

Pentecost

31 May 2020

Invocation of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost

As Mass begins, we invoke the Holy Spirit on this celebration, ourselves and each other with the singing of the chant *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* – Come, Holy Spirit.

Chant **Veni, Sancte Spiritus. (repeated throughout)**

Cantor Come from the four winds, O Spirit,
come, breath of God;
disperse the shadows over us,
renew and strengthen your people.

Father of the poor, come to our poverty.
Shower upon us the seven gifts of your Spirit.

You are our only comforter, Peace of the soul.
In the heat you shade us;
in our labour you refresh us,
and in trouble you are our strength.

Kindle in our hearts the flame of your love
that in the darkness of the world
it may glow and reach to all for ever.

Together in Song 752

Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXO4rqBQOAU>

**Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**

**O let it freely burn, till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**

**Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

**And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace, till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.**

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Wis. 1:7

Entrance Antiphon

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

Greeting

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Christ is risen, alleluia.
He is risen indeed, alleluia.

Penitential Act

Dear friends,
this water will be sprinkled on us
as a memorial of our Baptism.
May the Lord our God help us by his grace
to remain faithful to the Spirit we have received.

**The celebrant sprinkles all present with holy water, moving through the church.
Meanwhile, the chant I saw water (Vidi aquam) is sung.**

The chant, in Latin,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=429smHGuy3I>

I saw water flowing from the Temple,
from its right-hand side, alleluia:
and all to whom this water came
were saved and shall say: alleluia, alleluia.

Verses from Psalm 118 and the doxology Glory to God may also be sung.

The celebrant says:

May almighty God cleanse us of our sins,
and through the celebration of this Eucharist
make us worthy to share at the table of his Kingdom.
Amen.

Hymn of Praise

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer.**

**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.**

Collect

Let us pray.

O God,
whose Son, Jesus, prayed for his disciples,
and sent them into the world
to proclaim the coming of your kingdom:
by your Holy Spirit,
hold the Church in unity,
and keep it faithful to your word,
so that, breaking bread together,
we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Acts 2:1-20

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in their native language. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: “In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”’

For the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Cf Psalm 104:26-36

℟. Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Praise the Lord, O my soul,
O Lord, God, your glory is great.
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your handiwork. **℟.**

All creatures look to you
to give them their food to eat.
When you open your hand, they are filled with good,
when you hide your face they pine away. **℟.**

When you take away their breath, they die,
and return to the earth, whence they came.
When you send forth your spirit, all things spring to life,
and the face of the earth is renewed. **℟.**

The glory of the Lord shall never cease,
the Lord shall rejoice in his works.
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live,
I will praise my God while my breath remains. **℟.**

Together in Song 65

Second Reading

Romans 8:14-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

For 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!

Sequence

The Golden Sequence

Come, thou Holy Spirit, come,
And from thy celestial home
Shed thy light and brilliancy:
Father of the poor, draw near,
Giver of all gifts, be here,
Come, the soul's true radiancy.

Come, of comforters the best,
Of the soul the sweetest guest,
Come in toil refreshingly:
Thou in labour rest most sweet,
Thou art shadow from the heat,
Comfort in adversity.

O thou Light most pure and blest,
Shine within the inmost breast
Of thy faithful company:

Where thou art not, man has nought;
Every holy deed and thought
Comes from thy divinity.

Sinful hearts do thou make whole,
Bring to life the arid soul,
Guide the feet that go astray.
Make the stubborn heart unbend,
To the faint, new hope extend,
Wounded souls, their hurt allay.

Fill the faithful, who confide
In thy power to guard and guide,
With thy sevenfold mystery:
Here thy grace and virtue send,
Grant salvation in the end,
And in heaven felicity. Amen. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20.19-23

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After He said this He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, so I send you." When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pause to reflect on the Word.

Reflection

Philip Carter

Patrick White, the Nobel Prize winning Australian novelist, wrote of a defining moment in his life: "During what seemed like months of rain I was carrying a tray load of food to a wormy litter of pups down at the kennels when I slipped and fell on my back, dog dishes shooting in all directions. I lay where I had fallen, half-blinded by rain under a pale sky, cursing through watery lips a God in whom I did not believe. I began laughing finally at my own helplessness and hopelessness, in the mud and the stench from my filthy

oilskin. It was a turning point. My disbelief appeared as farcical as my fall. At that moment I was truly humbled". He later wrote in a letter: "What I am increasingly intent on doing in my books is to give professed unbelievers glimpses of their own unprofessed faith."

There is something primal about Holy Spirit: it belongs universally to the human condition. Spirit is fundamentally about an encounter or engagement with everyday reality. It comes as gift: it is not a possession. It's an attitude, not an opinion. It's about making "harsh and saving sense out of what we experience here and now". We don't make Spirit happen. We don't tire the muscles of our mind in order to believe. "We find ourselves addressed, and in being addressed, we find ourselves". Spirit is always relational: it is about Spirit coming into visibility: it is truly the Bread of Life.

Ruth Cracknell, the Australian actor, wrote of a defining moment in her life when her husband died. "It is the most precious moment I have known: it is the most surprising moment because entirely unexpected. And if this moment I can keep, then nothing more do I need, now or ever. We are not, and this you must believe, in an empty room, but in a space suffused. We are golden; we seem for a tiny fragment of time, holy; a medieval painting ..."

Ruth Cracknell is less an observer of life than a participant. And this is telling us something fundamental about the Spirit of God. She is not positing or placing God or the divine into her experience: she finds mystery, wakes up to a presence already there. It's another dimension, a dimension of depth and richness. And she is sure: not in the sense of proving or mounting a case for anything, but bearing witness to her lived experience. Spirit comes always, is ever-present, often surprising, coming to us not so much as bringer of power as opener of eyes. Waking us up to what is in front of our eyes! In this space called life, "suffused" with Spirit, the bread of our lives is broken and we find life.

Les Murray, the distinguished Australian poet, writes of a way of being in the world that strikes him as a palpable conviction that life has meaning and that it matters. "From earliest childhood I was always conscious of a strong, sometimes frightening, sometimes deeply necessary current of sheer meaning in things and people, a pressure of significance that rarely carried over into what people consciously said. The world was resonant and radiant with meaning and, knowing this, how could I speak as if none of it mattered, or leave it out the way people seemed to do".

"A pressure of significance" suggests moments and experiences that carry with them a "surplus of meaning", that bring us messages from Beyond, and speak into our lived experience that the life we are living needs no "Why?": that it simply needs to be lived, with wonder and gratitude. Such moments are "moments of grace, "events of Spirit", where "our minds are nourished and invisibly repaired". Covid-19 does in fact offer us, in all its terror and deadliness, opportunity. Perhaps instead of keeping on saying we miss the opportunity to be at Church and the Eucharist, we can rejoice: relationships are suddenly immeasurably precious: time and space that we might not otherwise have had bring us untold gifts: and far from arguing about how a piece of bread becomes Jesus (which the Church has argued about for centuries), the Spirit of the Risen Christ, the Spirit of Pentecost offers us the true miracle, of how Jesus actually becomes a piece of bread, meeting us in our everyday. "Come Holy Spirit, and overshadow us, enliven us with grace, and enfold us in love".

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

We would normally gather around the font to renew our baptismal promises. This year, we are invited to make the following dedication of our own.

I, _____, who through the tender mercy of the Eternal Father was privileged to be baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus and thus to share in the dignity of the divine nature, wish now in the presence of this same loving Creator and Redeemer to renew in all sincerity the promises I solemnly made at the time of my holy Baptism.

I reject the devil and all proud rebellion against God. I renounce the deceit and corruption of evil. I repent of the sins that separate me from God and neighbour.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was born into this world and who suffered and died for my sins and rose again. 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.

Having been buried with Christ unto death and raised up with him unto a new life, I promise to live no longer for myself or for that world which is the enemy of God but for Jesus, who died for me and rose again, serving God faithfully and unto death in the holy Catholic Church. Amen.

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

God's Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Anthem at the Offertory

Cesario Gussago 1579-1612

*Cum complerentur dies Pentecostes,
erant omnes partier dicentes, alleluia,
et subito factus est sonus de caelo, alleluia,
tanquam spiritus vehementis,
et replevit totam domum, alleluia.*

When the day of Pentecost had come,
they were all together in one place, alleluia,
and suddenly a sound came from heaven,
like the rush of a violent wind,
and it filled the entire house, alleluia.

When all is prepared, the Priest says,

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

**May the Lord accept our sacrifice
for the praise and glory of God's name,
for our good, and the good of all God's holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Giver of life, receive all we offer you this day.

Let the Spirit you bestow on your Church
continue to work in the world
through the hearts of all who believe.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right to give you thanks and praise,
O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe,
you are worthy of glory and praise.

At your command all things came to be:
the vast expanse of interstellar space,
galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,
and this fragile earth, our island home;
by your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements
you brought forth the human race,
and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill;
you entrusted us with the care of your creation.

But we turn against you, and betray your trust;
and we turn against one another.

Again and again you call us to return.

Through the prophets and sages
you reveal your righteous law.

In the fullness of time you sent your Son,
born of a woman,
to be our Saviour.

He was wounded for our transgressions,
and bruised for our iniquities.

By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

Therefore we praise you,
joining with the heavenly chorus,
with prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and with those in every generation
who have looked to you in hope,
to proclaim with them your glory,
in their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
for sending us Jesus, the Christ,
who on the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
took bread, said the blessing,
broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said,
“Take this, and eat it:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine;
he gave you thanks, and said,
“Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

Gracious God,
we recall the death of your Son Jesus Christ,
we proclaim his resurrection and exaltation,
and we look with expectation
for his coming as Lord of all the nations.
We who have been redeemed by him,
and made a new people by water and the Spirit,
now bring you these gifts.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this offering of your Church,
that we who eat and drink at this holy table
may share the divine life of Christ our Lord.

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth
and make it your new creation.
Gather your Church together
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom,
where peace and justice are revealed,
that we, with all your people,
of every language, race, and nation,
may share the banquet you have promised;
through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
all honour and glory are yours,
creator of all,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence to the Father
in the words our Saviour against us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and 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. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the bread, saying –

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

While the bread is broken Agnus Dei is sung –

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Music for Reflection

St Hildegard of Bingen 1098-1179

*O ignee Spiritus, laus tibi sit,
qui in tympanis et citharis operaris.*

*Mentes hominum de te flagrant
et tabernacula animarum eorum
vires ipsarum continent,
unde voluntas ascendit
et gustum anime tribuit,
et eius lucerna est desiderium.*

*Intellectus te in dulcissimo sono advocat
ac edificia tibi cum racionalitate parat,
que in aureis operibus sudat.*

O fiery Spirit, praise be to you
who play on the tympanum and lyre

By you the human mind is set ablaze
the tabernacle of its soul
contains its strength,
whence the will rises up
and gives savour to the soul;
and its lamp is desire.

With sweetest sound the intellect calls
and makes a place for you with reason,
which brings forth works of gold.

Communion Antiphon

Acts 2:4, 11

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit,
and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Father, may we who have received this eucharist
live in the unity of your Holy Spirit,
that we may show forth his gifts to all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Postcommunion Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-X-4HRj8III>

**Forth in thy Name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labour to pursue;
thee, only thee, resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.**

**The task thy wisdom hath assigned,
O let me cheerfully fulfil;
in all my works thy presence find,
and prove thy good and perfect will.**

**Thee may I set at my right hand,
whose eyes mine inmost substance see,
and labour on at thy command,
and offer all my works to thee.**

**Give me to bear thy easy yoke,
and every moment watch and pray,
and still to things eternal look,
and hasten to thy glorious day.**

**For thee delightfully employ
whate'er thy bounteous grace hath given;
and run my course with even joy,
and closely walk with thee to heav'n.**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Blessing and Dismissal

God stir up within you the gift of the Spirit
that you may confess Jesus Christ as Lord
and proclaim the joy of the everlasting gospel
wherever you may be;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.

The Paschal Candle is extinguished and Easter Time ends.