

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world  
and that which contains all things  
understands what is said, alleluia.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast  
sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation,  
pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth  
and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed,  
fill now once more the hearts of believers.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Ac 2:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.  
When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**RESP. PSALM**

Ps 103

Response:

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

or

Alleluia.

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
The earth is full of your riches. (R.)
2. You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)
3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!  
May the Lord rejoice in his works!  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.  
I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.  
There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them.  
The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*The sequence Veni Sancte Spiritus (Holy Spirit, Lord of Light) may be said or sung.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Jn 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,  
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.  
For those whose sins you forgive,  
they are forgiven;  
for those whose sins you retain,  
they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Grant, we pray, O Lord,  
that, as promised by your Son,  
the Holy Spirit may reveal to us more abundantly  
the hidden mystery of this sacrifice  
and graciously lead us into all truth.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit  
and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, who bestow heavenly gifts upon your Church,  
safeguard, we pray, the grace you have given,  
that the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon her  
may retain all its force  
and that this spiritual food  
may gain her abundance of eternal redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



Pope Francis administers sacrament of confirmation during Mass at Parish of San Cirillo Alessandrino in Rome

Today, we enter into a Gospel story framed by fear and unknowing. Not only has word reached the disciples surrounding the empty tomb and the disappearance of the body of Jesus, but Mary Magdalene has brought to them news of a risen Jesus.

They sit in a room wondering what kind of future lies ahead of them and without warning, Jesus appears to them with the tenderness of a loving parent. 'Peace be with you', he says, words that are familiar to us during our mass. Turning to our neighbour and offering a sign of peace is a tender moment in our celebration of the Eucharist. But the tenderness of Jesus in this gospel is borne out of consideration for his disciples. They need him now more than ever. They are alone in the world without their spiritual father to lead them. So Jesus does something that will become one of the most powerful images in our Gospels. He breathes on them. It's a hugely symbolic act. Remember, he breathed his last when he died on the cross. But John's Gospel tells us that his breath continues to live on even after his death. This breath is in fact the power of Jesus being handed over to the disciples so that they may find courage in times of despair, healing in times of sickness and compassion in times of weakness. This is the work of the Holy Spirit and the disciples will go forward from this encounter to proclaim the life and power of the Holy Spirit to the people of God. ■

## SAY

"Lord you have made us for yourself, therefore our hearts are restless until they rest in you."  
(Saint Augustine)

## DO

This week, let us renew our commitment to the gifts of the Holy Spirit by becoming aware of how we live out these gifts in our home, our workplace and our community. Practise these gifts with the same tenderness shown by Jesus in today's gospel.

## REFLECT

Fr. Kevin O' Gorman, S.M.A., is the writer of a very interesting book called 'Saving Sport: Sport, Society and Spirituality.' The book deals with many topics including how religious terminology is used to describe sporting events.

Even if you're not a sports fan, a useful task over the coming weeks as we enter into a busy football and hurling championship season is to glance at sporting headlines in our newspapers. Notice how many times you see the word 'Redemption' or 'Sacrifice' used to describe teams' performances and preparations. How often do we see players blessing themselves directly after the National Anthem is played and before that first whistle is blown? Or when a star player returns from injury, we say 'it's a blessing to have him/her back.' And have you ever noticed when a manager or player is interviewed after a game, how they talk about the 'spirit' in the dressing room?

For journalists and people involved in sport, the spirit within a team reflects a powerful energy that emerges amongst a group of players that is put to some good. The energy of this spirit is used to conquer difficult situations on the playing field. It galvanises a team to perform against all the odds.

The Holy Spirit that rests within our Church contains something of that same energy or power but in religious terms, the Spirit is also a person. When we gather in a Church building to pray and give thanks to God, we are guided by a Spirit that brings us together for one common purpose. To show Jesus Christ to the world. ■

## LEARN

As children making our confirmation, we read about the gifts of the Holy Spirit as part of our sacramental preparation. The gifts are: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord (Is 11: 2-3).

