



Send Forth your Spirit, O Lord!

**PRAYERS AT HOME
FOR A FRESH OUTPOURING
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Preparing for Pentecost 2021

Day II: Praying for the Spirit

Vigil of Pentecost

Saturday 22nd May, 2021

A Prayer Ritual at Home

Gather around the prayer space with the other members of your household. For the ritual action (below) prepare a piece of paper with the words “Come Holy Spirit”. If there are children in your house get them to draw the words and decorate them.

As We Begin to Pray

Pause in silence for a moment to become aware of God’s presence.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, on our Confirmation day we received the Holy Spirit as a great gift. Renew in us a greater appreciation of the enlightening and guiding presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, in our Church and in our world.

We implore you to fill afresh our hearts with the fire of the Holy Spirit and kindle in them the power of your love. We make this prayer, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

From Sacred Scripture - Acts of the Apostles

He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, **but you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit which will come on you, and then you will be my witnesses** not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to earth's remotest end.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky as he went, when suddenly two men in white were standing beside them, and they said, 'Why are you Galileans standing here looking into the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way as you have seen him go to heaven.' So from the Mount of Olives, as it is called, they went back to Jerusalem, a short

distance away, no more than a Sabbath walk; and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James. With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (*Acts 1*)

Reflection

The Spirit frees hearts chained by fear. He overcomes all resistance. To those content with half measures he inspires whole-hearted generosity. He opens hearts that are closed. He impels the comfortable to go out and serve. He drives the self-satisfied to set out in new directions. He makes the lukewarm thrill to new dreams. That is what it means to change hearts. Plenty of people promise change, new beginnings, prodigious renewals, but experience teaches us that no earthly attempt to change reality can ever completely satisfy the human heart. Yet the change that the Spirit brings is different. It does not revolutionise life around us, but changes our hearts. It does not free us from the weight of our problems, but liberates us within so that we can face them. It does not give us everything at once, but makes us press on confidently, never growing weary of life. The Spirit keeps our hearts young - a renewed youth. Youth, for all our attempts to prolong it, sooner or later fades away; the Spirit, instead, prevents the only kind of aging that is unhealthy: namely, growing old within. How does he do this? By renewing our hearts, by pardoning sinners. Here is the great change: from guilty he makes us righteous and thus changes everything. From slaves of sin we become free, from servants we become beloved children, from worthless worthy, from disillusioned filled with hope. By the working of the Holy Spirit, joy is reborn and peace blossoms in our hearts. (*Pope Francis, Homily for Pentecost 2018*)

Ritual Action

Add to the prayer space the piece of paper with the words “Come Holy Spirit”.

Intercessions

We take a moment to bring before God our needs and the needs of the world at this time:

We pray for ourselves and our families that we may be more conscious of the presence of God in our lives and that we may be more open to being guided by the Holy Spirit.

We pray, in particular, for those who find faith and life difficult; those who, at this time, are in difficulty of any kind; those who need the guidance that the Spirit brings.

We pray in particular for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost – that the Holy Spirit will dwell anew in our hearts and bring to the surface the gifts and fruits of his presence.

Add your own intercessions at this time.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Our Father ...

Prayer

Let us Pray **(Pause for Silent Prayer)**

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Come Holy Spirit. Make our ears to hear. Make our eyes to see. Make our mouths to speak. Make our hearts to seek. Make our hands to reach out and touch the world with your love. Amen

Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. Amen

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Call to Action

Take some time to make a list of things in your life that you need to open up to the Holy Spirit. Fast from something today – to create space in your life for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Start a conversation about the Holy Spirit. Post this service or a picture of your prayer space on social media.



Prepared by the Diocese of Clonfert and the Diocese of Elphin
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