



AMDG
PENTECOST SUNDAY
YEAR B
20TH MAY 2018



‘Come, Holy Spirit!’

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.

Eastertide ends with the glorious feast of Pentecost. In the liturgy of recent weeks, and especially with the Ascension, we, the disciples of Jesus, have been promised the gift of the Holy Spirit and his power.

The *First Reading*, which we hear each year, is a dramatic account of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and of its wondrous effects. Today we celebrate the birth of the Church.

The *Psalm* is a hymn of praise to the Creator, and a prayer that he will fill us, his Church and the whole world, with his Spirit.

In the *Second Reading*, St Paul clearly distinguishes the difference between a life guided by the Spirit and that led by self-indulgence. We are encouraged to lead a Spirit-filled life, following Christ’s example and manifesting his gifts.

The *Gospel* takes us back to Jesus’s words at the Last Supper, and his promise to send the Holy Spirit, who is our Advocate, our teacher, and our memory. He is the Spirit of truth who will lead us to the complete truth. He is a witness to Christ, and we too share in this witness.

As we celebrate this climax of Eastertide, I may wish to spend time this week pondering what these last fifty days have meant to me.

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; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak 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 his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely', they said, 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

As I settle to pray, I relax my body and mind, becoming aware that I am in God's presence.

I read this account of the first Pentecost attentively.

I may try to place myself in the scene, conscious of all images that can touch my senses.

As I sit in with the apostles, can I imagine the sound and feel of a powerful wind? ... of being swept up into a power beyond myself?

What happens when I see tongues of fire appear ... and one settle on me? What does it feel like to be filled with the power of the Spirit?

Have I some experience of this?

Perhaps I can recall a moment when pure conviction in the Spirit enabled me to witness to Christ in some way, however small.

I consider that I am part of this universal movement of the Spirit, and pray for the world, especially for peace among nations.

'The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world ...'

I draw my prayer to a close. '*Glory be ...*'

GOSPEL JOHN 15: 26–27; 16: 12–15

Jesus said to his disciples:
‘When the Advocate comes,
whom I shall send to you from the Father,
the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father,
he will be my witness.
And you too will be my witnesses,
because you have been with me from the outset.
I still have many things to say to you
but they would be too much for you now.
But when the Spirit of truth comes
he will lead you to the complete truth,
since he will not be speaking as from himself
but will say only what he has learnt;
and he will tell you of the things to come.
He will glorify me,
since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine.
Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said:
All he tells you will be taken from what is mine.’

I come to my place of prayer and perhaps light a candle – symbol today of the light, love and power of the Spirit.

I take time to become aware of the three persons of the blessed Trinity making their home in me. I remain with this as long as I am able.

I read the text slowly, a couple of times.

The Father sends the Advocate. In what way do I see the Spirit as one who speaks or pleads for me, one who advises, motivates and guides me ...?

I ponder the presence of the Spirit in my life.

He is also the Spirit of Truth, who comes from the Father and speaks Jesus’s message.

We are to be Jesus’s witnesses. What happens when I invoke the Spirit, rely on him in this mission?

Can I spend time with the Spirit so that he can lead me to a deeper understanding of Jesus’s teaching ... lead me to the truth, reveal what my role of witness means?

I try to remain still and listen to what the Spirit is saying to me, or how he is prompting me to witness this week.

I end quietly, perhaps saying,

‘Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart, kindle in me the fire of your love.’

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

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

First Reading

You send forth your spirit, we are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

Psalm

Jesus is Lord.

Second Reading

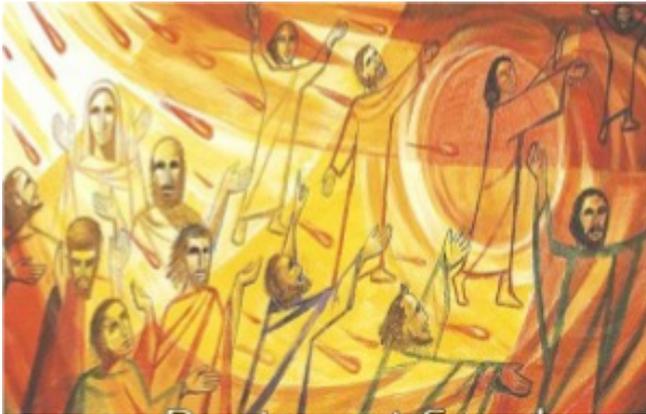
When the Spirit of truth comes,
he will lead you to the complete truth.

Gospel

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:

Acts 2: 1–11; Psalm 103 (104); 1 Corinthians 12: 3–7, 12–13;

John 15: 26–7, 16: 12–15



Send forth your Spirit, O Lord.



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JESUIT
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