

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

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

Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

Second Reading

You too will be my witnesses.

Gospel

Bethlehem was God with us, Calvary was God for us,
and Pentecost is God in us.

Robert Baer

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'd like to reflect further:

Acts 2: 1–11; Ps. 103 (104); Galatians 5: 16–25; John 15: 26–27; 16: 12–15



Laure Bartlet (b. 1952) The Holy Spirit of Pentecost (2023)
www.artinajour.com

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Pentecost Sunday
Year B, 19th May 2024

The Spirit is our life

Pentecost Sunday brings the season of Easter to a close. What began, on the first day of the week, with Jesus breathing his Spirit on the disciples, now ends with the disciples having trust in all that the Spirit has done, and hope in all that the Spirit will do in them.

The ancient Pentecost commemoration of the revelation of God (through the giving of the Torah and the making of the covenant) was now celebrated by the early Christians as the revelation of God through the outpouring of the Spirit (**First Reading**).

In the **Gospel**, St John returns us to Jesus's words of farewell to his disciples. The 'Spirit of truth' is promised to us as it was to them. So today, we can say, this is *our* season in the Spirit.

The **Second Reading** shows St Paul's condemnation of self-indulgence amongst those belonging to the Church at Galatia. He tells them that only the consolations of the Spirit – 'love, joy, peace ... gentleness and self-control' – can unite their hearts to the freedom of the Gospel.

We can ask for the help of this same Spirit in the words of the **Psalmist**: 'Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth'.

As we are called to witness to the fire of God (by bringing the light of the Son and the heat of the Spirit to all we meet), let's pray this line of St Paul every day this coming week:

'*Since the Spirit is my life, let me be directed by the Spirit.*'



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.

First Reading Acts of the Apostles 2: 1–11 (part)

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles 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.

In today's reading, the disciples are all together in one room. In my mind's eye I imagine this one room and look slowly around it. Who is present? Who do I notice? How are they feeling at the beginning of this text?

And how am I feeling just now, as I come to my time of prayer? What is going on in my life at the moment? Will it help me to pray, or might it be a distraction?

I spend some time slowing down, settling, becoming still. I might imagine myself handing over any worries and concerns into the Lord's hands.

I read the text a few times, slowly, gently. What am I noticing? To where am I being drawn? Am I caught up in the drama of the divine energy at play? Or maybe I feel a bit outside it all?

Where do I want to be? Can I express my desire to the Lord?

Perhaps I am noticing God who is at work, desiring to reach me – as with the disciples – God who is continuing to offer me that deep love through the gift of the Spirit. How do I feel as I ponder this?

What do I want to say? What do I want to do?

I spend as long as I need speaking to the Lord from the heart about what is most important just now.

When ready, I might end with this prayer adapted from the Roman Catholic Missal's 'Solemn Blessing for The Holy Spirit':

*May God, the Father of lights,
who was pleased to enlighten the disciples' minds
grant me gladness
and make me always abound
with the gifts of the same Spirit.
Amen.*

Gospel 15: 26–7; 16: 12–15

Jesus said to his disciples:

'When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness. And you too will be witnesses, because you have been with me from the outset.

I still have many things to say to you, but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself, but will say only what he has learned: and he will tell you of the things to come. He will glorify me, since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; this is why I said: All he tells you will be taken from what is mine.'

I come to this time of prayer slowly, gently, thoughtfully. I ask for the help of the promised Advocate. Then, when ready, I read the Gospel slowly.

As I re-read the text, what is making itself felt within me? I stay with this. What is the 'complete truth' to which the Lord desires to lead me? I pause to ponder.

I read that the 'Spirit of truth', found in the heart of God, is being offered to the disciples. It is a gift also being offered to me today in the depths of my own heart. How does this make me feel? How might I want to respond to this gift?

The Holy Spirit always seeks to bear witness. The Spirit bore witness to Christ, and Christ bore witness to the Father. The disciples will be sent just as Jesus himself has been sent: '*As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world*' (John 17: 18).

Do I have a sense of being sent? To what? To whom? To where?

The end of the Easter season is the beginning of the mission to '*renew the face of the earth*' (today's psalm). This is never a mission to be carried out alone, but always with the One who says, 'will you come and labour with me?'

I stay with this thought for as long as I wish, then, when ready, I end with a prayer adapted from the 'Solemn Blessing for The Holy Spirit' (from the RC Missal):

*May that fire which hovered above the disciples as tongues of flame
make my heart glow with pure light. Amen.*