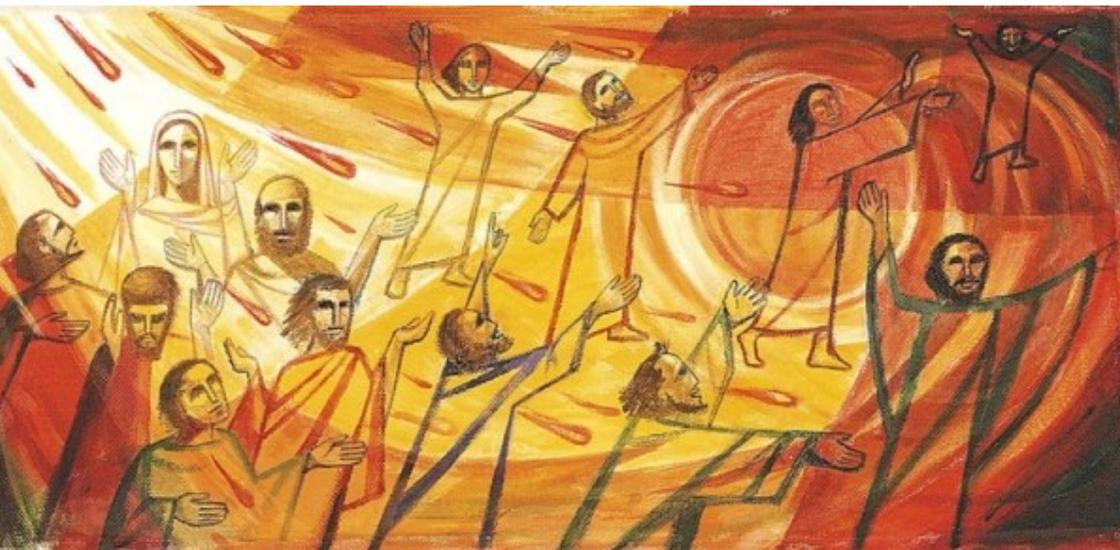


HOPE

IN THE FUTURE

Reflection 1

Pentecost Prayer Service



“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8



Introduction

Pentecost takes place 50 days after Easter Sunday, marking the end of Eastertide. We hear in the account from the Acts of the Apostles how Jews from all over were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish feast. It is recorded that 120 people, including Mary and the Apostles were in the upper room where they had seen Christ after his resurrection. They had been told by Jesus 10 days previous, just before he ascended, to wait there to receive 'what the father has promised, power from on high'.



On Pentecost Sunday the sound of a mighty wind filled the room, witnesses saw what looked like tongues of fire resting on each person's head and despite being from different parts of the world they could all communicate and understand to each other.



The Role of the Holy Spirit Today

The Holy Spirit transformed fearful apostles into courage witnesses to Christ. They received the gift to preach the Gospel in all languages and on that day 3,000 people were baptized and converted. From these humble beginning the Church of Christ spread to every land which is why we consider Pentecost to be the birthday of the Church. Ever since the Holy Spirit has guided and strengthened the Church and still continues to do so today.

Scripture Reading – Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, they 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.

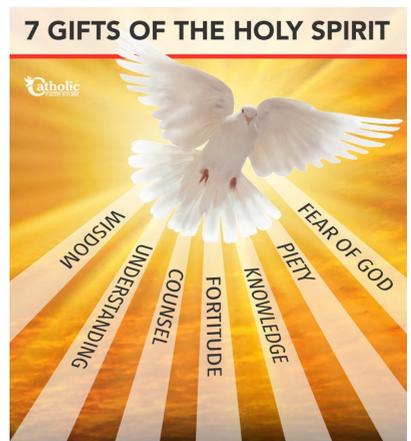
Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each 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

R/ Thanks be to God

Reflection

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity, equal in majesty and power to the father and the son. The Spirit is the vehicle of love between the father, son and us on earth and Jesus sends us the spirit to remind us of 'what he taught us whilst on earth'. Moved by the Spirit, we can change the face of the earth. When we ask for the Holy spirit we receive the gifts of the spirit - Wisdom; Understanding; Right Judgement; Courage; Knowledge: Reverence and Fear of the Lord which work in us to produce the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.



The Spirit is very much alive and active in our world today. The spirit changes the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus at Mass, He brings new life into the world and gives many the gifts of prophesy and healing. He reminds the Church of her mission, calling people into service and sending them the necessary gifts to do it.

The Spirit works in our life too. He makes us receptive to God; teaching us to pray and helps us to be there for others. Augustine calls the Holy Spirit “The quiet guest of our soul” so in order to sense his presence we must be still. The more receptive we are to the Spirit in us, the more he comes the master of our life.

Suggested Music



Fall Afresh - Jeremy Riddle (available on YouTube)

Closing Prayer

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.
O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise
and ever to rejoice in His consolation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**