



**AMDG**  
**PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
**YEAR A**  
**4 JUNE 2017**



**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and  
renew the face of the earth.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers.

On this final day of Eastertide, we celebrate not only the coming of the Holy Spirit, but also the birth of the Church when the followers of Jesus went out to continue his mission.

Quietly and slowly I ask God's Spirit to guide my prayer, and help me reflect on the images of the Holy Spirit.

Do I think of the Spirit in terms of wind and fire or in some other way? What is my favourite image?

What pictures do wind and fire conjure up in my mind?  
Gentleness or strength, warmth or burning heat?

In presence before God, I pray in 'words beyond the power of speech' thanking the 'Father of light' for the gift of his Spirit. I ask for his peace, and the grace to offer it to others who are in real need of it.

## FIRST READING: ACTS 2: 1-11

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; they separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking their own language. They were amazed and astonished: 'Surely,' they said, 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in their own native language?... We hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The Apostles are huddled together after the Ascension. They may well feel bereft, empty, weak, uncertain - with an inner poverty. With the coming of the Spirit an amazing change takes place: they are filled with courage, strength, certainty and a meaning to life. The Old Testament images: 'Wind' – the very breath of God; and 'Fire' (the burning bush; the pillar of fire guiding the Israelites through their desert times) – the power of God, would speak to the readers of Acts & revivify their hearts.

- With God's Spirit, I try to immerse myself in the scene.
- What happens? How do I feel? Do I just watch, or what .?
- I allow God's Spirit to enlighten me as I reflect on my life...

## GOSPEL: JOHN 20: 19-23

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again:

'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.'  
After this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven. For those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

We, the living Church, celebrate God's gift to us of his Holy Spirit. On this day Jesus commissioned the disciples and gave them the power and authority to proclaim His forgiveness to those who repent.

I become still in body and mind as I begin to pray.

I ask the Holy Spirit who dwells within me to be my guide.

I read the scripture and notice the sequence of events.

Then I may try to enter that upper room and watch.

What is it in this emotional scene that strikes a chord in me, and why?

What impact do Jesus' words have on me?

Do they comfort or disturb me?

Am I called to forgive?

Is Jesus also 'sending' me? To whom? How? When?

I speak to Jesus, the one who gives me his peace, turning fear into joy.

*Glory be to the Father...*

**Here's a text if you've only got a minute...**

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak ...as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. *First Reading, Acts 2: 1-11*

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth. *Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 103*

The Disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you' *Gospel, John 20:19-23*

'As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.

Receive the Holy Spirit.' *Gospel, John 20:19-23*

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven.

*Gospel John 20:19-23*



How does this image help me meditate on the events of Pentecost?

**REFLECTIONS**

What does the week hold for me and how do I feel God may be calling me?

And so, what do I want to ask of God for myself and for others?

Based on Prego by St Beuno's  
Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham



**LDS**