

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

You bring light to those in darkness: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May almighty GodAmen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father

have mercy on us; For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 2: 1 - 11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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 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.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34

R. Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth. or Alleluia.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. (R)
2. You take back your, spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit,
they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R)
3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. (R)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:3-7.12-13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 20: 19 - 23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
In the evening of 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 am I sending you.'
After saying 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

focus on sunday

PENTECOST SUNDAY 28th May 2023

The coming of the Holy Spirit is a gift of God for all peoples: the sign of his presence is in the reconciliation, justice and peace we create among people. The feast today is both a gift and a call: a call to be the ones who make the Holy Spirit present among God's people everywhere.



We remember many words connected with the Holy Spirit – fire, flame, energy, gifts. We know the power of fire – heat, energy. We talk of firing the engine in the car. The Spirit of God touches us with the fire

of love, the flame of faith, and tongues of fire which loosened their tongues to speak of Jesus.

The Spirit is energy. A team with energy has great spirit. The energy of love in a family is the spirit of love. Faith can get stuck in traditions, in boredom, in unattractiveness. Can we rediscover each Pentecost the energy which got the apostles, the followers going? That every man and woman who knew Jesus found their hearts burning within them.

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church, and like all birthdays Pentecost reminds us of past goodness and life. It celebrates where we are now even in difficult times. It looks ahead to a future that is as good as and even better than the past.

So, we want to welcome the gift of the fire of love. So how – the gifts again. The spirit of the church is the spirit of Jesus in the gifts of the spirit.

The Spirit of Pentecost reminds us of and helps us to care for family life. It inspires in schools and other places of care; respect for life; care for the child; respect for the elderly. The Spirit gives hope at death. The church is to speak out, and model real Christian life. To do this the fruits of life in the Spirit help: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22).**

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger.