

## PENTECOST YR A

The literal meaning of Pentecost is 50<sup>th</sup>

For Christians, Pentecost comes 50 days after the feast of Jesus resurrection.

The Jewish people also have a feast of Pentecost, which comes 50 days after the Passover. It was originally a post harvest celebration but later became a celebration in remembrance of the covenants between God and Noah and God and Moses.

For Christians however we celebrate that on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and Mary. Whereby the frightened Apostles were transformed into fiery preachers and evangelisers, with the gift of tongues.

Today we also celebrate the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives, as an indwelling God, the Holy Spirit, makes us his living Temples

As a strengthening god, he helps us in our fight against temptation, and he helps us to bear witness to Christ by living transparent christen lives.

As a sanctifying God he makes us holy, through prayer and the sacraments.

The Holy Spirit is a powerful force in our lives, constantly there from conception until we pass through the doorway to eternal life. There are moments in our lives when the Holy Spirit comes as a strengthening influence.

In our baptism, through the water of the spirit we be become Children of God and heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Through confirmation the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith to meet the challenges of life and to be witnesses to Christ.

The Holy Spirit is always there teaching us & listening to us and providing us with his gifts, fruits and charisms.

Today is also a birthday celebration, because Pentecost commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian

Church. By his apostolic preaching St Peter, on the day of Pentecost was instrumental in 3000 conversions to the Christian faith; hence we can say that Pentecost is the official birthday of the Church.

So let us see what the readings have to say about today's feast.

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles describes in detail the miraculous events that took place.

The noise like a strong wind, the tongues of fire resting on the Disciples, filling them with the Holy Spirit. The first manifestations that took place as people heard their proclamations in their own language, and the large number of converts. The effects of this anointing by the Holy Spirit stayed with the early Christians strengthening their faith in the face of extreme persecution even death.

In the second reading Paul continues to outline the benefits and fruits of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the early Christians. He insists that these spiritual gifts were intended

to be used for the benefit of others, for the common good and for the building up of the body of Christ.

In earlier gospels we heard how the Risen Jesus gave his Apostles a foretaste of Pentecost. At the last supper he told them that the Father would give them another Advocate to carry on the mission given to him, and that the Advocate would teach them everything. A promise He renewed at the Ascension last week

So then today, at Pentecost, he fulfilled his promise to send the Advocate or Paraclete who would give them the strength and courage to carry out his commands.

How then do we as Christians take meaning in our lives from the gifts and charisms flowing to us from Pentecost.

We need to let the Holy Spirit direct our lives so that we can fortify ourselves against all types of temptation.

Life in the Holy Spirit is a life of commitment, sacrifice, and Joy. It's a call to love as Jesus loved not counting the costs, or expecting anything in return. It's a call to follow

the example of the Apostles. As evangelists we also need to help spread the good news of the gospel.

We all experience moments when the Holy Spirit intrudes into our lives.

Last week during 3 masses the Parish & school children received the Holy Spirit as they made their Confirmation a special and moving experience for us all.....

Pentecost should be an every day event in our lives, in the words of this prayer, which was a favorite of Cardinal Newman, let us invite the Holy Spirit into our lives.

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.