

The Holy Spirit is given to those who are thirsty

Scripture Reading: Revelation 22:17

All: Lord, we thirst for you, for you are the Water of Life. We join now with the whole Church in asking for a new outpouring of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to fill your people afresh with the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Intercessions

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

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. *(Pause) Come, Holy Spirit,*

All: *And kindle in us the fire of your love.*

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.

(Pause) Come, Holy Spirit, All: And kindle in us the fire of your love.

We pray for Pope Francis and all the Bishops of the Church. May the Holy Spirit fill them afresh with his love, grace and power. *(Pause) Come, Holy Spirit, All: And kindle in us the fire of your love.*

We pray for a renewal in the missionary life of the Church. By the power of the Holy Spirit may every Christian, every family, every parish and school be enabled to witness to Jesus Christ and respond to the call for a New Evangelisation. *(Pause) Come, Holy Spirit, All: And kindle in us the fire of your love.*

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.

(Pause) Come, Holy Spirit, All: And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Please feel free to add your own prayers- the response after *Come, Holy Spirit, is 'and kindle in us the fire of your love.'*

We pray together: Our Father

Concluding Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit by Pope St John XXIII

All: Renew your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost. Grant to your Church that, being of one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Come, Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth. Amen.

Novena Prayer Service ***Preparing for Pentecost***



Welcome

Opening Hymn: Come Holy Ghost Creator Come

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 the disciples 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. For this reason the Church presents us with an opportunity in preparation for Pentecost 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. By taking part in this prayer service we are joining with many others who are praying during the nine days leading up to Pentecost. We pray, just as Pope St John XXIII and the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council did before us, that the Lord would "renew his wonders in this our day as by a new Pentecost".

Opening Prayer

Reader: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

All: And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Reader: Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created.

All: And you will renew the face of the earth.

Reader: Let us pray:

All: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of your faithful, grant that by that same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise, and ever rejoice in your consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Acknowledgements

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The Holy Spirit pours God's love into our hearts

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Reader: The Holy Spirit is the love of God poured into our hearts. Let us open ourselves anew to the Holy Spirit, and so come to know the love of God our Heavenly Father more deeply and ourselves as beloved sons and daughters.

A short time for silent reflection

All: Abba Father, we believe that through the grace of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you have made us your beloved sons and daughters. In the name of Jesus we ask that you would pour out your love anew into our hearts and renew us in your love. Amen.

The Holy Spirit is the gift of life poured out from the cross of Jesus

Scripture Reading: John 19:31-35

Reader: Jesus has saved us and given us life through his death on the cross. Jesus Christ truly is the saviour of the world for he has conquered sin, death and all evil. By dying for us and rising again Jesus has given us the gift of eternal life. The Holy Spirit is the Lord the giver of life who renews in us the free gift of salvation that Jesus Christ has won for us.

A short time of silent reflection

All: Lord Jesus we proclaim you as the only Saviour of the world. We thank you for giving your life for us on the cross to set us free from sin and death. Through the gift of your Spirit may we experience the fullness of life that you have won for us. May we know ever more deeply in our lives your forgiveness, freedom and new life.
Hymn: O Lord my God (How great Thou art)

The Holy Spirit enables us to believe in Jesus and proclaim Him as Lord

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:11

Reader: We all know that day to day life has many demands and we can often be tempted to live for ourselves and follow the way of the world. The Holy Spirit enables us to believe in Jesus who has risen from the dead for us and is alive. The Holy Spirit leads us to entrust the whole of our life to God by making Jesus the *only* Lord of our lives.

A short time of silent reflection

All: Lord Jesus, I believe that you are risen from the dead and that you are alive. I give you my life. By the power of your Holy Spirit draw me deeper into you and help me to live for you in every aspect of my life. I renounce everything that would separate me from you and I proclaim you as the *only* Lord of my life.