

Ecumenical Pentecost Novena Prayer Service

Preparing for Pentecost



We pray for a New Pentecost in the Church, that the culture of Pentecost may renew the whole Church in prayer, holiness, communion and mission.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, rekindle your fire by a New Pentecost and renew your Church.

We pray for Christian unity, for reconciliation and the healing of divisions in the Body of Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may all disciples of Jesus be one in heart, mind and soul.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, unite your Church, make us one that the world may believe.

We pray for all Christian leaders. May the Holy Spirit fill them afresh with his love, grace and power.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the Shepherds of the Church anew, guide them and strengthen them. Fill them with peace and joy as they lead your people.

We pray for a renewal in the missionary life of the Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit may every Christian, every family and every parish be enabled to witness to Jesus Christ.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, empower us to fulfill your call to be witnesses to the ends of the earth and proclaim the Good News.

We pray for the culture of life born by the Spirit to penetrate society. May the Holy Spirit be poured out afresh on all the nations of the earth to renew humanity.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. Transform society by the power of your Spirit.

Please feel free to add prayers for the needs of the local neighbourhood.

All: Come Holy Spirit, as by a New Pentecost.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Blessing

Final Hymn

Announcements, Refreshments & Fellowship

As more Catholic parishes are building relationships with neighbouring Christian churches, this prayer service offers a simple plan for an ecumenical service to be held during the nine days before Pentecost.

We come together to pray in response to Jesus' prayer in John 17:21
"May they all be one, so that the world may believe."

By taking part in this prayer service we are joining with many others who are praying during the nine days leading up to Pentecost, for the renewal of the Church and the world by the Holy Spirit.

To plan this service:

- *Invite local ministers and churches, and advertise the date widely.*
- *Ask a minister to choose one of these scriptures for reflection:*
Luke 24:44-49 Acts 1:6-14 Acts 2:1-4 Acts 2:14-21
- *Choose some readers and a leader.*
- *Invite some musicians to choose music to begin and end.*
- *Adapt this leaflet/this page to personalise it for your event.*
- *Make copies for all.*
- *Tea, coffee and biscuits always helps!*

Acknowledgement *This resource has been produced by the Northampton Diocesan Evangelisation Team, part of the work of NORES the Northampton Catholic Diocesan Education Service and can be used to resource Pentecost Novena initiatives. More resources are available via the Northampton Diocesan website Evangelisation section www.northamptondiocese.org (Faith/ Evangelisation).*

Welcome & Introduction

After his glorious resurrection from the dead and before ascending into heaven Jesus Christ told his disciples to stay in the city until they had been clothed with power from on high. Faithful to the Lord's command they returned to the Upper Room in Jerusalem where they all joined together constantly in prayer. When the day of Pentecost came the promise of the Father was fulfilled and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Like those early disciples we too in our day need to be clothed with power from on high, we too need to be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit. In preparation for Pentecost we have an opportunity to 'return to the Upper Room' in order to pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our own lives, upon the Church and the whole world.

Praise and Worship *One or more songs are led by the musicians.*

Opening Prayers

Leader: In the beginning, at creation, you hovered over the water.

All: Come Holy Spirit, as by a New Pentecost.

Leader: You breathed into Adam a breath of life.

All: Come Holy Spirit, Breath of God, breathe in us today.

Leader: You anointed the prophets and kings.

**All: Come Holy Spirit, anoint us for your service.
Send us anew to bring good news to the poor.**

Leader: To Elijah you came with the sound of a gentle breeze,
to the Apostles with the sound of a mighty wind.

All: Come Holy Spirit, in your gentleness and might.

Leader: You are the living water,
the river of life that brings fruitfulness and joy.

All: Come Holy Spirit, flow freely in your Church.

Leader: You overshadowed Mary at the Annunciation.

**All: Come Holy Spirit, overshadow us today with your power,
that the will of God may be accomplished in us and through us.**

Leader: You appeared as a dove at the baptism of Jesus Christ.

All: Come Holy Spirit, fill the world anew with the gift of your peace.

Leader: You came at Pentecost fulfilling the promise of the Father.
You filled the disciples of Jesus who had gathered in prayer
and appeared with tongues of fire.

**All: Come Holy Spirit, lead us anew to Jesus Christ.
May we be baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

Leader: You are the love of God poured into our hearts.

**All: Come Holy Spirit, make us one.
Fill us and empower us with your presence
that we may live in love as sons and daughters of God.**

Silent Reflection *We pause for a short time of silent prayer.*

Scripture Reading *One of the following is read:*

Luke 24:44-49

Acts 1:6-14

Acts 2:1-4

Acts 2:14-21

Reflection on the Scripture *Given by one of the Church ministers.*

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: We pray to the Lord, asking that the gift of the Holy Spirit be poured out afresh on the Church and the whole world: