



**St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE**



May 28, 2023

PENTECOST SUNDAY

“A soul, that possesses the Holy Spirit, tastes such sweetness, in prayer, that it finds the time, always too short, it never loses, the holy presence of God. The Holy Spirit forms thoughts and suggests words, in the hearts of the just. The Holy Spirit is like a gardener, cultivating our souls.” ***ST. JOHN VIANNEY (1786-1859)***

READINGS

1st Reading Acts 2:1-11

2nd Reading 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

Gospel Jn 20:19-23

Introduction: The Jewish Pentecost: Both the Jews and the Christians now celebrate Pentecost. Along with the Feast of the Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles, Pentecost was one of the major feasts of the Jews. During these three great Jewish festivals, every male Jew living within twenty miles of Jerusalem was legally bound to go to Jerusalem to participate in the feast. The word Pentecost is Greek for *pentecostes* which means “fiftieth.” The feast received this name because it was celebrated fifty days after the Feast of the Passover. Another name for the Jewish Pentecost is *Shebuot* or "The Feast of Weeks“ (the "week" of seven Sabbaths between Passover and Pentecost).

It was originally a day of thanksgiving for the completion of the harvest. During Passover, the first *omer* (a Hebrew measure of about a bushel), of barley was offered to God. At Pentecost, two loaves of bread were offered in gratitude for the harvest. Later, the Jews added to the Feast of Pentecost the element of Yahweh's Covenant with Noah, which took place fifty days after the

great deluge. Still later, they made this feast an occasion to thank God for His Sinaitic Covenant with Moses, which occurred fifty days after the beginning of the Exodus from Egypt.

The Christian Pentecost: Pentecost marks the end and the goal of the Easter season. For Christians, it is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues, an event that took place fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus. The Paschal Mystery -- the Passion, the Death, the Resurrection, and the Ascension of Jesus -- culminates in the sending of the Holy Spirit by the Father at the request of His Son on Jesus' disciples. The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian Church through the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian Faith. Pentecost is, thus, the official birthday of the Church. But years ago, *This Rock Magazine* (now *Catholic Answers*) reported that there were 34,000 Protestant denominations which means that, on the average, more than sixty-nine new denominations had sprung up every year since the Reformation began in 1517.

So whose birthday is it anyway? We say Pentecost is the birthday of the Church Jesus established nearly 2,000 years ago. -- Today's Scripture readings remind us that Pentecost is an event of both the past and the present. The main theme of today's readings is that the gift of the Holy Spirit is something to be shared with others. In other words, the readings remind us that the gift of the Holy Spirit moves its recipients to action and inspires them to share this gift with others.

The first reading (Acts 2:1-11): The selection from Acts for today describes in detail the miraculous transformation that took place during the first Pentecost, thus fulfilling Jesus' promise to his apostles that they would receive "Power from on high." There was first "*a noise like a strong driving wind.*" Then there were "*tongues as of fire*" resting on the disciples and Mary, filling each of them with the Holy Spirit. The first manifestation of the apostles' reception of the Holy Spirit came immediately, as the formerly timid, frightened men burst out the door and began to proclaim the Good News of Jesus! Then, everyone there (regardless of their many different native languages), was able to understand the Apostles' proclamation of the Good News of the salvation of mankind, "*in his own tongue.*" The Jews in the crowds came from sixteen different geographical regions. The miracle of tongues on Pentecost thus reverses the confusion of tongues wrought by God at the Tower of Babel, as

described in Genesis 11. Later, the Acts of the Apostles describes how the Holy Spirit empowered the early Christians to bear witness to Christ by their sharing love and strong Faith. This "anointing by the Holy Spirit" also strengthened the early Christian martyrs during the period of brutal persecution that followed, as it has done through the centuries and as it does today for the thousands of Christians presently under attack for their Faith who hold fast to it, drawing on the Power of the Holy Spirit as they live and as they die.

In the Refrain for the **Responsorial Psalm** (Ps 104), we pray, "***Lord, send out Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth,***" asking God for a "fresh anointing" of the Spirit for all of us.

In the second reading (I Cor 12:3-7, 12-13), St. Paul explains how the sharing of the various spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit enriches the Church. He refers to the varieties of gifts given to the Church as coming from the same Spirit Who activates all of them in Christians for the common good. They are described as the *gifts, fruits, and charisms* of the Spirit. They may take different forms like prophecy, teaching, administration, acts of charity, healing, and speaking in tongues; they may be granted to and reside in different persons like apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, and so on. Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit in his Letter to the Galatians: "*What the Spirit brings is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*" (5:22-23a). He continues, "*Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit*" (5:25). Paul insists that these spiritual gifts are to be used in the present time for the benefit of others, for the common good, and for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Today's Gospel relates how the Risen Jesus gave his apostles a foretaste of Pentecost on the evening of Easter Sunday by appearing to them, sending them to carry on the mission given to Jesus by his Heavenly Father, then empowering them to do so by breathing upon them and saying, "*Receive the Holy Spirit.*" On the day of Pentecost, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to them the Advocate or Paraclete. This gift of the Spirit would enable the Apostles to fulfill Jesus' commission to preach the Gospel to all nations. Today's Gospel passage also tells us how Jesus gave to the Apostles the power and authority to forgive sins. "*Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained*" (Jn 20:23). These wonderful words, which bind together inseparably the presence of the Holy Spirit *with* the gift of forgiveness, are referred to directly in the Sacrament of

Reconciliation. But they have a much wider meaning. Those words remind us of the Christian vocation we *all* have, to love and forgive as we have been loved and forgiven in the world of today, which is often fiercely judgmental and vengeful.

MAY 20/21 COLLECTIONS

Loose cash	250.85
Gift Aid	85.00
Tea	11.50
<u>Total</u>	<u>347.35</u>

Second Collection **423.95**

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Offered by	For The Intention of
28/05/23-		For the Parishioners
29/05/23	Jean Smith	Aangela & Bridge Taylor, Wedding
30/05/23	Carmelina	Soul of Elvira Lacerda
31/05/23	Barbera Nicholson	Thanksgiving
01/06/23	Carmel Jones	Mary and Christopher Glyn RIP
02/06/23	Achim Lauer	For healing

Please Pray for our Sick

Ann Parry, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277

ANNIVERSARIES (May-27-June-2)

Fr. William Walsh '80: Br Charles Green ofm cap '2000, Harriet Seagrave:, Christopher Paul Hallett, 2021,

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