



Celebrating Pentecost 2014

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place...”

Acts 2:1

Contents:

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Celebrating Pentecost</i> | 1 |
| <i>Art Competition Key Stage 1 Winner</i> | 2 |
| <i>Art Competition Key Stage 2 Winner</i> | 2 |
| <i>Art Competition Key Stage 3 Winner</i> | 3 |
| <i>Why the Holy Spirit Matters</i> | 4 |
| <i>The Work of NORES</i> | 4 |
| <i>Power to Witness to Jesus Christ</i> | 4 |

Over the last three years the Northampton Diocesan Evangelisation Team have been producing resources to help our communities prepare for and celebrate Pentecost. Our hope is that by encouraging people to engage in prayerful preparation for Pentecost (especially during the nine days of novena leading up to Pentecost) many will come to a renewed

appreciation of the person and work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Just as at the first Christian Pentecost this in turn, we believe, will lead to a renewed sense of mission. The Pentecost resources are designed to be used flexibly to enable people to pray in the way that best suits the demands of their busy lives. This year as well as providing a variety of resources for

parishes we also offered to schools an Act of Worship and a Pentecost Art Competition. While as a Diocesan community we may not, like those first disciples, be able to gather in one place, we can and have been united in prayer during this special time of the Church’s year. We trust that our prayers for a New Pentecost will empower us all for a New Evangelisation.

Pentecost Novena Prayer in Parishes

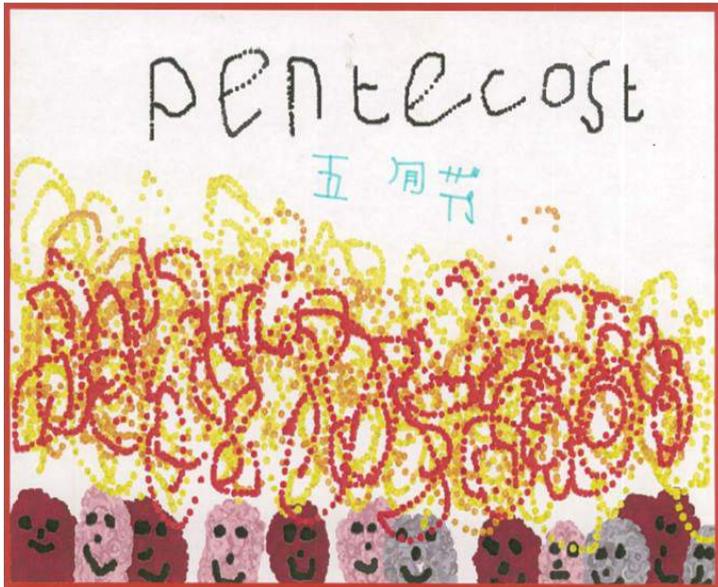
A big thank you to all who helped lead and facilitate prayer services in parishes around the diocese. This year a number of parishes made use of the various prayer materials which included the novena prayer service, prayer cards and also a shorter form of

the novena prayer service which could be prayed before or after Mass or during parish meetings. Pentecost novena prayers took place in various places including High Wycombe, Northampton, Great Missenden,

Gerrards Cross, Slough, Luton, Rushden and Milton Keynes.



- Parishes and Schools from around the diocese took part in various ways during the 9 days leading up to Pentecost.
- The Diocesan Pentecost Novena Initiative was featured in the Parish Practice page of Catholic Journal 'The Tablet'

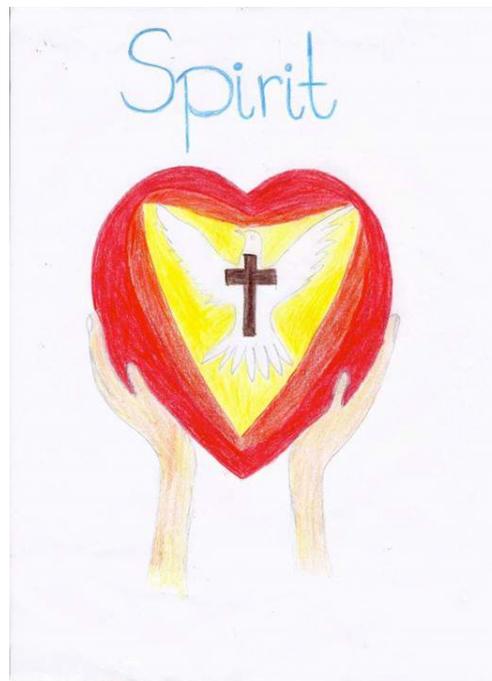


Key Stage 1 Winning Entry

Isabel Gikami from St Joseph's Lower School, Bedford created this wonderful picture entitled *Languages*. The disciples were given the gift to speak different languages to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to all nations and Isabel has captured this idea really well. The Chinese writing on the picture means 'Pentecost' and you can just imagine the disciples filled with the fire of God's love going out full of joy to announce the Good news of Jesus. Well done Isabel!

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."
St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 3:17

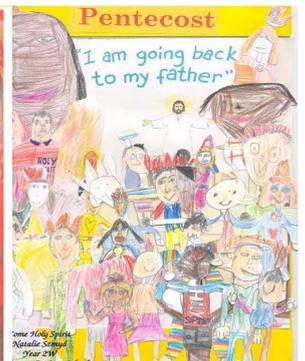
Key Stage 2 Winning Entry



Thajen Kalaranjan from St Bernard's Preparatory School, Slough won the Key Stage 2 section of the Pentecost Art Competition with his picture which he entitled *Let us uphold our love for the Spirit*.

The imagery is really striking as it captures the truth that the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts reminding us that we are all temples of the Holy Spirit. The presence of the cross of Jesus reminds us too that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth who is always leading us deeper in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Well done Thajen!

Here is a just flavor of some of the other great entries in the Pentecost Art Competition. Thank you to everyone who entered!





Key Stage 3 Winning Entry

Daria Szmítka from St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School, Bedford produced this stunning picture of the Holy Spirit. The picture almost seems to fly off the page and captures a sense of

the power and dynamism that the Holy Spirit brings to believers in Christ.

As well as the striking symbol of the dove, whose eyes seem to capture the gaze of the viewer, there are also the

flames that border the picture which remind us that the power of Pentecost is offered to each of us today. This is the power in which we are sent out to witness to our faith in word and deed. Well done Daria!

“Let us ask ourselves: do we tend to stay closed in on ourselves ... or do we let the Holy Spirit open us to mission?”

Pope Francis

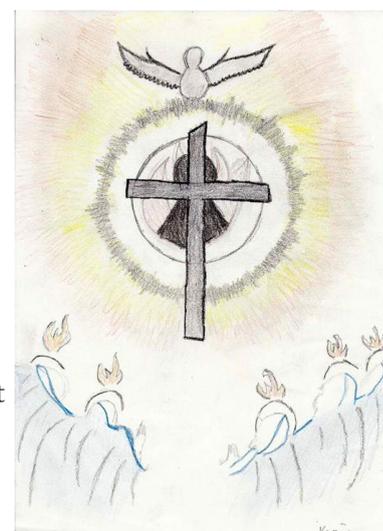
Thanks to all our Schools

A big thank you to all members of staff who helped us with facilitating the competition in schools .

All three of our competition winners receive a £20 Amazon

Gift card as well as some Chaplaincy resources for their schools, presented during assemblies. All of our winning pictures will be profiled over the coming months by the NORES office as part of various ongoing projects.

Together we celebrate the fantastic achievements and gifts among all of our students at Catholic Schools. The Holy Spirit has truly given us some great gifts to share in our diocese!



The Work of NORES



NORES (Northampton Religious Education Service) exists to support Catholic education and formation. Details of the various projects we are involved in can be found via our website. www.nores.org.uk

How to contract us:

RE & Pastoral Centre, NORES,

Parish Centre, Holy Ghost Catholic Church,
Westbourne Road, Luton, LU4 8JD

Tel: 01582 723312

or email admin@nores.org.uk

Acknowledgements

Our thanks to everyone in our parishes and schools who helped in any way with this initiative and to the Northampton Youth Ministry Office (NYMO) who provided a prayer session for Youth Groups. Also to:

The Daughters of St Paul, Pauline Books and Media, for donating posters. Please see their great product range at www.pauline-uk.org

Sion Community for the compact discs. Check out their website, they offer great missions in schools and parishes!
www.sioncommunity.org.uk

Andy Severyn for his great CD 'A Year of Faith'. A great resource for schools. Check out Andy's work at www.andyseveryn.co.uk

Yvonne Bell for use of her beautiful Water of Life image. Yvonne works in Illustrating the Gospel Message and Dressing the Church.
.More information at christian-art.vpweb.co.uk/default.html

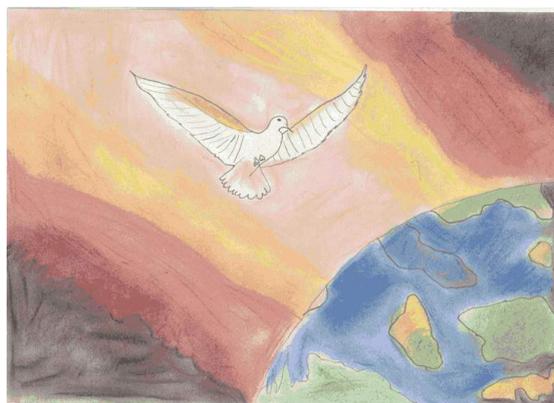
Why the Holy Spirit Matters

The Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church (YouCat) is a great resource. It helps us to understand our Catholic Faith, it teaches about the role of the Holy Spirit in our personal lives and in the life of the Church.

“The Holy Spirit makes me receptive to God; he teaches me to pray and helps me to be there for others.” (YouCat 120)

“The Holy Spirit builds up the Church and impels her. He reminds her of her mission. He calls people into her service and sends them the necessary gifts...” (YouCat 119)

Pope Francis has also had a lot to say about the Holy Spirit, in *The Joy of the Gospel* he has encouraged us all to be Spirit-filled evangelisers!



You will receive power

Shortly after passing my driving test some years ago I was given a very old car to use. At the time I was living in the Peak District in Derbyshire which, as you may know, has some VERY big hills. Where I lived was near the top of quite a large hill. I soon discovered that my poor car didn't have enough power to easily get me up the hill back home. One particular day my foot was to the floor on the accelerator pedal in first gear but I still wasn't going forwards—I was stuck half way up the hill, I didn't have enough power to climb any further and needed a push!

On reflection at the time I realised that my Christian life was much like my old car. I wanted to live a Christian life but I found many things

in the Gospel too hard, like forgiving people or loving my enemies. I realised I needed to live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Before ascending to heaven Jesus promised his disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them, he said “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses...” (Acts 1:8).

That promise was fulfilled at Pentecost and through our baptism and confirmation, we have received the Holy Spirit. My experience helped me to realise that I needed to grow in my relationship with the Holy Spirit, to learn how to trust God more and live in the strength that God has provided and not my own, only in this way could I witness to Jesus Christ.

How is your Christian life? Is your life full of peace, joy and love or like my old car do

you struggle in the face of obstacles and challenges?

The Good news is that the Holy Spirit is our helper, Jesus in fact gave Him that name, the *Helper* and if we ask we can know his power in every area of our lives, even the smallest details.

This grace is not just for Pentecost but for every day of the year, every moment of our lives. As we discover ever more deeply this joy and freedom we can we can share it with others and witness to the power and joy of the Gospel just as Pope Francis is asking us to. Let's continue to pray for each other.

Alex Heath is Adviser for Adult Faith Formation, School Chaplaincy & Liturgy at the NORES Office and Chairs the Diocesan Evangelisation Team

