

## A 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.’

The word of the Lord

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS:

*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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

## THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING  
TO JOHN

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples,  
‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments.  
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,  
to be with you for ever.  
If anyone loves me, he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we will come to him and make our home with him.  
Whoever does not love me does not keep my words.  
And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who  
sent me.

‘These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.  
But the Helper, the Holy Spirit,  
whom the Father will send in my name,  
he will teach you all things  
and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.’

The Gospel of The Lord

## THE REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

There are two films released recent, the Saltpath way and the ballad of Wallis Island which recognise the resilience of doing something after upsets. One couple became homeless when they lost their farm but developed a closeness and strength of endurance they did not know they had.

The Pentecost story is one of finding a new path after the death and resurrection of Jesus. John's gospel tells us that the disciples were thinking of going back to being fishermen when Jesus appeared and challenged Peter's love and commitment.

The disciples gather again in Jerusalem, the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles tells us that Mary and some of the women followers were there too, Jesus had asked John to look after Mary. In the upper room they received the Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus, and suddenly began their mission. Read the first two chapters of Acts of the Apostles and hear how Jesus changed their expectation that he could be a warrior king to his promise of the Spirit.

How can we know we received the Holy Spirit except by recognising the gifts as Paul lists them, in his letter to the Galatians chapter 5 among them is love, a willingness for the good of another, two other joy and peace in the secure hope in God's promises, and forbearance, the ability to put up with others, forgiving their faults and wishing them to come to a change of heart. From these come kindness and self-control.

Our Catholic Faith is built on the words of the bible and the interpretation of God's will when there is no clear answer there. The Holy Spirit guides the Church, which, being human, is capable of misunderstanding what is right and good.

The Spirit brings us into a friendly relationship with God, a sharing of ideas of faith and action, and a recognition that we are important in God's eyes. He watches over us to develop as we are, lovingly offering us new and different opportunities when things go wrong. Believe me.

