

## Pentecost 2026

### **In yachting, getting the wind means everything!**

Rev. Alan Walker of Australia often tells about the race of the sailing yachts in which Australia finally defeated the USA for the prized America's Cup. For 132 years, the cup was kept and defended by the United States. Again, and again there were challenges for the cup, but each time it was retained by the USA. Finally, in 1983 Australia mounted a serious challenge. The event took place as scheduled, and after six races, the two yachts were deadlocked at three wins each. Now the whole world seemed to take notice. Australia was alive with anticipation. The sporting world was focused on the race. The day came for the final race. After more than 100 years, the United States was in danger of losing its very precious cup. Thousands of people came to watch the race. Television cameras were ready to beam the race by satellite around the world. The crews were ready. The boats were polished. The yachts pulled into place at the starting line. All was ready but the wind was light and the start difficult. Throughout the race the skills of the skippers were tested; a small error at the next-to-last leg allowed Australia to make use of a breeze and wind shifts to overtake America; the final leg was a "*duel of tacking*" using wind skillfully, and the race was won by Australia with a margin of 41 seconds. — In the life of the Church, the wind - the Power of the Holy Spirit — alone provides power, energy life, but the Church at all levels must ask for and then use wisely all these gifts of the Spirit if it is to win the world for Christ. (Wikipedia supplied the facts of the race).

### **Holy-Roller Service:**

A little girl was visiting her grandmother in a small country town in the Southern United States. They attended a very emotional religious service, where people expressed their feelings by jumping about and shouting; it was what we might call a "*Holy Roller*" service. The little girl asked her grandmother if all that jumping meant the Holy Spirit was

really there. Her grandmother said. "*Honey, it don't matter how high they jump up! It's what they do when they come down that will tell you if it's the real thing!*" — It would be good if we were a little more enthusiastic about our religion, but what matters is what we do in everyday life. Does the Holy Spirit have a practical effect on our daily life? In what way? (*Gerard Fuller in Stories for all Seasons; quoted by Fr. Botelho*).

**"Now you know where God lives."**

(In a *Reader's Digest's* article, quoted by Fr. Simplicio Apalisok in his homily book, an author tells how as a child, he was captivated by the sight of an old man prayerfully peering into an old cistern. Intrigued about what the old man was looking at, the boy edged up to the cistern and tried to see over the ledge. The old man held him with his shovel-like hands helped him over the ledge of the wheel. "*Do you know who lives there?*" the old man asked. The frightened boy shook his head. "*God lives there. Look!*" but the boy only saw his reflection in the still water. "*But that's me,*" said the boy. — "*That's right,*" said the old man. "*Now you know where God lives.*"

"(<https://justmehomely.wordpress.com/2012/05/19/pentecost-sunday-year-b/>)

### **The Bird is in your hands**

A young man was taunting an old man known for his holiness. "'Old man,' the youth taunted, as he put forward his cupped hands, 'the bird in my hand. Tell me--if you are so smart--is it alive or dead?' "The old man reflected that if he said, 'Dead,' the youth would open his hands and let the bird fly away. If he said, 'Alive,' the youth could crush the bird in his hands, killing it. "'Well, old man, what do you say?' the youth taunted. "The old man said, 'The bird is in your hands.'"