

A New Pentecost for a New Evangelisation

Sharing News from the Pentecost Novena 2015

Over the past few years the NORES office, through the work of the Northampton Diocesan Evangelisation Team, has been providing creative and flexible resources to help our communities prepare for Pentecost.

This year a number of parishes and prayer groups took part in the coordinated **Pentecost Novena** over the 9 days leading up to Pentecost (see below).

An Act of Worship was offered to all schools as well as a **Pentecost Poetry competition**. We had some really fantastic entries,

you can read the two winning poems on page 2 of this newsletter. Many congratulations to the winning poets and their schools!



**The Holy Spirit
is the soul of the Church called
to proclaim the Gospel**

*Pope Francis
The Joy of the Gospel*

We would like to say a big **thank you** to everyone in our parishes and schools who took part in the

Pentecost Novena initiative in various ways, and to all who contributed resources and helped in the preparation for the events.

This year also saw a significant development in the initiative as a number of services took place together with our brothers and sisters of **other Christian churches**. To assist this we produced a service specifically for use in ecumenical settings. I myself attended a service for Christian ministers and others at an Anglican Church in Northampton and was greatly blessed and encouraged by our shared prayer together.

Alex Heath, NORES

Where Pentecost Novena Services Took Place

Parishes and prayer groups around the Diocese of Northampton took part in the Pentecost Novena including:

Two parishes in Luton, two parishes in Northampton and also services in Dunstable, Rushden, Great Missenden, Aylesbury, Towcester, Slough,

Burnham, Milton Keynes and Great Billing.

Thanks to an article profiling the work of the Diocesan Evangelisation Team that appeared in the Universe Catholic newspaper and an article in the Good News Magazine news of this initiative

has spread further afield. As a result communities in other parts of the country made use of our resources to run their own Pentecost Novena events.

Thank you to all who hosted and led events in 2015.



One Special Day by Madeleine Jones St Peter's RC Primary School, Marlow

Key Stage 2 Winning Poem

Hearts full of darkness.
Alone and confused,
Nothing to do or say.
No purpose anymore.

Hearts full of sorrow,
Sad and lonely.
Good memories abandoned,
What does this mean?

Hearts full of shock.
Roar of wind,
Bursts into the room.
Is this what Jesus sent?

Hearts full of faith,
Stroked by fire.
Bursts into their hearts,
Burns out fear.

Hearts full of confidence,
Fear vanished,
Spreading the word.
Strong and mighty.

Hearts full of strength.
Uncontrollable preaching,
Word of God flowing out.
This is what he sent.

Hearts full of wisdom,
Mask of shock on people's faces.
Hope spread across the land,
What a special day this is.

Is this really happening?
No-one would feel left out.
Everyone would hear,
From this moment forward...

Everything will change!



*“Then within
the howling
gust a spirit, a
flame, a light in
the darkness”*

Pentecost by Leonie Brunning St Thomas More RC Teaching School Bedford

Key Stage 3 Winning Poem

They were alone lost sheep their shepherd missing
Gone is the legacy of love and hope
Hidden in the shadows of fear and hardship
Wrapped within their shawls of grief

Apostles misled, astray, wanting the light of Jesus to shine
Churning emotions both shared and secret
Tangled together hopes and fears like breezes of wind they add and build
Then within the howling gust a spirit, a flame, a light in the darkness

Then quiet, the anger subsides, finally hope in their tired morning eyes
Tongues of flame twist and dance
Weaving to and fro, creating awe and to enchant
The touch of the flame living and true
An essence of power and freedom of voice

As the fire caresses the face of each disciple
Their eyes opened and their tongues are loosened
The sound of love, light and hope
Speaking God's graces to all peoples on earth

