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Pentecost Sunday - 5 June 2022

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5 June 2022

Pentecost Sunday

Reflection by Anthony Doran

Introduction

Introduction

Our celebration of the solemn feast of Pentecost is more than just a reminiscence of what happened all those years ago in the Upper Room. Pentecost not only inaugurates a new era in the history of God's covenant with his people but is also a celebration of the Spirit at the heart of the Church today: giving life to us, recreating us, renewing us.

Penitential Act

Use one of the *Roman Missal* texts or this optional litany form:

Lord Jesus, you breathed your Spirit on us to strengthen us.
Lord, have mercy.

You are with us until the end of time.
Christ, have mercy.

You lead us to the Father.
Lord, have mercy.

Collect

The oration

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.

Commentary by Gerard Moore

This festal collect takes its inspiration from the day of Pentecost described in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-3). It contains a sense of celebration that, across the breadth of the nations and the peoples, the Church is present. Indeed, the wholeness of the Church embraces this diversity, and is sanctified throughout this

richness. For a prayer emanating from seventh century Rome, this collect has a remarkable sense of the extent of the Church beyond local and imperial constraints. The petition has an evangelical thrust. It seeks first up that the gifts of the Spirit be spread across the face of the earth. These gifts need not be restricted to the seven that are usually brought to the fore at the time of Confirmation and based in Is 11:2-3. They should also include those that were granted at that first Pentecost: such as the gift of tongues, preaching (Peter) and baptism. At that first outpouring, the people gathered were 'cut to the heart' (Acts 2:37). Our prayer is asking that God, through the Spirit, revisit the hearts of the baptised and fill them again with this same love and enthusiasm.

First Reading

Acts 2:1-11

Luke's account of the events of the first Pentecost are redolent with images from Mt Sinai: the gathered Twelve echo the Twelve Tribes, powerful winds shaking the whole house echo the shaking of the whole mountain, and the presence of tongues of fire. It is clear that, for Luke, this is a new theophany; a new manifestation of God's power and presence.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v. 30

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

Originally one of Israel's hymns of praise to God the Creator, today's psalm was obviously chosen for today because of its mention of God's spirit. But we last heard this Psalm at the Easter Vigil. God's gift of the Spirit to recreate and renew us occurs not just once, but again and again, giving life to us here and now.

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-17

In today's Second Reading, Paul outlines the difference that life in Christ makes. Because the Spirit of God dwells in us, then we too, have life because of the Spirit living in us. Just as the Spirit fills all of Creation, so too, all of us moved by the Spirit, are children of God.

Gospel Reading

John 14:15-16, 23-26

Jesus promises that the Father will send the Holy Spirit, literally to stand beside us, as our Advocate, and our teacher. To remind us of all that Jesus has taught us and to keep us close the Father.

Reflection

Seven weeks after the Feast of Passover, the Jewish people celebrated the Feast of Shavuot or the Feast of Weeks. And this feast celebrated the many previous manifestations of the Lord throughout their history. Especially those manifestations of the Lord which marked the Covenant between the Lord and his people. In the desert of Sinai, after they had departed from Egypt and had declared that they would follow the Lord's way, the people, led by Moses, prepared for the manifestation of the Lord. At Sinai, the mountain, burning like a furnace, trembled; there was thunder and lightning.

When the Jewish faith was translated into the Greek speaking world, this Feast of Weeks became known as Pentecost. Because 'pentecost' is the Greek word meaning fifty. And so, seven weeks, or fifty days after one particular Feast of the Passover, when Jesus had died and was risen from the dead, the Apostles, led by Peter and together with Mary, were gathered in prayer. As we read: 'the Apostles had all met in one room.' There is a great sense of expectation at the beginning of this reading. It was as if they were expecting something to happen. And something did.

Like the signs and portents at Mount Sinai, at Jerusalem '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 that appeared to them 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.' But what is so significant about this gift of the Holy Spirit? Surely, all the Apostles could speak before this?

Certainly, the Apostles could speak before this. But now, the devout people 'living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven' could hear the Apostles speaking in their own language.

After the Tower of Babel in the Book of Genesis, the peoples of the earth had been scattered all over the earth, and there was a confusion of language. But when this particular Pentecost day came around, 'every nation under heaven' is gathered in Jerusalem. And now, the confusion of language is gone. For the nations of the earth, gathered symbolically in Jerusalem, hear the Apostles preaching in their own language. All of them were able to hear and understand the marvels of God preached to them.

Pentecost inaugurates a new era in the history of God's covenant with his people. Jesus, who was risen from the dead, is with us no more, ascended to his Father in heaven. The presence of Christ in the world is now through his Church. The Church on earth is now the sacrament or visible sign of Christ in the world. The Church is the Body of Christ. And the Holy Spirit is given to the Apostles so that they can be the Body of Christ.

Every year on this great Solemnity of Pentecost, we read this account from the Acts of the Apostles about the manifestation of the Holy Spirit fifty days after the death and resurrection of Jesus. But why?

Our celebration of Pentecost is not just a commemoration of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the Church. It is also a celebration of that same Spirit which empowers the community of believers today. The Holy Spirit which is given as the gift and grace of God to the Church, to us, to be the Body of Christ in our world today.

And we, as members of that same Body of Christ, are called to that same mission. Baptised in the waters of new life, and confirmed with the Spirit in Confirmation, each and every one of us is sent, like the Apostles, to proclaim the marvellous acts of God to the world. This task is not one that is the special preserve of bishops and priests and deacons. All of us who are baptised are called to be the community of the Church. All of us who are baptised share in the task of proclaiming the saving acts of God to the world anew.

Our prayer this Pentecost is that the Holy Spirit might come upon us anew with the fire of God's love and ignite us to renew the face of the earth. Not that the Spirit is absent. Jesus' promise remains true: 'I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever.' The Spirit is with us, but sometimes, our hearts and our minds are closed. This Pentecost, as we are called to be the presence of Christ in our world today, we pray:

Come Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.



Prayer of the Faithful

Introduction

Friends, blessed with the gifts of the Spirit, let us bring in prayer the needs of our community and our world.

Petitions

We pray for the Church. May the People of God, bishops, priests, religious and laity be open to receive the Holy Spirit's renewing power and proclaim, in our world at this time, all God's marvellous works.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We especially pray for the Church in Australia – the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit. As we prepare for the second Assembly of the Plenary Council, may members listen and respond to the promptings of the 'Advocate'.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all nations. May the Holy Spirit renew the face of the earth so that there is a new spirit of understanding and harmony among nations of the world and that they work together for the mutual benefit of all humanity.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all creation on this annual World Environment Day. May the Spirit of God, who hovered over the waters, recreate in all people a deep wonder and respect for all creation and the commitment to living in ways that minimise climate change.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all frontline healthcare workers in Australia and overseas. May their dedication be appreciated, and may they be strengthened and supported in their work, so they remain healthy, physically and mentally.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who will be confirmed in their parishes on this feast. Anointed with the Holy Spirit, may they be strengthened in experiencing their own personal Pentecost and be filled with the fire of God's love in their hearts.

(Pause) Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

Conclusion

God of power, hear these prayers we make through the power of the Spirit who you sent forth and in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Music selections by Alessio Loiacono and Chris deSilva

GA

Come down, O love divine. RF Littledale/RV Williams. 375
Come, Holy Ghost, creator, come. R Manus/ T Tallis. 376
Diverse in culture, nation, race. R Duck/ T Tallis. 520
Gather your people. B Hurd. 530
O breathe on me, O breath of God. E Hatch/ Gaelic Melody. 432
One bread, one body. J Foley SJ. 193
Send down the fire. M Haugen. 475
Song over the waters. M Haugen. 435
The Spirit of God. L Deiss. 185
There is one Lord. J Berthier. 346
Veni, Creator Spiritus. R Manus/ Gregorian Chant. 373
We are many parts. M Haugen. 523

AOV1

Come down, O love divine. RF Littledale/RV Williams. 118
Gather your people. B Hurd. 71
One bread, one body. J Foley SJ. 129
Send us as your blessing, Lord. C Walker. 181
Spirit come, transform us. G Norbet. 96
We are many parts. M Haugen. 86

AOV2

Come now, Holy Spirit. P Kearney. 87
Send down the fire. M Haugen. 164
Spirit blowing through creation. M Haugen. 51
There is one Lord. O Alstott. 148

AOV4Kids

The Spirit lives to set us free. D Lundy. 95

AOVNG

Come Holy Spirit. Monica O'Brien. 27
Come, Holy Spirit. John Angotti. 28
Come O Holy Spirit. John Burland. 30
Holy Spirit come. Michael Mangan. 67
Send out your Spirit, Lord. John Angotti. 111
Veni, Creator spiritus. John Angotti. 141

CWB

Come down, O love divine. Bianco da Siena. 653
Come, Holy Spirit, live in us. St Ambrose. 649
Come Holy Ghost, Creator, come. Rabanus Maurus. 654

Filled with the Spirit's power, with one accord. John Raphael Peacey. 676
Holy Spirit, Lord of love. William Dalrymple MacLagan. 708
O breathe on me, Breath of God. Edwin Hatch. 758
The Spirit of the Lord. Huub Oosterhuis. 834

CWBII

Holy Spirit, Lord divine. Tr. Peter J. Scagnelli. 379
Holy Spirit, Lord divine. Tr. Peter J. Scagnelli. 380
Come down, O love divine. Bianco da Siena, tr. Richard Frederick Littledale. 381
Come Holy Ghost, Creator, come. Rabanus Maurus. 382
Gifts of the Spirit. Christopher Willcock SJ. 383
Filled with the Spirit's power. John R. Peacey. 385
Holy Spirit, come, confirm us. Brian Foley. 386
Holy Spirit, Lord of love. William Dalrymple MacLagan. 387
The Spirit of God rests upon me. Lucien Deiss, CSSp. 388
Send down the fire of your justice. Marty Haugen. 389
Veni Sancte Spiritus. Taizé Community. 391
O breathe on me, O breath of God. Edwin Hatch. 564

S&S1

Holy Spirit. Ken Canedo. 116
One Spirit, one church. Maryanne Quinlivan, OSU/Rabanus Maurus. 132
Send Out Your Spirit. Jesse Manibusan. 79

S&S2

Come, Holy Ghost. Rabanus Maurus. 326
Lord, send out your Spirit. Craig Colson. 275
We wait for you. Tom Booth/Tammy Booth. 325

Psalms Selected by Chris deSilva and Angela McCarthy

Vigil Mass

Psalm 103: *Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth./Alleluia.*
Psalm 103: Percy Jones. CWB 315

Mass during the day

Psalm 103: *Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth./Alleluia.*
Psalm 103. Kathleen Boschetti MSC. CWB 316
Psalm 104 (103): Jenny O'Brien. JOBC pg. 51
Lord, send out your Spirit: Paul Mason. PM pg. 82
Lord, send out your Spirit: Tony Alonso. LPC pg. 77

Music selections by Michael Mangan

Send out your spirit (FWS) *Based on Ps 103/104* [Gathering, Gifts]
Holy Spirit of fire (SHOF, CWB II) [Gathering, Gifts]
Holy Spirit, come (TCS) [Gifts, Communion]
Come, O Come, Holy Spirit (TWB) [Gifts, Communion]
Hearts on fire (Vs 2 & 3) (SHOF) [Recessional]
Holy Spirit rock (TT/SYJ) [Recessional]