephew)
Barry
Adrian
Anne-Maree, Andrew and their daughter, Rachel

Maria
Helen Cole
Gloria, Samson & Family
Jenny and Janine Bartholomeusz
Anita and Kingsley
Joyce Curnow
Stuart - addiction struggles
Helen & Earle Hosking
Grace & Van Rensberg
Joan's friends Robyn & Jemma
Kath Tondorf
Susan Hoskin

Karen
Mark
Mary
Margaret Walker
Joyce Carpenter
Andrew
Bronwyn
Teresa
Sybil Bond
June and Grace Fairbank

We give thanks for those whose prayers have been answered..

Thanks for your BayCISS Collection Contributions

From Joan & Chris Wood . Many thanks to those who continue to support BayCISS with donations. Goods especially non perishable food may be left at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them on 9555 0462 for details

WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

Direct Debit: Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our Westpac account at Southland, **BSB number is 033 358, Account Number is 664 881** Payee "UCA Cheltenham Mentone Parish"

Although we are now the Charman Uniting Church, we expect banking arrangements to remain the same as before, for the rest of the year.

SOCIAL COLLECTION DEPARTMENT:

BayCISS - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them on 9555 0462

Emerge - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website www.emergesupport.org.au Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to collect items if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale. **Donations in an envelope marked EMERGE may be left in the collection plate.**



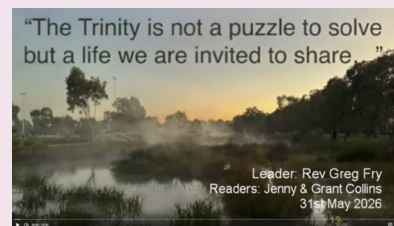
OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:



Click on the YouTube logo to view a selection of **over 200** sermons and service preludes

*This week's video –
"The Trinity is not a puzzle..."
Rev Greg Fry 31st May 2026*

Click on image or [HERE](#) to view



Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am *(virtual doors open 9:45 am)*



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download>

Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82004410836?pwd=cU9RWlhVMm8wOUw0TStLV1EvNFdYdz09>

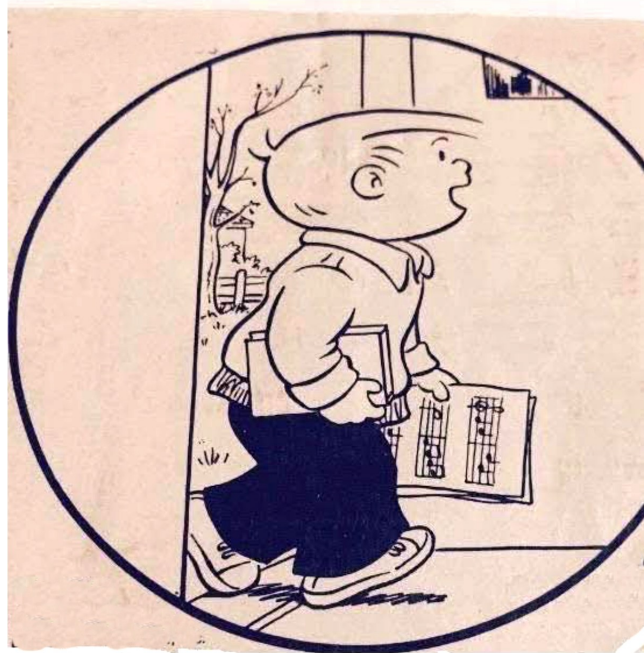
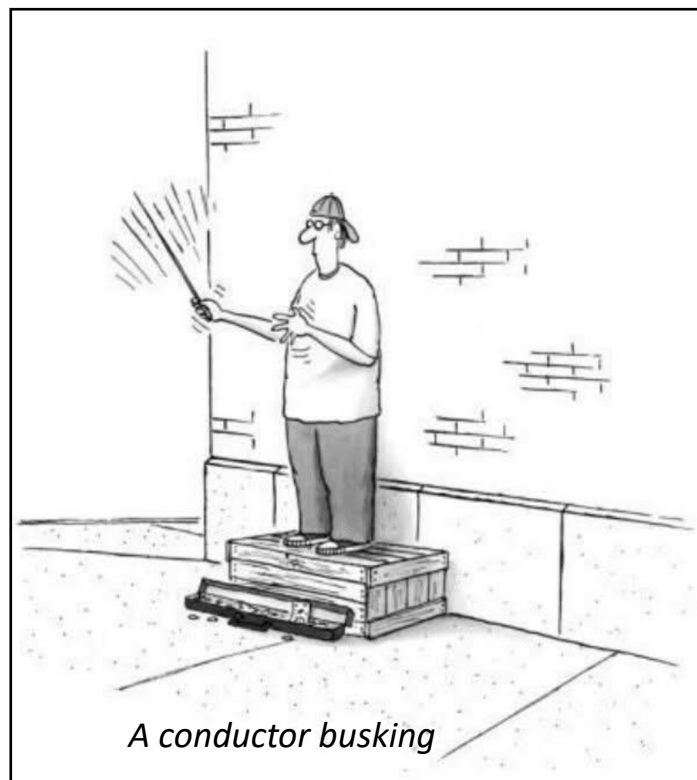
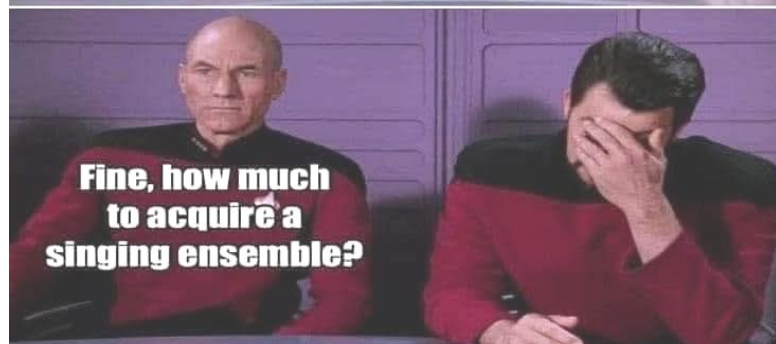
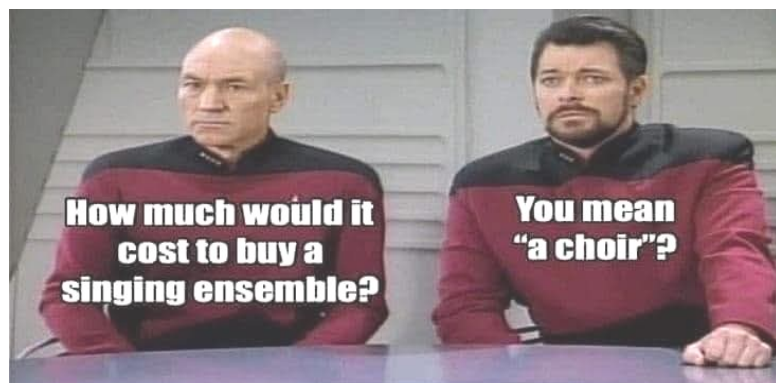
Meeting ID: 820 0441 0836 Passcode: 665 784

You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.

Sunday Church
on Zoom



Musically speaking...



My Band Director must be very religious! Every time we played a note today, Mr. Thomas closed his eyes and said, "Good Lord!"

David's dream instrument for our new church

