

Pentecost



Take me home!
25th of May

Priest's Tidings

Today's Gospel, John (20:19-23), shows us that from the very day Jesus rose from the dead, his communication with the disciples took place through the Spirit. The Spirit that he "breathed" into them granted them discernment, joy, and the power to forgive sins to all people.

The greeting of peace, shalom, is repeated twice in the passage to confirm something that goes far beyond an ordinary greeting in the biblical and Jewish world. It is a greeting that comes from God himself, and it prepares them for what he is about to give them: the strength of the Holy Spirit. In this way, the union between the risen Jesus and the Holy Spirit is undeniable. It will be the same Spirit who guarantees the reality of the Resurrection, and also the mission that flows from it.

Pentecost is the decisive and programmatic moment that reveals how the Church, born from Easter, must open itself to all people. This is a statement that must be considered carefully, just as Saint John presents the life of Jesus in an original and distinctive way. Yet theological affirmations are not detached from reality, nor are they any less radical. The truth is that the Spirit of the Lord was present throughout the whole of Easter and was the true architect of the early Church from the very first day when Jesus was no longer physically with them.

Amen.

Fr Hugo



Entrance Hymn: 264 - The Spirit lives to set us free,

Collect:

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, God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

First Reading:

Reading from the book of Acts

When the day of Pentecost arrived, the Apostles were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians – we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 104

R./ Alleluia

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, how great you are! How many are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your creatures. **R/** You take away their breath, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, and 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 will rejoice in the Lord.**R/**

Gospel Acclamation :

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Prayers of Intercession

R/ Lord in your mercy , hear our prayer

Holy Spirit of God, moving in the deep of creation, come into the depths of our lives, guide us and empower us. We ask your blessing upon the Church, that it may have the courage to proclaim the Good News and tell of your power. May the Church be seen as Spirit-filled Guide us, that each of us may use our gifts and talents to your glory and the benefit of each other.**R/**

Holy Spirit of God, giving life to dry bones, we ask your blessing upon all who feel threatened or who have lost hope. We remember before you refugees, homeless and oppressed peoples. Give your strength to

all who seek to bring liberty and justice. Guide the leaders of nations and all who are in positions of authority into the ways of peace. **R/**

We give thanks for those who taught us the faith and who set us an example by their lives. We ask your blessing upon our home, our loved ones and all who have cared for us. We pray for all who suffer from neglect, violence or a lack of love. **R/**

God, in you is our peace and our hope. We remember in your presence all who are ill or suffering. We pray especially for any who feel confused by life and who are not able to cope. We pray for all who are caught up in drug abuse or vice. **R/**

Heavenly Father, we lift before You our church St Matthew's Elephant and Castle. Lord Jesus, draw many to Yourself those who are searching, weary, and in need of hope. Add to Your church new people, new faith, and new life. Holy Spirit, unite us in genuine love and fellowship, that our life together may reflect Your light and draw others to You, just as in the days of the apostles. Open our eyes, Lord, to the needs of our community. Guide us to serve with wisdom and compassion, meeting real needs in ways that reveal Your love and bring people closer to You. Raise up labourers for Your harvest. Give each of us boldness and willingness to share the Gospel, and strengthen us to be faithful ambassadors of Christ in both word and action. Lord, fill this place with Your presence in worship, in prayer, and in healing so that all who come may truly encounter You. In Jesus Mighty Name, we pray, Amen. **R/**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Offertory Hymn: 236 - Breathe on me breath of God,

Communion Hymn: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,

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,

Spirit of the holy one, wash over
me

Spirit of the holy one, wash over
me

cleanse me, touch me, break me,
heal me
Spirit of the holy one, wash over
me,

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

Post Communion Prayer:

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Recessional -Let the power of the Lord come down,

Let the spirit of the Lord come
down)2ce

Let the spirit of the Lord from
Heaven come down

Let the spirit of the Lord come down

Let the spirit of the Lord come down

Give new life to a dying world right
now

Let it fill the hearts of men with the
fire once again

Let the spirit of the Lord come down

Let the spirit of the Lord come
down)2ce

Let the spirit of the Lord from
Heaven come down

Let the spirit of the Lord come down

Let the spirit of the Lord come down

Fill the earth with joy and plenty
now

Let the blessings as agreed, Lord
bless us once again

Let the blessings of the Lord come
down

Let the blessings of the Lord come
down)2ce

Let the blessings of the Lord from
Heaven come down

Let the blessings of the Lord come
down

Let the power of the Lord come
down

Give us victory over darkness now

Let if free us from our chains and
heal us from our woes

Let the power of the Lord come
down.

Let the power of the Lord come
down)2ce

Let the power of the Lord from
Heaven come down

Let the power of the Lord come
down

Let the spirit of the Lord come
down)2ce

Let the blessings of the Lord come
down)2ce

Let the power of the Lord come
down)2ce

Prayer and Meditation

Lectio:

After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were gathered behind closed doors because they were afraid. Suddenly, Jesus appeared among them and said, "Peace be with you." He showed them his hands and side, repeated his message of peace, and gave them the Holy Spirit so they could forgive sins and help reconcile people with God and with one another. The text highlights that Jesus' mission of peace and reconciliation continues today. Humanity deeply needs peace: healing broken lives, rebuilding damaged relationships, and overcoming injustice. Jesus repeatedly emphasises peace, inviting his disciples—and us—to become builders of reconciliation and harmony in the world.

Meditatio:

- a) Jesus brings peace and hope to the disciples who were afraid.
- b) The disciples receive the mission to spread peace, forgive, and reconcile people.
- c) The Holy Spirit gives them strength, courage, and the ability to help and forgive others.
- d) Today, this message encourages our community to live in unity, love, and reconciliation.
- e) I should forgive, listen to others, avoid conflicts, and help build peace among people.

Oratio:

Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your Word, which has helped us understand the Father's will more clearly. May Your Spirit enlighten our actions and give us the strength to follow what Your Word has shown us. Grant that, like Mary, Your Mother, we may not only listen to the Word but also put it into practice. You who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. **Amen**

What's happening in our Parish!

Sunday

Next APCM

MEETING will be held on May 31st at 11:00 AM in St. Matthew.

Mission WhatsApp Groups

We have a series of WhatsApp groups with activities voted for by the congregation. Please have a look and see if you would like to join one: if you are already in one, please think of ways you can proactively help run the activity you have volunteered for.

Welcoming at our Eucharist

Are you able to arrive at 9.15am to help welcome people into our church? If so, it would be lovely to have you join the welcoming team! Please chat to Cynthia so we can add you to the rota

Regular Giving

Many thanks for your generous giving to the ministry of St Matthews' each week. If you have taken home a red envelope please fill out the form and return it so we can plan our future developments of St Matthew's



Youth Club

Our Youth Club runs on Fridays from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road, SW9 6BE. All 14-18 year olds are welcome!

CONTACT US

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