

31 MAY 2020
PENTECOST SUNDAY

OPENING HYMN

**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
That the face of the earth be renewed.**

While I live, I sing the praise of God.
I will thank the author of those marvels.
Praise to God the Father, Son and Spirit,
Both now and for ever. Amen

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

OPENING PRAYER

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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:1-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34

Response: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my Soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. **R/**

You take back your, Spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth. **R/**

May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. **R/**

SECOND READING: 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

GOSPEL: Jn 20:19-23

REFLECTION

All of us at our baptism have received the Holy Spirit and are called to take up the mission of Jesus. Accepting and taking up the mission of Jesus does not mean that we will not experience fear, anxiety, tension, uncertainty etc... Jesus gives us his Holy Spirit, who gives us His peace and helps us to stay committed to the mission of Jesus. In my daily living, am I ready to choose Life and peace, love and forgiveness as I remain faithful to Jesus' saving mission? **(Pause)**

Some times we may only look for the Presence of the Spirit through '*extra ordinary manifestations*' (first reading). The second reading of today reminds us that the Spirit is also manifested in '*forms of service*' expressed in our daily living. The gospel invites us to offer Christ's love, peace and forgiveness to others. In these difficult times, keeping social distancing and abiding by government norms, we have several opportunities of service available to us. The Spirit is also manifested when we are ready to die to ourselves. **(Pause)**

In Psalm 103 we pray that '*the glory of the Lord last forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works*'. Jesus has sent us and has breathed the Holy Spirit upon us, which empowers us to continue his mission. Like the psalmist, let us pray and ask God to send his Spirit upon us, so that, the renewal of the earth continues in and through us. **(Pause and pray silently)**.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: On the Solemnity of Pentecost, let us confidently bring our prayers before the Lord.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all the members of the Church, that we may use wisely and well all the diverse gifts of the Holy Spirit; **(pause)** let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for our planet earth that God may pour out his Spirit and bring renewal in all our political, civic, educational and religious institutions; **(pause)** let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the pandemic of Corona virus. May they be open to the healing touch of the Holy Spirit; **(pause)** let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all baptised Christians that we may be faithful to the mission of Jesus; **(pause)** let us pray to the Lord...

Leader: Heavenly Father, you sent your Spirit to dwell in us. Hear the prayers that we offer you and that one day we may enjoy everlasting life and peace with you. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:
(All say the Lord's Prayer together) Our Father, ...

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church, safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given, that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her may retain all its force and that it may gain her abundance of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

God's Spirit is in my heart,

He has called me and set me apart.

This is what I have to do,

What I have to do.

He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,

Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,

Tell blind people that they can see,

And set the downtrodden free,

And go tell every one

The news that the Kingdom of God has come

And go tell every one

The news that God's Kingdom has come.

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)