



## **Vox Populi**

04 April 2024

Many of our parishes reported very high attendances during the Paschal Triduum, the most sacred week in the liturgical year in Christianity.

A time of devotion to the Passion of Christ. A time when we have all been invited to become witnesses of Christ's resurrection, and to carry the message of hope and redemption to all corners of the earth, beginning with our own families and in our own neighbourhoods.

This celebration of victory, hope and new life did not wrap up on Easter Sunday. The Easter season, and celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, continues for 50 days, culminating with the feast of Pentecost.

From the Greek word "pentecoste", meaning 50<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost is the celebration of the person of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles, Mary, and the first followers of Jesus, who were gathered together in the Upper Room in Jerusalem, the traditional site of the Last Supper, when a strong, driving wind filled the room, and tongues of fire came to rest on their heads.

However on Monday, 8 April during this Easter season we have another celebration, The Solemnity of the Annunciation when the Angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her – that she would bear the Son of God, Jesus Christ. It also marks her acceptance, her "Fiat" of God's will.

This is the beginning of the Incarnation when Jesus took on His human nature.

The Annunciation and the Easter season is indeed a time of celebration. Faith must be celebrated, not only believed. It is to be proclaimed, rejoiced in, loved, and lived. Have a wonderful Easter season.