

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year B • Psalter Week 4

THE EMPOWERING SPIRIT

(JOHN 20:19-23)



"Dove of the Holy Spirit" at Throne of St Peter by Bernini (1600s) in St Peter's Basilica, Rome

The miraculous appearance of Jesus among the disciples in a locked room shows that he is no longer constrained by physical limitations.

Although the disciples have been told by Mary Magdalene that she has experienced the risen Lord, they have not done so for themselves, and so are still fearful of the Jewish authorities who were so hostile to Jesus and brought about his execution. Once Mary's message has been confirmed by their own experience, they respond with joy and the peace which the risen Jesus has bestowed on them.

Jesus "breathes" the Holy Spirit on them: at the moment of his expiring on the cross, he handed over his spirit to the two figures at the foot of the cross, his unnamed mother, who represents the community of disciples, and the anonymous disciple whom Jesus loved, who stands for the individual follower of Jesus. Earlier, the evangelist had observed that there was no Spirit since Jesus had not been glorified. For John, the crucifixion is the exaltation of Jesus in glory, so the Spirit can now be poured out. On the evening of Easter Day, the risen Jesus confers the Spirit on the assembled group of disciples to empower them to carry on his mission, which can only be accomplished with the presence of the Spirit of holiness. The peace that Jesus brings is not to be a comfort which allows the disciples to remain safely locked away, but will allow them to confront the world, just as Jesus did: we remember that the reason for Jesus' mission is that "God loved the world"; it is in this spirit that the disciples are now to take up and continue Jesus' work. ■

LEARN

In the New Testament, the term "spirit" is neuter in gender: the appropriate pronoun would be "it".

In the Hebrew scriptures, the term "spirit" is feminine in gender: the appropriate pronoun, therefore, would be "she".

Pentecost is a Jewish festival (also known as the "Feast of Weeks"), commemorating God's self-revelation at Sinai and the giving of the Law. (the Torah).

REFLECT

This Gospel account is often referred to as "Little Pentecost", as it is so different to the dramatic account of Luke, with its "mighty, rushing wind" and "tongues of fire". Some writers refer to the Holy Spirit as "the forgotten person of the Trinity": if this is true, it is very unfortunate indeed, since the Spirit is the life-force of the Church and should be the driving power in the life of the individual Christian. But like any source of power, it will remain unused unless it is connected to the person and actively engaged in the disciple's life.

One way of understanding the Holy Spirit is to liken it to electricity, which can transform a simple light bulb, composed of metal and glass, into a source of light and heat, too bright to look at directly, too hot to handle unprotected. Perhaps some of us are reluctant to turn on the switch, afraid of what the Spirit might make us capable of. It can be more comfortable to stay in the locked room, safe from danger, real or imagined. That is not the purpose of the Spirit: it is to enable us to live as true disciples of Jesus and to teach others about our faith by example, if not by word. Often, attraction is more effective to others than direct and explicit promotion. ■

DO

Switch on the light: consider the effects of the power of electricity. Apply this image to the Holy Spirit and yourself.



SAY

Attraction rather than promotion.

(Twelve-Step Programme)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world
and that which contains all things
understands what is said, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

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...
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
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.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 103

Response:

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.
or
Alleluia!

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. (R.)
2. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they
came.
You send forth your spirit, they are
created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)
3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians

12:3-7, 12-13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.

No one can say, "Jesus is Lord" unless he is
under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same
Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done,
but always to the same Lord; working in all
sorts of different ways in different people, it is
the same God who is working in all of them.
The particular way in which the Spirit is given
to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made
up of many parts, is a single unit because all
these parts, though many, make one body, so
it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all
baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as
well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to
us all to drink.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Or Galatians 5:16-25

SEQUENCE

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure;
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow.

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour thy dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warn the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die;
Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

John 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

In the evening of the first day of the week,
the doors were closed in the room where the
disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus
came and stood among them. He said to
them, "Peace be with you," and showed them
his hands and his side. The disciples were
filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he
said to them again, "Peace be with you."

"As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you."

After saying this he breathed on them and
said:

"Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*The Second Reading from Galatians 5:16-25
Or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that, as promised by your Son,
the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more
abundantly
the hidden mystery of this sacrifice
and graciously lead us into all truth.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your
Church,
safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given,
that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out
upon her
may retain all its force
and that this spiritual food
may gain her abundance of eternal
redemption...
Amen.

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon

1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL

We are a *LiveSimply* parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

We live stream all services

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: Priest/Chaplain 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

OFFICE CLOSURE DATES

Please note that the parish office will be closed on from Friday 30th July until Friday 13th August.

PRIVATE PRAYER

We are blessed that the church can be open, but for **private prayer only**, on the following days and times:

✠ **Tuesdays: 12pm to 1pm**
✠ **Fridays: 12pm to 1pm**

MASS BOOKINGS:

On Monday 24th May you can book for Masses from Sunday 30th May to Saturday 5th June.

PLEASE remember to give as many dates and times when you could attend, and book **on** the Monday – otherwise you may be disappointed. Also be clear on the number of people you are booking for and let us know if you would like to attend more than one Mass during the week.

HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS

No Internet Access?

Phone **07395 946827** EACH MONDAY between 10am and 11am ONLY to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

Have Internet Access?

DON'T phone. Instead, email: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk EACH MONDAY, to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

CONFESSIONS

By appointment only for now. Please contact the **parish office** to book an appointment.

NEWSLETTERS

We are currently still not able to offer any printed material in church. Please bring your own newsletter with you if you would like to (you can download it from our website).

8th Week of Ordinary Time (Year B)

Attendance through booking system only, but also available on our live stream

Sunday 23 May

10.15am Mass

2.00pm Mass in Polish

6.30pm Mass

PENTECOST SUNDAY

(Derek & Beverley Stacey - Ruby Wedding Anniversary)

(Private intention)

Monday 24 May

9am Mass

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

(Special intention)

Tuesday 25 May

NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse for other masses

St Bede the Venerable

Wednesday 26 May

7pm Mass

St Philip Neri

(Special intention)

Thursday 27 May

9.30am Mass

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest

(Sylvia Browne, RIP)

Friday 28 May

7pm Mass

(Margaret & John Foster, RIP)

Saturday 29 May

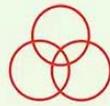
12pm Mass

(Special intention)



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



VACANCY

One Full Time and One Part Time Teacher Vacancies - St Edmund's School

The School is looking for enthusiastic, dynamic and committed teachers, who would be supportive of their school mission statement and the Catholic ethos of the school, from September 2021. The ability to lead a core subject would be desirable in our warm and welcoming school. Calls to discuss this position further with the Headteacher, Mrs Maria Delany-White are encouraged and warmly welcomed.

Please contact The School Business Manager (01235 521558 or clomas2266@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk) to request an application pack.

Closing date: Monday, 24th May at 4pm.



YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

In our Diocese of Portsmouth, we will begin a Year of the Eucharist starting on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 6th June 2021. In these years 2020 to 2022, Bishop Philip is inviting everyone in the Diocese to undertake by God's grace a period of intense, spiritual renewal. The purpose ultimately is to help us realise our diocesan ambition of *Bringing People Closer to Jesus Christ through His Church*. The Year of the Eucharist, which will follow on from the Year of the Word, will be a unique opportunity for the Diocese as a whole to rekindle our love for Jesus Christ really and truly present and active in the Holy Eucharist.



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

At the first Pentecost the disciples changed from being fearful and looking inward to being full of joy and looking outward. The Holy Spirit gave them courage, words and great joy. Pope Francis has asked that we bring the *Life in the Spirit* Seminars to all, to enable us all to have a greater capacity to speak about our joy in the risen Lord. The seminars are online using Zoom, and they start after Pentecost on **Thursday 27th May** and run for seven weeks. Timing is to join from 7pm for a start at 7.15pm with an end each time at 8.45.

For more information and to register see www.pffm.org.uk/lifeinthespirit



PRAYER FOR THE 7 GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who, before ascending into heaven, did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love.

- ✚ Grant me the Spirit of **Wisdom** that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal,
- ✚ the Spirit of **Understanding** to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth,
- ✚ the Spirit of **Counsel** that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven,
- ✚ the Spirit of **Fortitude** that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation,
- ✚ the Spirit of **Knowledge** that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints,
- ✚ the Spirit of **Piety** that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable,
- ✚ and the Spirit of **Fear** that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him.

Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.

Please pray for Patrick (Paddy) Maloney, who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Sunday.

MONTH OF MAY

Pope Francis has asked for a marathon of prayer around the world throughout May for an end to the pandemic. The Rosary will be broadcast on *Vatican News* daily at 6pm Rome time (5pm UK time). A link to this online site is available on the News page of our website.

The intention is to also pray for the following:

1. Protecting our families and the family of nations, especially in this Year of St Joseph.
2. A deepening of faith, hope and love and the protection of life.
3. Peace in the world.
4. Deliverance from Coronavirus; for those working for a cure; for those who have died; for those who are suffering and those who care for them.