

Pentecost Sunday

24th May 2023 Readings

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

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.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. Response cf v.30

R/. Send forth, your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

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/.**

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/.**

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

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

12:3-7. 12-13

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 word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.'

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



Pentecost Sunday

Lectionary Year A

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

“How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language.”

Friday 29th May 2026

Pope St Paul VI

On this great day in the life of the Church we all celebrate our birthday. On this day, the Church came into being. Until the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Day, the infant church consisted of people who followed Jesus, people who missed him when he died, who were overwhelmed with joy when he rose again, but who were, perhaps, a little perplexed when he ascended to the Father - to such an extent that an angel told them sharply not to hang around but to get on with it. “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking into the sky?” Comforted by the promise of Jesus’ return they went back to Jerusalem and grew together as a community, gaining such confidence that they appointed Matthias as an apostle, a witness of the resurrection, to take the place of Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Jesus. On Pentecost Day they received the Spirit in such a definitive way that they were enabled to face the future with confidence. They were given a Parakletos, an Advocate who would speak through them and for them.

“I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

The Spirit remains our gift, bringing us the presence of Christ, reminding us of his teaching and sealing with his promptings our best intentions and endeavours.

Giovanni Battista Montini was born on 26 September 1897 in the village of Concesio, in the province of Brescia, Lombardy. He was ordained priest on 29 May 1920 and worked in the Roman Curia, the Vatican civil service, until he was made Archbishop of Milan in 1954. He was elected Pope on 21 June 1963, successfully saw the Vatican Council through to its completion, promoted the renewal of the Church’s life and especially of the liturgy. He also promoted ecumenical dialogue and the proclamation of the Gospel to the modern world. He died on 6 August 1978.

He was canonized by Pope Francis in 2018.

In a reflection from 5 August 1963, one and a half months after his election to the See of Peter, Paul VI wrote: “I must return to the beginning: relationship with Christ... that must be the source of the most sincere humility: ‘leave me, for I am a sinful man...’; be it in availability: ‘I will make you fishers...’; be it in the symbiosis of will and grace: ‘for me to live is Christ...’”. Love for Christ and love for his Church. With good reason he could write in *Pensiero alla morte*: “I pray that the Lord will give me the grace to make of my approaching death a gift of love to the Church. I can say that I have always loved her and I feel that I have lived my life for her and for nothing else”.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer for the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Lord, no eye has seen, no ear has heard,
no heart has conceived the things
you have prepared for those who love you.
Set us ablaze with the fire of the
Holy Spirit, that we may love you
in and above all things
and so receive the rewards
you have promised us
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

