



Diocese of Northampton

**YEAR of PRAYER**  
and **VOCATION**  
**2017/2018**



**Prayer for May:  
'Come, Holy Spirit'**

“ And when they had prayed, the place in which they had gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

*Acts 4:31*

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And You will renew the face of the earth. Amen.**

**T**he driest place on earth is reputed to be the Atacama Desert in Chile. It once went without a drop of rain for over fourteen years. In 2015, heavy thunderstorms soaked that desert with about fourteen years' worth of rain in a single day. What happened? Did the ground just suck up the moisture and then dry out again? No, the desert came alive with a wondrous sea of mauve flowers and all the life that that brought with it. The whole face of the desert earth was unexpectedly renewed.

**P**lanted deep within us is a thirst for God. We are like a 'dry weary land without water' (Ps 63). By the Prophet Joel, God promised to pour out His Spirit on humankind. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Apostles and other disciples. Many believed the Apostles' message and received the Holy Spirit through Baptism. Then by the laying on of hands, the Apostles would impart the gift of the Spirit that completes the grace of Baptism. A person would be 'sealed' with the Spirit of Christ and be strengthened to bring Christ to others.

**T**he image of thirsty ground being replenished with generous rain appears throughout the Old Testament. By this image, God shows that the power of life and renewal comes from his Spirit - even in times and places where it is least expected.



**W**e pray this month for those about to be confirmed and those already confirmed that they be open to the gift of the Holy Spirit. May they be filled with Pentecost boldness to be Christ's witnesses in the world. May their true colours show in lives that bear fruit.

### **School Feast Days**

As there are no school feast days this month, perhaps in a month dedicated to Our Lady you could pray together the 'Hail Mary'.

### **A Practical Suggestion**

The Spirit gives us the gift of courage. How is this gift needed in our everyday lives as Christians?  
*Talk to your teacher and each other about this.*