

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Gospel Acclamation

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit. There are all
sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord.

Second Reading

Let us pray that the Spirit will work through our lives
to bring Christ to the world.

God our Father, let the Spirit you sent on your Church
to begin the teaching of the Gospel
continue to work in the world
through the hearts of all who believe.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to explore further:
Acts 2: 1–11; Psalm 103 (104); 1Cor. 12: 3–7.12–13; John 20: 19–23



Detail from El Greco, Pentecost (c.1600)

'Something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire'

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Pentecost Sunday
Year A, 28th May 2023

'Peace be with you!'

'Peace be with you!' With these words the Risen Lord stood
amongst his fear-filled followers (**Gospel**). He breathed the Holy
Spirit upon them. With their hearts filled with joy, Jesus sent them
out to bring the fire of his love to all.

With the Holy Spirit transforming their lives, the disciples began
speaking in many different languages (**First Reading**). Christ was
calling them to share the Gospel to the whole world. We too are
baptised in this same Spirit.

Each of us has been given a unique gift, so that together as a
community we become the risen Christ, bringing love and goodness
to all people (**Second Reading**). Filled with the Holy Spirit we
become a new creation in the Lord.

The **Psalm** joyfully proclaims a time of rejuvenation as the spirit of
the Lord moves over the earth.

On this Pentecost Sunday, let us ask for a spirit of renewal for the
whole Christian community. We pray that we may overcome any
fear, doubt or differences, and be united in giving
expression to the joy of Resurrection, each of us doing so
in our own unique way, whilst rooted in the same spirit
of transforming love.



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.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12: 3–7, 12–13

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless they are under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people. It is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

With love and compassion, I invite my body and mind to settle.
I gently become still as I place myself before the Lord to pray.
I invite the Holy Spirit to guide my time of prayer.

Slowly I read through this letter to the early Christian community of Corinth.

I pause and ponder as I read, and then centre my prayer on the parts of the passage where I feel the Spirit is drawing my attention.

I share this focus with the Lord, and listen to the truth that I am being invited to hear.

What are the gifts that the Holy Spirit breathes through me?

In what way do I give expression to those gifts?

How might I bring the Lord's goodness to those around me, to my community and our wider global community?

I close my prayer with an expression of gratitude for the gifts of the Spirit that have been entrusted to me.

'Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit ...'

Gospel John 20: 19–23

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again,

'Peace be with you.

As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

I prepare myself for this time of prayer in the way that suits me best today. Remembering that I am in the presence of the Lord, I begin my prayer using the words of the Gospel Acclamation:

*'Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.'*

After reading the Gospel slowly a few times, I use my imagination to enter into the scene of the first Pentecost.

What do I notice about the room where the disciples are gathered?

What would it have felt like to have been gathered there in fear and confusion?

Have there been times when I have felt something similar?

Recalling such a time, I imagine the risen Lord standing alongside me, bringing his peace and breathing the Holy Spirit upon me.

How do I feel now?

What is Jesus sending me to do?

I speak to the Lord as I would to a dear friend about my time of prayer.

Imagining that I remain within the peaceful presence of Jesus, together we pray as one: *Our Father ...*