

Pentecost
May 19th
2024



Rector's Tidings

There are days when life looks drab to us, too much like a repetitious, boring routine. Our faith too may impress us as unexciting, monotonous and tiring and cheerless. Today's feast of Pentecost reminds us: life, especially the life of faith, is marvellous, thanks to the Spirit of Jesus who wants to renew the Church and the whole world as he did on the first Pentecost. Let him bring us to life again with joy and peace and the fire of his love. Let him breathe on us the fresh air of the gospel and the life of Jesus. We ask Jesus here in this eucharist to pour out on us his invigorating Spirit.

On this beautiful day of Pentecost God lets his Spirit bring together again all that has been divided: our own selves, so often broken and ripped apart, our Church and its communities, nations. The Spirit unites in their diversity masters and servants, rich and poor, free people and those enslaved in any way, citizens and strangers, people of every race and tongue and color. All of us are called to hear in our own language the marvels God is doing among us. Wonder at all this, rejoice and celebrate the feast of the Spirit.

Prudence is a good virtue to have, but a quality that is much rarer is courage: the courage to make a long overdue change, the courage to speak up for the truth when silence can keep you out of trouble, the courage to act according to your conscience, the courage to commit yourself to people when it is much safer not to be involved. Often prudence is cited as a good reason for not being courageous, and that's bad. Courage and prudence should go hand in hand. The Holy Spirit can bring about the harmony between these two. He gave the apostles and the young Church the courage to risk their lives for the gospel. Today we ask Jesus the Lord to pour out on us his Spirit of courage.

Fr Hugo

Collect:

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

First Reading: A reading from Acts (2:1-11):

When Pentecost day came round, they 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.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm (104):

R./ Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! How manifold are your works, O LORD! the earth is full of your creatures. **R/**

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD be glad in his works! Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the LORD. **R/**

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. **R/**

Second Reading: A reading from 1 Corinthians (12:3B-7, 12-13):

Brothers and sisters: No one can confess "Jesus is Lord", without being guided by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts. In the same way, all of us, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether slaves or free, have been baptised into the one body by the same Spirit, and we have all been given the one Spirit to drink.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (20:19-23):

Glory to you, O Lord.

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.



Prayers of Intercession

Lord, as we rejoice in the coming of the Spirit we give thanks for all who proclaim your presence and power. We remember all preachers and evangelists, all who celebrate the sacraments and minister to us. May all your people share fully in forwarding the Gospel and revealing your love.

We rejoice that you fill our world.

Your Spirit is with us.

Lord, you give great gifts and talents to your people. We ask you to bless and guide all leaders of nations and peoples, all who make decisions that will affect our lives and the future of the world. We pray for scientists and research workers, for all who work in providing us with news or influence us through the press and television.

We rejoice that you fill our world.

Your Spirit is with us.

We give thanks that your Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in an ordinary home. Bless our homes with your presence and grant that there we may grow in the fruits of the Spirit. Let us know you are with our loved ones and us. Protect us from all evil and guide us by your Spirit in the ways of peace and love.

We rejoice that you fill our world.

Your Spirit is with us.

Lord of life, we remember all who are dis-spirited, the distressed, the depressed and despairing, all who have lost hope or joy in their lives. We pray for all who fear the future, all who have lost sight of you and your love. We remember also all who are struggling with poverty or hunger, the homeless and the refugee. We pray for all who are ill.

We lift up our hearts.

We lift them to you, O Lord.

We rejoice that you fill our world. Your Spirit is with us. We give you praise, Lord, giver of life and life eternal. We rejoice that you renew, refresh and restore us. We remember in your presence your blessed saints and our loved ones departed; may light perpetual shine upon them as they share in the glory of your kingdom.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Intercessions

- **For the Church:**

For Justin, our archbishop, Christopher and Martin our bishops and for the bishops, priests, deacons and people of the Diocese of The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

For everyone at Christ Church and St Matthew's

- **For the world:**

Russia and Ukraine, the Holy Land.

- **For our community:**

The Charity Shop and Food Cupboard. For Indiebride. The Halls Trust and Co-op business centre . Christ Church Primary School, Van Gogh Primary School and Reay Primary School. For our local services, including the post delivery.

- **For the Sick and Bereaved:**

Alice, Anastasia, Bangori, Chester, Christina, Fay and family, Gladstone, John, Julie, Kandy & Benji, Karen, Kenneth, Maria, Neville, Pam, Ruby, Robert, Ron and Stephen.

Offertory Hymn

36 Come Holy Ghost

Communion Hymn

50 For I'm building a people of power

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

164 O breath of life, come sweeping through us

Texts for prayer and meditation

Lectio:

The two passages above are contained within Jesus' final words to his disciples on that last night in Jerusalem (John 13-17). Today the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is in the spotlight (John 15, 16).

Jesus is preparing his disciples for his imminent departure, but first he wants to entrust them to the Holy Spirit. Why was this so important? Jesus knows that the Holy Spirit's main role is to reveal new aspects of God and his word (15:26). In doing this he will help the disciples understand Jesus better.

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit exist together as the Trinity in perfect love and understanding. So there could be none better than the Holy Spirit to reveal and teach whatever the Father and Son choose to say (16:13).

The Holy Spirit remains our personal guide on how to live and share Jesus' message of love (15:27). We know from this and other passages that the Holy Spirit does this in four ways: he inspired the authors of the Holy Scriptures, people

like David, Isaiah, John, Luke and Paul; he reminds us of Jesus' words; he helps us understand the Scriptures; and finally he fans the fire of God's love in our lives. It is a mutual love which strengthens Christians on their life journey.

Jesus does not promise his followers an easy life; he does promise God's help in our trials and our endeavours to be his witnesses to all men (15:26, 16:12).

We ponder ...

- The promise of help from the Holy Spirit comes with a purpose, to enable us to speak about Jesus and live in truth. In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit helping and teaching you?
- What does Jesus mean by the term 'truth'? Does he mean only words and ideas?

Oratio:

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal more of the Father and Son to you. Ask for his help so that you can play your part in continuing Jesus' work on earth and demonstrate his fruit in your life (Galatians 5:22-23).

Prayerfully read Psalm 104 throughout the week. Let God direct you to a few verses at a time. Use these verses to praise the greatness of the God of creation.

Contemplatio:

Today we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost and the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2:1-11 we read of the glorious outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. It wasn't the last and today people continue to invite the Holy Spirit to fill, guide, teach and encourage them.

Paul puts a practical face on the work of the Holy Spirit when he writes to the Galatians (5:16-25). The fruits of the spirit's work should be as evident in our lives today as in the lives of the first Christians.

Services This Week

Sunday 26th May Eucharist, 11.00am & Spanish Mass, 6.00pm

Chat and Prayer Corner

Every Thursday, 12.30-1.30pm in the Charity Shop: Come along for some refreshments, a chat, and the option of prayer.

Final Baptism Preparation Session

Our final FREE preparation session for all those exploring children's baptism will be Saturday 15th June from 9.30-10.30am. We will share breakfast together, sing and have a bible story with puppets and go through parts of the Baptism service looking at light. Children, parents/guardians, grandparents, other family members and potential godparents are all welcome to attend. Don't worry if you missed the first one, and coming to the session doesn't commit you to the July 7th Baptism but it is a way to explore and find out more about what Baptism is and whether it is right for your children or grandchildren.

Next Bubble Church

Sunday 2nd June, 9.45am

Regular Giving

We welcome online donations, which you can make via scanning the QR code. Many thanks for your generosity.



Daily Bible Verse Reflections

Monday John 19:26

Tuesday John 14:23

Wednesday John 14:6

Thursday John 11:27

Friday John 17:17

Welcome to

Chat & Prayer Corner



Join us on Thursdays from
12.30pm to 1.30pm to chat over
coffee and biscuits and have
prayer afterwards (if you like)
Starting May 16th 2024



90 Brixton Road, SW9 6BE,
Charity Shop Hall

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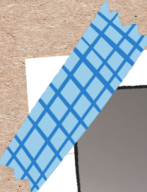
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SPACE
AVAILABLE



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About me



Capacity of 60 people standing and 40 seated, kitchenette, tables and chairs available, fully accesible toilets and free wi-fi



SW9 6BE

