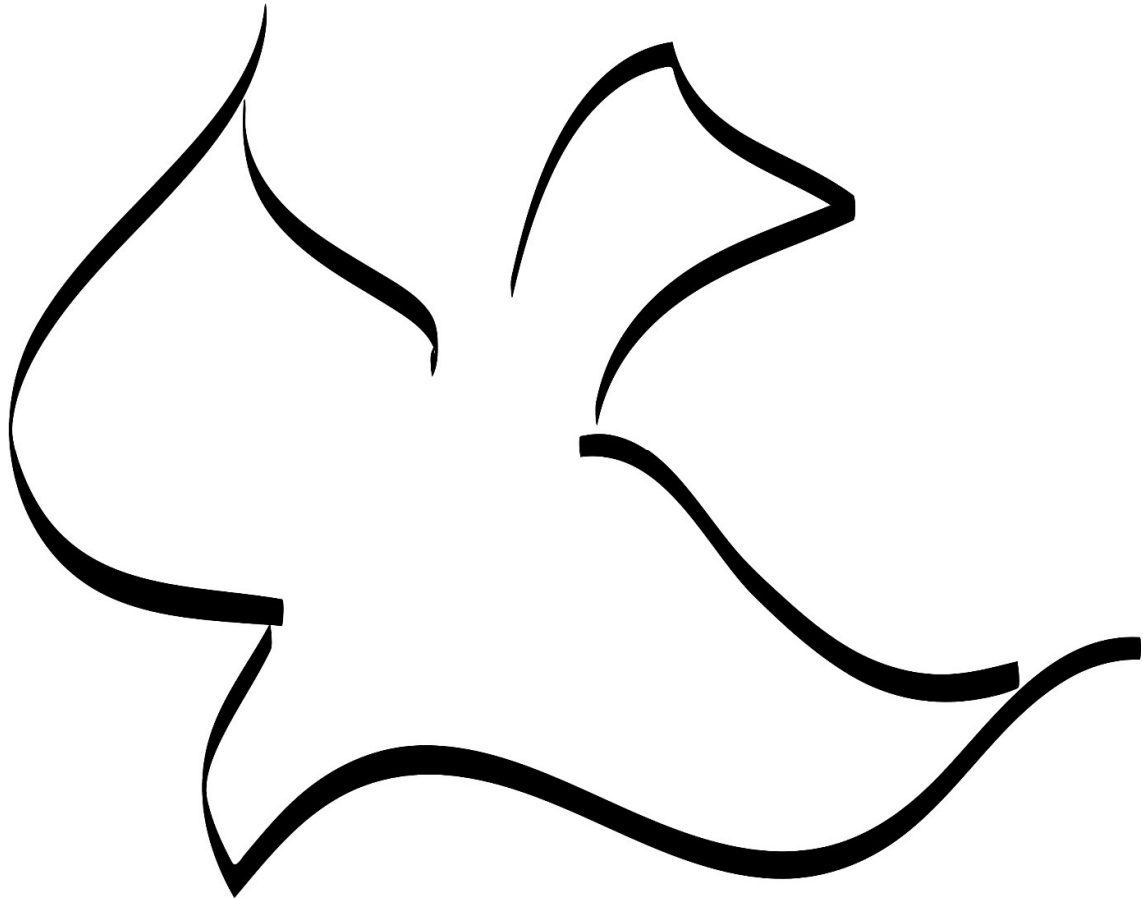


Pentecost Sunday

Today we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and the whole Church. We are empowered to receive the truth and to bear witness to it.



Acts 2:1-11

The apostles are empowered by the Holy Spirit to speak a multitude of languages to help preach the Gospel.

Galatians 5:16-25

St Paul contrasts the fruits of sin with a beautiful litany of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us.

John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Jesus promises the coming of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in the Church and helps us understand the truth.



Reflection

50 days after Passover the Jews celebrate ‘Shavuot’ - the gathering in and the offering of the first fruits of the wheat harvest. The word ‘Shavuot’, is the plural of a word meaning “week” or “seven,” and alludes to the fact that this festival happens exactly seven weeks (ie “a week of weeks”) after Passover. For us “Pentecost” has the same meaning: “Fifty Days.”

It was on that 50th day, on Pentecost, that the great harvest that Jesus promised was begun: the Christian feast of Pentecost, which occurs 50 days after Easter, marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples.

So, here we are on the fiftieth day. The Easter Season, the Paschal Mystery, is complete: the Lord has died, he is risen, he has ascended to heaven and he now gives birth to his Church, by sending the Spirit upon the apostles. This feast of the gift of the Spirit is especially significant for us, because it marks the handing on of Jesus’ ministry to the Church: in the Church we are guaranteed the presence of the Lord, in his sacraments, in his ministers, in the Blessed Sacrament and in his Word. It also marks the fulfilment of our thoughts throughout this season, about baptism. The gift of the Spirit which we receive in Confirmation is the ‘seal’ of our baptism, guaranteeing and confirming everything that baptism achieves.



In John’s Gospel, the resurrection, ascension and the descent of the Spirit seem to occur on the same Easter Sunday. It is most likely that the disciples were gathered in the upper room where the Last Supper had been held. But they were fearful that the emissaries of the Sanhedrin would come to arrest them.

Upon seeing the Risen Lord, the disciples were overjoyed. Just as the breath of God created Adam, the first human being (Gn 2:7), Jesus breathed forth the Spirit creating the new people of God, the Church. Empowered by the Spirit, Jesus’ disciples were sent forth to bring peace

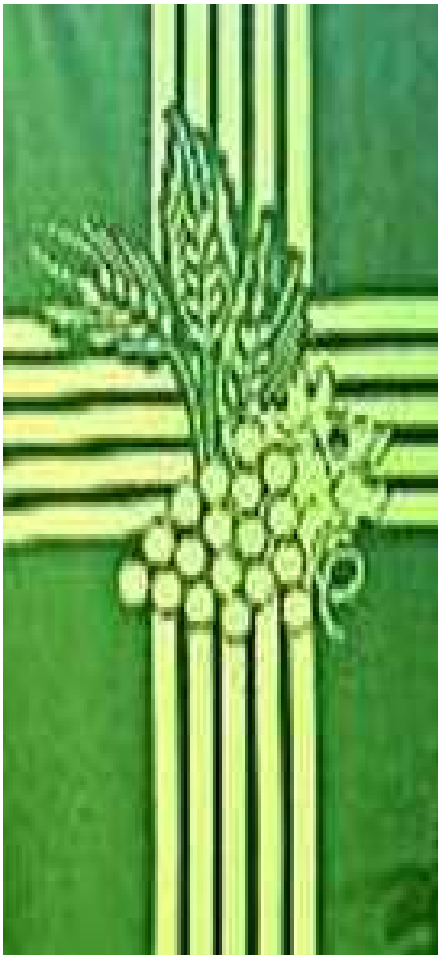
through the reconciliation of sinners.

Who is the Holy Spirit? He is the third Person of the Holy Trinity, but more specifically, he is the love shared by the Father and the Son. “Come, Holy Spirit!” is the fundamental prayer of the Church -- in success or failure, whether you’re young or old, rich or poor: “Come, Holy Spirit!”

The outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost is called the birthday of the universal Church. Through the Spirit, the Church realises her call to preach the Gospel of Christ to the whole world.

The double Alleluia at the end of Mass today shows us that the Easter Season has been brought to a close. The Easter Candle is extinguished and moved to near the Baptism font. The 90 Days of Lent and Easter are over, but our call to Mission is not over.

ORDINARY TIME



Ordinary Time, which begins tomorrow, is called “ordinary” because the weeks are numbered. The Latin word “*ordinalis*”, refers to numbers in a series (what we call “ordinals”). It stems from the Latin word *ordo*, from which we get the English word *order*. Ordinary Time is in fact the **ordered** life of the Church—the period in which we live our lives, not in feasting (as in the Christmas and Easter seasons) or in more severe penance (as in Advent and Lent), but in watchfulness and expectation of the Second Coming of Christ.

There are two times we are in Ordinary Time. There are about 28 weeks of Ordinary Time after Easter and about 5 weeks of Ordinary Time after Christmas. This varies depending upon when Easter falls in a particular year. The actual total number of weeks of Ordinary Time in any given year can total 33 or 34. We left Ordinary time way back in the middle of February – the 6th Week in Ordinary Time; we now resume Ordinary time in the **8th Week of Ordinary Time**.

PENTECOST WORDSEARCH

E	T	E	L	P	M	O	C	E	G	ADVOCATE	SPIRIT	WITNESS	
V	T	G	R	L	W	H	J	N	N	GLORIFY	FATHER	JESUS	
G	N	A	L	E	I	M	I	I	I	MINE	COMPLETE	TELL	
L	T	E	C	M	H	K	W	M	H	EVERYTHING		WHY	HIMSELF
O	T	I	S	O	A	T	J	H	T				
R	T	E	R	E	V	L	A	G	Y				
I	L	A	P	I	M	D	L	F	R				
F	F	S	K	J	P	O	A	G	E				
Y	S	U	S	E	J	S	C	T	V				
C	O	S	S	E	N	T	I	W	E				



Pentecost a different image! ! !

In today's gospel the dejected disciples were gathered:

their leader executed as a criminal,
their hopes dashed,
their dreams scattered,
their hearts full of fear.

The last words they knew were

death,
disappointment,
disaster.

But, in a flash, these words suddenly became next- to-the-last words.

The last Word was

surprise as Jesus comes through closed doors and breathes
“Shalom.” The last word was the Holy
Spirit, the Lord of
Surprise. —they were
startled when tongues of fire descended on them and they received the
Holy
Spirit who renewed them.

In the 13th century when all was wickedness and chaos, along comes

Francis of Assisi

As we bid farewell to Easter, it's worth remembering the words of
Pope John Paul II:

We are Easter people and "Alleluia" is our song.

"We do not pretend that life is all beauty. We are aware of darkness and sin, of poverty and pain. But we know Jesus has conquered sin and passed through his own pain to the glory of the Resurrection. And we live in the light of his Paschal Mystery - the mystery of his Death and Resurrection.

"We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!"

We are not looking for a shallow joy but rather a joy that comes from faith, that grows through unselfish love, that respects the "fundamental duty of love of neighbour, without which it would be unbecoming to speak of Joy". We realize that joy is demanding; it demands unselfishness; it demands a readiness to say with Mary: "Be it done unto me according to thy word".

Alleluia! Alleluia!