

## Theme of the Week – Pentecost

Happy Birthday! Pentecost is the day the Catholic Church celebrates its birthday. It marks the day where the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles to go out and help them fulfil the mission of Jesus. On Sunday, parishes around the world had the option to hear from either **John 20:19-23** or **John 14:15-16, 23b-26**. In John Chapter 20, we hear the disciples (the Greek word for disciple means learner and refers to someone who believed and followed Jesus) locking themselves in a room in fear. Jesus then appears to them and after saying “**Peace be with you**” he then breathes on them saying “**Receive the Holy Spirit....**” From here they are then sent (The Greek word for Apostle literally means to be sent) on their mission to bring Christ to others. We celebrate Pentecost as the Church's birthday as it marks the start of the Church to which we are members of. When then we too receive the Holy Spirit, first at our Baptism, and then at Confirmation, we too should remember that we are on a mission to bring Christ to others.

Pentecost was a Jewish feast day celebrated fifty days after Passover. This is why so many were in Jerusalem at the time that the Holy Spirit was manifested in the lives of the disciples. It might be expected that the absence of Jesus would have led to the newly formed gathering of believers to collapse and dissipate, and we know from Scripture that at least some of them had left Jerusalem to return to their homes. Jesus appears among them offering his greeting of peace and the opportunity to confirm his presence by examining his wounds. The conferring of the Holy Spirit is intimate, as Jesus breathes life back into his fearful disciples. The disciples are to go out and continue Jesus' work of forgiveness, love and witness in the world. And it is from the other Gospel reading on Sunday where Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit will teach them new things, lead them to a deeper understanding into the mystery of Jesus and help them to understand the things to come as they take up the challenges that lie ahead. When we are Baptised and Confirmed, we too receive and should listen to the Holy Spirit within us; so it can teach us to understand the mystery of Jesus and take up the challenges that lie ahead of us.

Coming to faith is a journey for most of us as we discover God's existence within the realities of our life experiences. Just as the disciples gathered together to pray when they were anxious, it is important for us to gather within our school community to share the highs and the lows of our journey. Regular time to pray alone, to pray in community and time to listen to God within our hearts will give us that sense of guidance. Fear had caused the disciples to lock themselves away. When Jesus appeared and breathed the Holy Spirit into his friends, this experience was totally life changing. It led to the start of the Church, and 2000yrs or so later we still are here. How can you be more **Attentive** and **Discerning** in listening to God through the Holy Spirit? What fruits of the spirit manifest in you and how can you be more **Active** and **Curious** to share these with others?

# Pentecost

Weekly Reflections  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2025  
10<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary time



## From the Gospel of John (John 14:15-16, 23b-26)

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

'These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.'

## Prayer for the Week

Almighty and loving God,

Open our hearts, minds and souls to your Spirit, as you did to the disciples that first Pentecost. Equip us to live as your people, not just this day but every day. Allow our lives to reflect your glory and proclaim your love. Move within us as we pray.

Amen

### Day 1

How did the disciples receive the Holy Spirit from Jesus?  
When do we receive the Holy Spirit in a special way?

### Day 2

What was expected to happen to the disciples when Jesus left them?  
What did the breathing of the Holy Spirit allow the disciples to do? What does it allow us to do today?

### Day 3

How can you be more **Attentive** and **Discerning** in prayer?  
How then can you use the Holy Spirit to be more **Active** and **Curious** to others?

## Catholic Social Teaching - Stewardship

"The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it." Genesis 2:15. We are guardians of God's creation, living sustainably and enhancing the wellbeing of our planet. Caring for the earth is integral to our task of tackling the scandal of global poverty, vulnerability, inequality, injustice and exclusion. Stewardship is all about caring for the many gifts that God has given to us. These include our environment, our own talents and other resources. The late Pope Francis said "Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home" Laudato Si' 13 and "...the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us." Laudato Si' 159.

How this half term can you promote Stewardship in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?