



Let Your Spirit Be...

Pentecost

The Church Ablaze

Celebrating & Rejoicing!

Let Your Spirit Be...

** Please use this little celebration booklet as part of your programme to recollect and reflect on this important Feast Day of our Catholic calendar.

WHAT IS PENTECOST?

Pentecost is the great festival that marks the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means "fiftieth day" and is celebrated fifty days after Easter.

WHAT IS THE LITURGICAL COLOR FOR PENTECOST?

Red is the liturgical colour for this day. Red recalls the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the first Pentecost. The colour red also reminds us of the blood of the martyrs. These are the believers of every generation who by the power of the Holy Spirit hold firm to the true faith even at the cost of their lives.

WHY DO WE CELEBRATE PENTECOST?

There are 3 "mega-festivals" commemorated in the Catholic calendar. The first two, Christmas and Easter, are well known to both believers and non-believers. But it's possible that even liturgical Christians may not be as familiar with the third, the festival of Pentecost. God the Father's wonderful Christmas gift of His one and only Son, and Christ's Easter triumph over the power of sin, death, and the devil would be of no benefit to us if the Holy Spirit did not give us the gift of saving faith. Thus, we celebrate Pentecost with great joy and thanksgiving knowing what Jesus Christ our Saviour has left us an everlasting legacy.

The following Para-liturgy can be used for your Pentecostal celebration, we are using the readings from the Sunday missal.

Let us begin with a song that welcomes the Holy Spirit:

Spirit of God

Spirit of God in the clear running water
Blowing to greatness the trees on the hill.

Spirit of God in the finger of morning:

Fill the earth, bring it to birth,

And blow where you will.

Blow, blow, blow till I be

But the breath of the Spirit blowing in me.

Spirit of God every one's heart is lonely

Watching and waiting and hungry until

Spirit of God, we long that you only

Fill the earth, bring it to birth,

And blow where you will.

Blow, blow, blow till I be

But the breath of the Spirit blowing in me.





Let us pray

In the Name
of the Father
and the Son
and the Holy Spirit.

Opening Prayer

The love of God has been
poured into our hearts
through the Spirit of God
dwelling within us.

All: Amen

***A reading from the holy
Gospel according to John
14:15-16, 23b-26***

Jesus said to his disciples: “If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever.”

“If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but ***the Advocate, the Holy Spirit***, whom the Father will send in my Name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.”

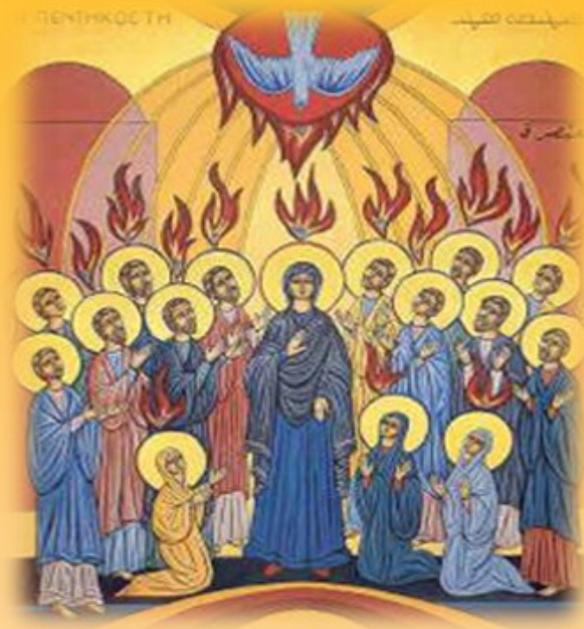
The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You,
Lord Jesus Christ

Reflection:

- ❖ Jesus kept his promise as you have just read in the gospel of John, although He has returned to the Father, God sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost to be with us forever. The Holy Spirit is also known as the *Advocate* or *Counsellor*. In Greek this is *Parakletos* means literally, "one who is called or appealed to". He is therefore *the defender*, as well as the "mediator" who fulfils the function of intercessor.

In English, the Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as the *Paraclete*. So we can now call upon the Holy Spirit at any time to help us and be with us.



- ❖ During the first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and those in the upper room. Tongues of fire appeared over them and they were filled with the Spirit. Empowered they began to boldly preach the Good News to all.

Now think of this momentous 'first birthday' of the Church. How about you? Are you ready to launch out boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God?

Intercessions

With confidence let us pray to the Father who created the Church with the gift of the Spirit:

℟ Renew, O Lord, the face of the earth!

O Christ, you breathed upon your Apostles, giving them the Spirit for the remission of sins - send your Spirit to wash away our faults. ***℟***

O Christ, you promised that the Spirit would teach us all things and remind us of what you yourself said - send your Spirit to enlighten our faith. ***℟***

O Christ you promised to send the Spirit of truth to bear witness to you - send your Spirit to enable us to give faithful testimony. ***℟***

Recognise the Gifts of the Spirit

When the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles in the upper room, they received spiritual gifts that transformed their lives and gave them the power to touch the lives of other people.

The Gifts of Spirit are:
Wisdom, Understanding,
Knowledge, Good Judgment,
Courage, Reverence, and Awe
(Isaiah 11:2)

We all received the same Gifts of the Spirit during the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

Using the Gifts of the Spirit

A gift is useless unless someone uses it. Pentecost is a good time to encourage ourselves to ask the Holy Spirit to help us make these gifts an important part of our lives.



Here's a prayer which can help us focus on the Holy Spirit and using his gifts:

Holy Spirit,
help me to become
a person of...

Wisdom so that I will
live my life in harmony
with Your divine will;

Understanding so
that I will be a person
of compassion;

Knowledge so that
I will be open to
truth and goodness;

Good Judgment so that I
will make choices that
reflect Your will;

Courage so that I will be
able to stand up for what
is right and just;

Reverence so that I will
enter into Your divine
mystery;

Awe so that I will see the
beauty in all of creation.
Amen.



Closing Prayer

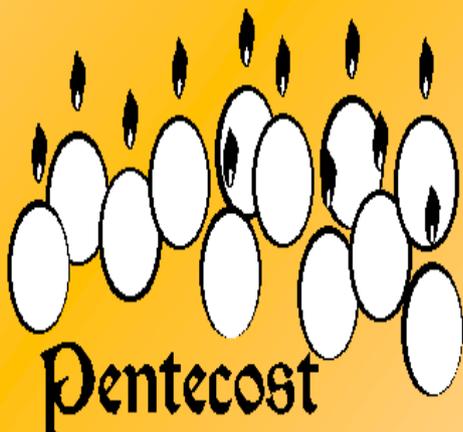
All: Our Father

Leader:

Today, O Lord, through the mystery of Pentecost, pour out the gifts of the Spirit upon the whole world, and bring to completion in the hearts of your faithful the work of love which you began with your first proclamation of the kingdom.

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.



Closing Song

Spirit of the Living God

Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me

Melt me, mould me,
fill me, use me
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me
(Repeat)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehS7II7_pBw

Resources:

*Caldecott, Leonie & Straford(Eds),
Magnificat, Vol 3, No.8, May 2013*

www.stpaulskingsville.org/pentecost

Distributed by:

*Archdiocesan Commission
for Catholic Schools (ACCS)*

*2 Highland Road
#02-01 Singapore 549102*

Tel. 65-68587080

Website: www.accs.sg

Email: accs@catholic.org.sg