



DARE TO DREAM

Pentecost – Be filled with the Holy Spirit

Week Beginning 23rd May

Before you begin the prayer...

Pentecost a day for new beginnings. Normally we tend to think of a new start at the beginning of the year when fireworks abound and there is excitement and anticipation. Resolutions are made and the desire for change is characteristic of the moment. At Pentecost there were fireworks of a different kind. A rush of wind so strong blew through the room where the apostles had been hiding. Tongues of fire hovered over their heads and suddenly they were filled with a new energy and enthusiasm. It was a transforming experience which brought about a change in them and ultimately a change for the world. Unlike our half-hearted efforts at the start of a new year where resolutions quickly dissolve, the fire in the disciples did not go out and so we find ourselves, today, still able to celebrate the feast of Pentecost.

At that first Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. The same happens for us when we are baptised – the Holy Spirit enters our heart. As babies we may not be aware of this but as life progresses we are encouraged to reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in our own lives. Do we live our life, guided by the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth and love and wisdom?

The world we currently live in has many challenges. People are struggling with the impact of the pandemic which we continue to live with. People are grieving from the loss of loved ones, the loss of employment, the loss of security and more than anything the loss of freedom. It will take time for us to recover, to regain a sense of equilibrium, to find a new direction. The Church has also has its challenges; how to support and provide for the needs of parishioners and the vulnerable. How to enable people to at least 'watch' Mass when they could not attend. Along the way people have been neglected and declining mental health has had a profound impact on many people. Throughout this last year many might have been asking, 'where is the Holy Spirit in all this?'

The Gospel speaks of the Advocate as the Spirit of Truth. Jesus knew that for us to live in love and truth we would need an advocate, someone to

guide us in knowing which path to take, when and how. In the noisy and chaotic world in which we live it can be very difficult for us to know how the Holy Spirit may be speaking to us or what the Holy Spirit is asking of us but when what we do brings life and joy to others we can be sure that the Holy Spirit dwells within our actions. Pentecost is a time to rejoice for all those who have worked tirelessly through the centuries to share the love of Christ with the world and allow the love of God to burn in the heart of believers.

Video - Watch and listen to Mgr. Jeremy Rigden

Prayerfully read this passage from the Gospel of John:15:26-27,16:12-15

But when the Counsellor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me; and you also are witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning.

I have yet many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- Take some time to ponder on the words you have just read.
- Notice if there is anything, a word or phrase that stands out for you.
- Read the passage again and then reflect upon all or some of these questions: if you are doing this as a family or a group, make sure everyone is given the opportunity to speak.

Personal Reflections

- What part does the Holy Spirit play in your life?
- In what ways do you witness to the Spirit of Truth?

Now thinking about your parish and local community

- Having used these reflections over the past few weeks, do you have a greater sense of where the Holy Spirit is leading you?
- As a community how often do you pray together for the Holy Spirit's gifts?
- What fruits of the Spirit do you see emanating from your reflections and actions?

Action

- Decide how as a parish/deanery you can continue your reflections and decide how you can put some of the actions suggested into practise.
- Pray to the Holy Spirit to guide you with wisdom and understanding for the journey ahead.
- Over the next few months commit as a parish to reading at least one of the Pope's encyclicals or letters:
 - Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love:
http://www.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia_en.pdf
 - Laudate Si,
http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html
 - Fratelli Tutti
http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

Finish with a prayer asking the Holy Spirit for the grace to respond.