

focus on sunday

PENTECOST SUNDAY 5th June 2022

The Holy Spirit empowers the apostles with courage to speak the Word of God. The gift of Pentecost for us now is the peace, joy and endurance of Christ.



Today is the feast, we might say, of the apostles' confirmation. They were still a fearful group of people, all gathered with Mary in the upper room. Somehow Jesus came among them, with the gift of the Holy Spirit and also a gift from God our Father.

I think the apostles may have felt that their call to be with Jesus had finished. His death could have put an end to their hope of being his followers. The gift of the Father was being sent once again – uniting themselves with the mission of Jesus, himself sent by the Father. I think also they may have felt shame and guilt at letting their Lord down, and so the next gift was of the Spirit of forgiveness. All could now be forgiven. As we know from events in the world today, we need both gifts – the gift of courage so that we have the courage of our convictions and stand up to the oppressor and stand for the oppressed. We also need this other gift – the courage to forgive even those who have grievously wronged us.

These are gifts to us today, a sort of birthday of the Church. In baptism and confirmation, we are called and sent by God into partnership with Jesus in his mission. We are disciples on the journey of co-operation with the work of Jesus and with each other; we are disciples also who have received the forgiveness of God and called to forgive others in our lives. Maybe today we might be grateful for our confirmation day! Holy Spirit fill the hearts of all with the love and peace of the Lord Jesus.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger.



I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever. 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.'

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

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, All bow for following three lines:

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.

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 Romans 8: 8 - 17
A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

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 14:15-16. 23 - 26
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments.



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;