

THE FIRST READING IS FROM THE ACTS OF THE  
APOSTLES

*First reading*

*Acts 2:1-11*

*‘They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.’*

*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, (modern Iraq) Judea (Southern Israel) and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, (modern Turkey), 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.*

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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 FIRST LETTER  
OF ST PAUL TO THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AT  
CORINTH

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.

### *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

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.'

## REFLECTION

In Greek Mythology a young Woman called Pandora was forbidden to open a box, like Eve offered the apple of the tree of life, the temptation proved irresistible, the box was open and all the troubles of life came out, the only thing left was hope. Many Old Testament stories are mirrored in other cultures of the time and a means to recognise the capacity for sin in this world.

For Christians; Jesus Christ the Son of God brought real hope into the world, a hope founded on the teaching and life of the Son of God, now with the Father and Holy Spirit. Having given the gift of hope in things unseen he empowered the apostles by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Christian communities have many gifts, of faith, love and a genuine concern for the good of others.

The great Old Testament prophet Isaiah had a revelation of hope in his writing, chapter 66, anticipating a world transformed in God's message to him being "See, 'I will create new heavens and a new earth' as his people come to a change of heart (chapter 58). The lost Garden of Eden will be transformed for a people concerned with the realisation of Social Justice.

Pope Benedict wrote two simple phrases "that Justice precedes Charity" meaning that we should not think of ourselves as loving until we have done what is just in for others first. A second phrase "Inter-generational justice" means we have a responsibility to hand on to further generations the world God created for all people, fit to be lived in. In my life the London Smog was cleared by an act of Parliament in 1956. We might hope for a government to reduce air flights, central heating and motor vehicle use to save the environment, but it will take more than unpopular laws to bring about a change of heart.

In the film of the expose of the Diocese of Boston's lack of activity a terrible phrase was used; "they knew but did nothing about it". We are all aware of the beauty of God's creation and reflect on what we can do ourselves and with others to bring about a change of heart.