



**03 June**

**HOLY HOUR**

*(With Mary and the Apostles at the Cenacle)*

**HYMN: 175** Holy God we praise thy name (*Joyful Celebration*) Or any other.

**INTRODUCTION:** On the eve of the feast of Mary Queen of Apostles on Saturday and of the Pentecost on Sunday, the theme of our Holy Hour shall be “*With Mary and the Apostles at the Cenacle*” Pentecost, marks the coming of the Paraclete and the birth of the Church which is a key moment in the history of the Christian faith. At the Cenacle, Mary obtained the title Queen of Apostles which is one of the oldest devotions in the Church. Every apostolate and every true apostle has life and action from Mary. Mary was made the apostles' Mother and our own by our Saviour on the cross. She was with the apostles while awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit, obtaining for them the abundance of supernatural graces they received on Pentecost. She exercised a universal apostolate, one so vast that it embraced all others. The apostolate of prayer, the apostolate of good example, and the apostolate of suffering--Mary fulfilled them all. She presented Jesus in a manner unparalleled throughout the ages. Her apostolate is of the highest degree--never to be equalled, much less surpassed. ‘She shines forth to the whole community of the elect as a model of the virtues’. (*Lumen Gentium*. 55, 65)

*(Pause for Silent Personal Prayer.....)*

**INVOCATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**LEADER:** As an indwelling God, the Holy Spirit makes us His Living Temples (1Cor 3:16). And as a strengthening God, He strengthens us in our fight against temptations and in our mission of bearing witness to Christ by transparent Christian lives.

**ALL: (Sing)** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, that the face of the earth be renewed.

**LEADER:** As a sanctifying God, He makes us holy through the Sacraments: He makes us children of God and heirs of heaven through Baptism. And He makes us temples of God, warriors and defenders of the Faith, through Confirmation.

**ALL (Sing)** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, that the face of the earth be renewed.

**LEADER:** He enables us to be reconciled to God by pardoning our sins through Reconciliation and He gives us spiritual nourishment via the Holy Eucharist by converting bread and wine into Jesus' Body and Blood through Epiclesis.

**ALL: (Sing)** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, that the face of the earth be renewed.

**LEADER:** As a teaching and guiding God, He clarifies and constantly reminds us of Christ's teachings and as a listening and talking God, He listens to our prayers and enables us to pray, and He speaks to us mainly through the Bible.

**ALL: (Sing)** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, that the face of the earth be renewed.

**LEADER:** As a giver of gifts, He enriches us with His gifts, fruits and charisms. It is the Holy Spirit who develops our intimacy with God. *"God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying, 'Abba!' ('Father!')*" (Gal 4:6).

**ALL: (Sing)** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, that the face of the earth be renewed.

**LEADER:** The Holy Spirit confronts us and urges us to take a good look at ourselves and where we are heading; it leads us to turn away from our sinfulness and reassures us that we are still loved in spite of our sin and that Jesus died on a cross just for us.

**ALL: (Sing)** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, that the face of the earth be renewed.

**LEADER:** It would be impossible for us to receive Jesus in the Eucharist without the descent of the Holy Spirit at the Epiclesis of the Divine Liturgy. Even the forgiveness of sins comes through the Holy Spirit (John 20:21-23). The Holy Spirit both confirmed the apostles in Holy Orders as priests and empowered them to forgive sins by His power, a work which He continues today in each of our priests.

**ALL: (Sing)** Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, that the face of the earth be renewed.

*(Moments of silence to prepare to listen to God's Word or a short hymn to the Holy Spirit)*

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Acts 1: 4-14

**REFLECTIONS:** In the Acts of the Apostles, after listing the names of the eleven apostles, it was said, 'All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.' (Acts 1: 14). Mary is mentioned together with some women. It would therefore seem that she is there as one of them, but Mary was completely at a different level, not only higher than that of the women but also of the apostles. Mary, who became the Mother of the Church at the cross, stands strong and confident, able to carry out her office in the Upper Room. She is the one who, having, received and experienced in herself the power of the Spirit at the Annunciation, now at

Pentecost makes herself available to the disciples, so that they too receive the same gift and the same 'power from above. Like Mary, those who have experienced the current of grace of the new Pentecost are called to put themselves at the service of others in the Church.

Bl James Alberione says, "*Mary had a special knowledge of Jesus. No one more than her will ever be able to lead us to Jesus. There is nothing more valuable to be given to this poor, proud world than Jesus Christ. Mary gave the world grace in Jesus Christ and she continues to make this offering for all time. By the will of God, Mary is has the office of forming, supporting and crowning all the Apostles. All forms of apostolate become fruitful if they are consecrated to Mary. St John who was consecrated to Mary is the confirmation of this fact. He accomplished and left behind marvellous apostolate: he wrote the 4<sup>th</sup> Gospel & the Book of Revelation*".

*(Pause for Personal reflections and examination of life)*

- ❖ Do I have a humble spirit of penance and self-denial as taught by Jesus?
- ❖ Do I guard my senses? Have I given into carnal pleasures, vanity or greed?
- ❖ Does my need for power, recognition, or prestige take precedence over the need for God in my life?
- ❖ Am I faithful to my commitment to God, His church, my family?
- ❖ Am I constant in my Christian calling to be a disciple of Christ? Am I committed sincerely in my Christian values?
- ❖ Are my priorities rightly ordered? Am I tolerant of other people even if they disagree with me?

**HYMN:** COME INTO OUR HEARTS (*Come Holy Spirit; Pauline Communications*) or any other appropriate hymn.

*Come, Holy Spirit, come into our hearts,  
Come, Holy Spirit, never to depart;  
Come, Holy Spirit, with us to stay,  
That with you we'll live from day to day.*

Come, Holy Spirit, come in our midst,  
Make us grow in love and trust;  
Come; cleanse our hearts and minds,  
Make us pure, gentle and kind.

Come, Holy Spirit, move around the world,  
Let your banner of love unfurl,  
May hatred and bloodshed cease,  
Fill it with abundance of peace.

Come, Holy Spirit, guard us from sin,  
Come, renew us from deep within;  
Come, make our hearts your own,  
May they be your sacred throne.

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS:**

**RESPONSE:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church: that we may give witness to the dying and rising of Christ by our lives and be instruments of hope, mercy, and grace to all. We pray: **R/-**

Lord we pray for the faithful in the warring nations that they may find a central core of peace in the midst of turmoil and for the world leaders that they may find peaceful solution to end all conflicts. **R/-**

For the refugees from Ukraine and elsewhere, that God guide them to places of safety and to find new homes. We pray: **R/-**

That the newly baptized and confirmed, and those received into full communion with the Catholic Church, may continue to grow with this community in worship and service. We pray: **R/-**

That all those mourning the death of their loved ones, find comfort in the joy of Jesus' resurrection. We especially remember to the Lord, the deceased members of our Parish. We pray: **R/-**

We ask the Holy Spirit that as at the beginning of the world He separated the light from the darkness, the waters from the earth and transformed the chaos in the cosmos, to repeat this miracle in today's world, in the Church and in our very soul, bringing unity where there is discord, light where there is darkness, creating in us 'a new heart' this Pentecost. We pray: **R/-**

**BENEDICTION:**

**The Divine Praises**

Blessed be God

Blessed be his holy name

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man

Blessed be the name of Jesus

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart

Blessed be his most precious blood

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the altar

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete

Blessed be the great mother of God Mary most holy

Blessed be her holy and immaculate conception

Blessed be her glorious assumption

Blessed be the name Of Mary virgin and mother

Blessed be St Joseph, her most chaste spouse

Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

**CLOSING HYMN:** 221, Jesus my Lord my God my all, (*Joyful Celebration*). Or any other.

--DLC, Bandra, Mumbai.

