

focus on sunday

PENTECOST SUNDAY 19th May 2024

The Fifty Days of Easter conclude with the celebration of Pentecost. Today we welcome the Holy Spirit to come into our lives afresh bringing gifts of hope, joy and forgiveness.



“...when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth...”



The Holy Spirit is, for many of us, the most marginalised of the three persons of the Trinity! Unlike the Father and Son, the Holy Spirit is usually out of sight and out of mind. Even in the Gloria and the Creed which we say at Mass, the Father and Son both get a whole paragraph to themselves, but the poor Holy Spirit barely gets a mention at the end! But the Holy Spirit is actually the key person in our lives. God is love, three persons bound in love to each other, who have shared that love with us in the expectation that we would share it, in turn, with one another. It is the Holy Spirit, sent by Jesus after his return to the Father, who is always present to us, inspiring us to love each other, to care, to share, and thereby build the Kingdom of God on earth. The Holy Spirit also challenges our consciences when we fail to reach out in love, when we ignore the distress of others because it is inconvenient for us. The Holy Spirit is like the gentle breeze warming our face when we do good, or the howling wind making us feel uncomfortable when we fail. In the doctors and aid workers in Gaza, in parents caring for their children, in people working for those with disabilities, wherever there is love, there the Holy Spirit is present and at work in our world.

Fr. Peter McVerry, SJ



NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, as promised by your Son, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly the hidden mystery of this sacrifice and graciously lead us into all truth. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force and that this spiritual food may gain her abundance of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord

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 Galatians 5: 16 - 25

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Galatians If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desires. Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

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 15: 26 - 27; 16: 12 - 15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 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 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.'

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

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 God have mercy on us.....

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

