

# Priest's Tidings

he Acts of the Apostles tell us: "When the day of Pentecost was fully realised, they were all together in one place." A feast that called all Jews together for this time already existed in Israel, dating back to the Old Testament. Initially, it was the feast of the seven weeks or the harvest, when the first fruits of the wheat were offered to God. Over time, a new meaning enriched its content: it was the feast of the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai, and of the Covenant.

Christian Pentecost, the Paschal gift par excellence, is the new law that the Father and the Son write in human hearts through the power of love, as a seal of the new and eternal Covenant.

The divine dynamic invades a group of people with a unique experience. The first noticeable effect is the enthusiasm with which they proclaim God's wonders in every language.

Enthusiasm is literally deification, the fullness of God, and in such a strange way that many who see it fail to understand it and falsely interpret it as a drunken euphoria.

he Spirit fills them with wisdom and contagious joy. The disciples, once timid, become fearless witnesses, proclaiming God's wonders in every language..



Fr Hugo

## Holy Communion

Entrance Hymn:

276 - Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

#### Collect:

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen** 

#### First Reading

Reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

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:

R./ Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth

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/

#### Second Reading:

Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and Sisters: No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God** 

Gradual Hymn: 326 – Breathe on me, breath of God,

## Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John: Glory to you. O Lord

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

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our lives which without you would be dull and cold. Fill our Church which without you would be an empty shrine. We ask you to guide and strengthen all who preach the word, all who teach the faith. We pray for all who are preparing for Confirmation or for Ordination, for all who are seeking to grow in the faith and in a relationship with you.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts: renew and refresh your creation.

We give thanks for all who are inspired and guided by you. We ask your blessing upon all artists, musicians, writers and craftspeople. We pray for all who influence the minds of others through broadcasting or through their example of living. We remember today all who live in deprived or depressing surroundings.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts: renew and refresh your creation.

We give thanks for the coming of the Spirit and the filling of an earthly home. We ask your blessing upon our homes and our relationships. We pray that our friendships enrich each other and help us to be more aware of you. We pray for all who are taken into care and all who lack the love of a stable home.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts: renew and refresh your creation.

We remember all exhausted peoples, the world-weary, the depressed and the discouraged. We pray for all who despair and all who feel they can no longer cope with life. We ask your blessing upon friends and loved ones who are ill and upon all who have been involved in accidents this week.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts: renew and refresh your creation.

We give thanks for the gift of the Spirit and the promise of eternal life. We remember all who have served you faithfully and are now at rest in your kingdom. We pray for loved ones and friends who are departed from us, that they may rejoice in life eternal..

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

Offertory Hymn: 742 - O for a thousand tongues to sing,,
Communion Hymn
451 - Just as I am, without one plea,

Verse 2
Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot.
To thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

#### Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.. **Amen.** 

### Texts for prayer and meditation

We return to the gospel passage we read two weeks ago along with verses 15-16 from earlier in the chapter. This teaching is so important that Jesus repeats it to help his first disciples remember it and put it into practice. Today we too have another opportunity to consider the significance of Jesus' words.

Jesus asks the disciples to love him. Easy enough to say 'yes', you might think. But Jesus makes it clear that loving him takes far more than a simple word. Love in Jesus eyes has a very practical outcome and it takes the shape of obe dience to his commandments.

Jesus continues with an amazing promise for everyone who obeys

him. Both the Father and Jesús

will come and live with them. Jesus does not explain exactly what this 'living with' will be like but it surely indicates a very special and intimate personal relationship.

At this point Jesus makes it clear that these words are not his own idea. This teaching comes directly from God the Father, which is of course equally true of all Jesus'

words. Jesus now talks about the helper, who he reveals as the Holy Spirit. Sometimes the Holy Spirit is overlooked as people deepen their relationships with Jesus and the Father. But he plays a huge part in our relationship with Jesus. In this reading he is revealed to be a teacher and helper for the disciples,

reminding them of Jesus' teaching and helping them to understand and live it. Perhaps in another sense the Holy Spirit is Jesus' helper too. He continues the work Jesus started in the lives of the first disciples and in us today, now that Jesus has returned to his Father. Jesus also repeats to the disciples that he will ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to help them after he returns to heaven and promises that the Holy Spirit will stay with them forever.

Mediato...

• Consider the role of God the Father in this passage.

Which words of Jesus strike you most from today's readings?

How do you respond to this connection between love and obedience?

 Do you find some areas of Jesus' teaching difficult to obey and put into practice

and put into practice

in your life? What can you do about this?

Oratio:

Psalm 104 lists some of the characteristics of God. As God

chips away at our worldliness to reveal his image and likeness we will start to reflect his nature. Prayerfully offer these verses to God.

Open your heart to God and let him speak to you. If you are experiencing difficulties in a particular relationship then bring this before the Lord.

Contemplatio:

Revelation 21:1-5 speaks of the 'new heaven and earth'. Consider this promise and think about the links between Jesus' new commandment and this vision. Think about how Jesus is clothing us, as the Church, to be his bride.

Recessional Hymn 484 – You shall go out with joy.

## What's New!

Sunday — Mass at 9:30 am

### Support St Matthew's Church:

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 currently runs every week on Fridays from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road. Please spread the word!n Road. Please spread the word! Ways to make your donation:

 We receive no regular state funding to look after St Matthew's building. Anything you are able to give is greatly appreciated

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