

Pentecost Sunday - May 28 2023

Acknowledgment of Land, Seas, Skies and Waterways

We acknowledge the First Nations peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. We pay our respect to the Elders past, present, and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of First Nations peoples across the nation. We acknowledge the deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Context- Pentecost

Pentecost marks the end of the season of Easter and celebrates the 'birth' of the Church. It always occurs fifty days after the resurrection and ten days after Jesus' Ascension. In Acts 1, we see that the Apostles and Mary pray together continuously for the time between the Ascension and Pentecost- it is thought this of the origin of the Novena!

Whilst Pentecost is the 'birthday' of the Church, it is also an opportunity for us to reflect upon the role of the Holy Spirit within our lives and the life of the Church.

Scripture:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language.

They were amazed and astonished.

'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language?

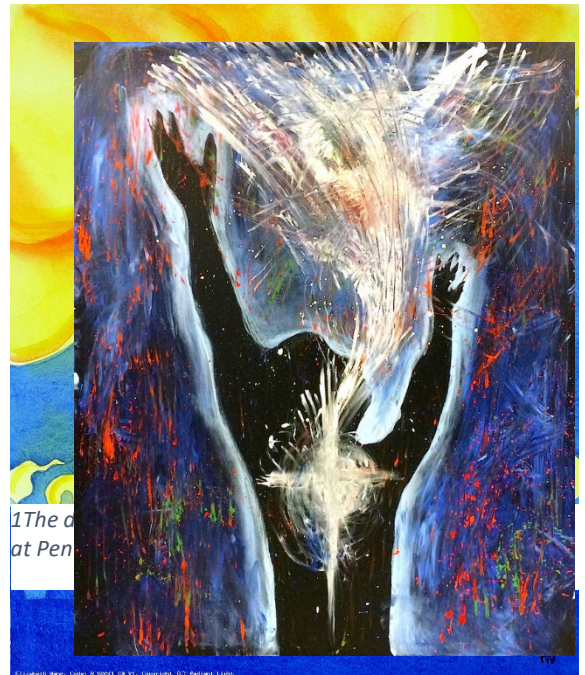
Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome — Jews and proselytes alike — Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord.

Reflection by Kirby Will Project Officer Identity and Outreach.

When you consider the imagery used to describe the Holy Spirit in this scripture, it is not difficult to come to the conclusion that the Holy Spirit is disruptive! Whilst we often immediately associate disruptive or disruption with negative connotations, it is not always the case. Disruption is a break or interruption in the normal course of activity or process. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit interrupted the normality that the Apostles had settled into since the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus and this interruption was the catalyst for new activity of the Apostles and spreading Jesus' teachings to emerge.

Not only is the Holy Spirit disruptive in this particular instance, but it can be confusing when we consider the role of the third part of the Trinity. If we were asked to explain about God or Jesus, most of us can give a straight-forward, answer that sums them up; however, when it comes to the Holy Spirit, it can be a little more difficult to articulate. In an article for the *Catholic Weekly*, Fr Dan McCaughan explains the role of the Holy Spirit by comparing it to that of a best man at a wedding. He explains that a best man's job is to show his love for the groom in his most public moment and that others will come to know



Come Holy Spirit by Lance Brown

and love the groom more. The Holy Spirit shows love for Jesus so that we too may come to know and love the groom- Jesus- more. As you go about this week of Pentecost, take a moment to stop and think about how the Holy Spirit is giving Jesus a shout out in your life and consider what disruptions might need to take place in order to deepen your relationship with Jesus.

Prayer: *The English translation of the Prayer to the Holy Spirit from **A Book of Prayers** © 1982, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.*

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful.

In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Call to Action:

- watch this [summary](#) of Pentecost from Busted Halo.
- pray a [Novena](#) to the Holy Spirit over the next nine days.
- use Matt Maher's [Come Holy Spirit](#) to guide a family reflection on the Holy Spirit.
- choose one or two activities from this [list](#) to do as a family.

