



Home Celebration 4: 'Pentecost - Come Holy Spirit'

Introduction

Fifty days after Easter, the Church celebrates Pentecost. Pentecost is sometimes called the 'birthday' of the Church.

Think about a time when you had a problem that you couldn't solve on your own and you needed someone to help...

- *Maybe it was help with a piece of school work and your friend or teacher helped you.*
- *Maybe you have helped someone at home or school.*
- *Maybe you were trying to fix something that wasn't working and someone at home helped you.*

The Disciples needed help. They were scared.

Jesus had promised never to leave them and yet he was gone from them. He had said he would send them another friend to help them, but they didn't know what that meant.

They knew they should carry on the work that Jesus had begun when he was on earth, but they didn't know how to do this.

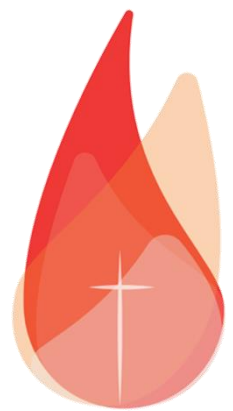
One day as they were praying that help arrived. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be their helper, and this changed their lives forever.

Scripture - Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak.

Many religious Jews from every country in the world were living in Jerusalem. And when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered. But they were surprised because they were hearing everything in their own languages.

They were excited and amazed, and said: "Don't all these who are speaking come from Galilee? Then why do we each hear them speaking our very own languages?"



Some of us are from Parthia, Media, and Elam. Others are from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, parts of Libya near Cyrene, Rome, Crete and Arabia.

Some of us were born Jews, and others of us have chosen to be Jews. Yet we all hear them using our own languages to tell the wonderful things God has done.”

The Word of the Lord
R/ Thanks be to God.

Discuss the passage

The Apostles, gathered in the upper room had been afraid and uncertain. On the day of Pentecost, they bravely went out into Jerusalem telling all who would listen about Jesus. What’s even more amazing is they shared the Gospel in many, many languages that they didn’t even know how to speak. Jerusalem at the time was full of visitors for a big celebration, they all heard their message in a way they could understand!

This has an important message for us: With the help of the Holy Spirit, we never have to be afraid of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ!

A simple prayer to pray is: **‘Come Holy Spirit’**.

This invites the Holy Spirit into our hearts and homes, welcoming the Holy spirit’s power and work in our lives.

Did you know?

The Holy Spirit is present in all Sacraments, but is especially celebrated in the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us at our Baptism are made perfect at Confirmation.

Activities

Listen to the Pentecost Hymn - Send Down the Fire (Haughen)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cSk10IiioM>

Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Church: the time when the Church began its mission to spread the Good News empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Make a birthday card showing the signs and symbols of the Holy Spirit and send to someone who is lonely or worried at this time.

You may want to colour the ‘Come Holy Spirit’ prayer in and put in your window to remind others about this important Feast.

The Holy Spirit can be represented as a dove, tongues of fire or a strong wind. Why not make some decorations and add words / pictures about the importance of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Celebration

You may like to share a small cake and sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to the Church.



