

2020 PENTECOST SUNDAY

On this day of Pentecost we are not pretending; we are not playing games. We are strictly for real when we call out together- as one- COME HOLY SPIRIT.

We call out because we recognise our need for the Holy Spirit.

We live in a world where there is much injustice. In places, evil is rampant.

In families there is often so much hurt. And so many live lives close to despair.

Our Church is detested by so many. To be a Catholic is certainly counter-cultural.

And so we call out as one- COME HOLY SPIRIT.

To live out our commitment to the Lord Jesus when so many say religion is only for deluded idiots requires enormous moral strength.

To hold onto what we know to be true and good- to what we know will bring us a personal sense of well-being- is very, very difficult.

And that is why we pray today: COME HOLY SPIRIT.

Come Holy Spirit just as You came on the apostles at Pentecost and breathed courage into them. Come, Breath of Christ. Come Lord of Life.

Come Holy Spirit just as You came upon Mary at Pentecost and gave her solace. Come, Comforter of the Soul. Come Welcome Guest.

Come Holy Spirit just as You came upon Jesus' relatives who had been so lacking in understanding. Come, pour refreshing water on our dryness. Melt our frozen hearts. Guide our wayward steps.

COME HOLY SPIRIT. Re-energise us today with a mighty love which will inspire us to reach out to the world around us.

Fifty days after Our Lord's Resurrection, on the day we call Pentecost, one hundred and twenty followers of the Lord were huddled together behind closed doors, frightened. And then the Spirit of God, in the form of fire and wind, overshadowed them. In an instant they were changed. Each one of them throbbed with courage and burst out of the locked doors to tell the people of Jerusalem of their love for and belief in the Risen Lord. The Church was born.

Fifty days after the Exodus from Egypt, God sealed His Covenant with the People of Israel when He gave the 10 commandments to Moses amidst peals of thunder and the flashing of fire.

Fifty days after Our Lord's Resurrection, God sealed the New Covenant with His Church- the New Israel- when with the noise of a great wind and with tongues of fire, the Holy Spirit descended upon those 120 disciples.

Like a baby breaking from the darkness of the womb, the church was born.

In a few minute's time I will be calling forth Georgie Cameron and Kevin Halverson who have prepared themselves for this day for many months. In bestowing the Sacrament of Confirmation, I will place my hands over their heads and pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon them, giving them the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

As I pray the prayer: "Send your Spirit upon Georgie and Kevin. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of Awe in Your presence", I will ask all of you to have the palms of your hands upraised. I invite you to pray for a deepening of these precious gifts in your hearts.

We need these gifts if we are to grow closer to God. We need wisdom to be able to discern what is true and what is false in our confusing world. We need understanding if the Scriptures are to come alive for us. We need right judgement if we are to make proper moral choices. We need courage to be able to stand up for our faith in the face of ridicule. We need knowledge to be able to answer the questions of our children and our neighbour about the Faith. We need to have reverence for all that is sacred; especially the Eucharist. And we need awe as we come to God in prayer.

Every morning I pop out onto my veranda and for a few minutes I behold the beauty of creation. It is a time of thankfulness.

Pentecost is also a time of thankfulness. We have all received the Holy Spirit at our Baptisms. We have all had the Gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed upon us at our Confirmation. Give God thanks for these wondrous Gifts. And today invite the Holy Spirit to enflame you once again with love, with joy and with fervour as you steadfastly continue on your homeward journey to heaven.

Call forward Georgie and Kevin.