

Prayer at Home



Feast of Pentecost (Yr A)
Sunday 31 May 2020

Gather with family or on your own. Place an opened Bible on a table with a strip of red cloth. Light a candle, white if possible, and place a crucifix and some flowers beside it and a bowl of water.

Begin with:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Antiphon: Lord, send out Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth, alleluia.

Let us open our hearts to hear God's Word:

Lord Jesus, you send us your spirit of faith.

LORD, HAVE MERCY.

Christ Jesus, you send us your spirit of hope.

CHRIST, HAVE MERCY.

Lord Jesus, you send us your spirit of love.

LORD, HAVE MERCY.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

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

Lord God,
through the gift of the Holy Spirit
you sanctify your Church in every nation and people.

Pour out again your gifts across the face of the earth,
and in your merciful kindness touch the hearts of all believers
as you touched those who first heard the preaching of the gospel.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in
unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. **Amen**

First Reading

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

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. Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.

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.**

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.**

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 (JB)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

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

Sequence

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow

Thou in toil art comfort sweet
Pleasant coolness in the heat
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew
On our dryness pour thy dew
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will
Melt the frozen, warm the chill
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die
Give us life with thee on high
Give us joys that never end.

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
As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

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.

Homily

We use the term “spirit” in all sorts of ways. We talk about human spirit, or national spirit, or school spirit or community spirit; we talk about being in good spirits, or our spirits being low. We get told to lift our spirits, we talk of spirited performances on the sporting field, and we get encouraged to show some spirit. Our secular world seems to like to speak about spirit quite a lot. It is some recognition that we human beings are more than skin and bone. There is more going on inside us than our biology. There is more going on in our world than simply one thing after another. The way we use the word “spirit” shows that we have an instinct that there is something much more mysterious going on than we care to admit.

The Holy Spirit is the mysterious sense that inspires us, encourages us, comforts us and strengthens us. As Pope Francis said of Pentecost, “the Spirit made the apostles go forth from themselves and turned them into heralds of God’s wondrous deeds, capable of speaking to each person in his or her own language.... Jesus wants followers who proclaim the good news not only with words, but above all by a life transfigured by God’s presence.”

We can sometimes mistakenly think that the Holy Spirit is like some kind of electric charge that zaps us. But the Spirit is at work in us in much more subtle ways.

In the Acts of the Apostles we learn where the Spirit of God is active in our lives in a number of ways. We are told God’s Spirit gives us:

- a boldness to stand up for what we believe;
- the ability to hear and listen and to make choices and decisions;
- the courage to break through the fear that locks us in on ourselves;
- a confidence and hope that ultimately God’s love saves us;
- the strength to follow Jesus’ commandment to love;
- a clarity about what’s good and true and beautiful and real; and
- a feeling of an ‘at homeness’ with God.

God's Spirit guides and directs us, and helps us discern the direction of our lives in practical ways. St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, left us with a guide for working out how we can tell if and where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Here is an excellent contemporary and very practical summary of Ignatian discernment of spirits by Fr. Richard Leonard:

1. Don't make a decision when you're down. Let the crisis pass and take time to weigh all the options.
2. The Holy Spirit enables us to let go of our unhealed past and also not live in the unknown future. The Holy Spirit draws us to deal with the here and now, as it is, not as we may like it to be.
3. The Holy Spirit frees us up to bring out into the open anything we keep buried in the dark. There is nothing that has ever happened to us that is beyond the Spirit's healing.
4. The Holy Spirit doesn't leave us isolated but draws us out of ourselves into community with other people.
5. Be careful of things that appear too perfect. They sometimes have a sting in the tail and can be destructive.
6. Be guarded about all things that are urgent. The Holy Spirit brings a sense of perspective to our problems.
7. The Holy Spirit is always present where compassion and forgiveness are demonstrated. Where there is charity and love, there the spirit of God is found.

Pentecost is God's promise to abide with us come what may. And God's Spirit isn't a magical presence, but a down-to-earth, practical presence, that helps us navigate our real lives and our real world the way that they are. Today, on this Feast of Pentecost, Christ breathes on us again and says, "Receive my gift. Receive my spirit."

Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Bless yourself making a cross with some water from the bowl.

Prayers of Intercession

INTRODUCTION: The Spirit of the Lord fills the whole world, is all-embracing, and knows the thoughts of our hearts. In the power of the Spirit who helps us to pray rightly, let us ask God to renew us and the face of the earth.

For the gifts of the Holy Spirit; that all believers might mature in faith and grow in wisdom, understanding, courage, right judgement, reverence, knowledge and wonder. **RISEN LORD, HEAR US.**

For peace; that amid all our concerns and anxieties, the presence of the Holy Spirit may calm, strengthen and encourage us. **RISEN LORD, HEAR US.**

For those who have lost their employment or are struggling with financial need; that they may sense that God is with them through the support of those around them. **RISEN LORD, HEAR US.**

For our dispersed communities; that, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we will discover a renewed sense of connection and communion with one another. **RISEN LORD, HEAR US.**

For those suffering in mind or body, particularly those affected in any way by this pandemic; that the Resurrected Christ, who bore the wounds of all humanity, may touch their lives with renewed courage and hope. **RISEN LORD, HEAR US.**

For those who have died, especially those who have died alone this Easter Season; that they may come to know the joy of the Easter feast and rise in glory with Christ Jesus. **RISEN LORD, HEAR US.**

Almighty and all-merciful God,
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,
in whom there is no shadow of death,
save us in this time of crisis;
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;
watch over all medical people
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,
that hope may never die
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,
may shine upon us and the whole world.
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

Placing our faith in the power of the cross and trusting that we are united to all Christians, in all times and in all places, on this sacred day we dare to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

Let us pray.

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 renew the faith of all who call upon your name.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord God,
Strength of the weary, medicine of the weak,
Be near to us as we call on you.
May you be our nourishment during this time
and renew us daily in your love.

May God bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.