



GOD'S WORD FOR THIS WEEK

Sunday 31st May 2020

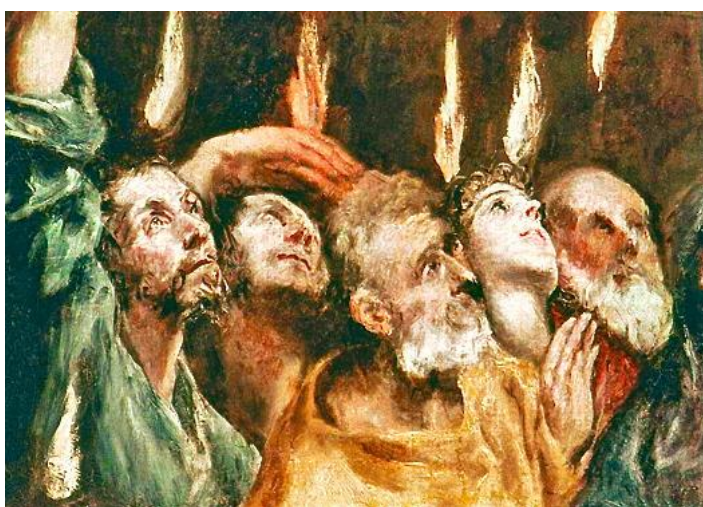
The Day of Pentecost
(Whit Sunday)

'The Sky Over Enniskerry this Week'

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
By the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



The Collect of the Day



The First Reading Acts 2: 1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,

both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’ ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ ¹³But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13

³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says ‘Let Jesus be cursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

The Gospel Reading - John 20: 19-23

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are



retained.'

The Psalm 104: 26-36,37b

<p>26 O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.</p> <p>27 There is the sea, spread far and wide, and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.</p> <p>28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan which you have made to play in the deep.</p> <p>29 All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.</p> <p>30 When you give it them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good.</p> <p>31 When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.</p>	<p>32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.</p> <p>33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works;</p> <p>34 He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke.</p> <p>35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will make music to my God while I have my being.</p> <p>36 So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord.</p> <p>37 Let sinners be consumed out of the earth and the wicked be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia.</p>
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Pointers for Prayer

We are immersed in the Spirit this week leading up to Pentecost. If ever there was a time to become aware of the movement of the Spirit in and among us it is now and a worthwhile exercise for this week of every year. Equally in significant to the festivals of Christmas and Easter in the liturgical calendar, Pentecost marks the Birthday of Christ's church in this world. Our readings today are filled with the Spirit from the First Reading's fascinating description of the force of the Holy Spirit upon those in an upper room and the confusion and mayhem that followed through to the breadth and scope of the Spirit in people of different skills and gifts in the Second Reading. The Gospel reminds us of Spirit as the Breath of God or *Ruach* (Hebrew for Spirit, Breath or Wind) as we revisit the Gospel of the Sunday following Easter Sunday where the disciples encounter the risen Christ in the Upper Room and he 'breathes' the Spirit upon them.

The Spirit comes upon all those within the upper room as a roaring wind that shakes the foundations of the house and causes the disciples to begin to speak in different tongues. To what extent is it good for the Spirit to shake us up from time to time?

What are the areas within your life or yourself that may benefit from the wild wind of the Spirit to shake up a little?

It is often that God hits us from 'left-field'. This pushes us out of our comfort zones and may well cause us confusion not dissimilar to that in the upper room that day of Pentecost. Can you reflect on moments of disorientation which led to a deeper knowledge or wisdom or greater growth within yourself or another person?

There are a myriad of gifts between us! Sometimes differences as people may cause arguments or a lack of understanding. What do the words 'Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit and there are varieties of services, but

There may be a freedom in these words when understood that, regardless of distinct differences in people we are united by the one Spirit. Are there areas you struggle with when it comes to accepting difference?

the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone' say to how we accept others?

Jesus teaches to pray for those who hurt us. Who would you pray for today?

In the Upper Room Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon his disciples. Isn't it a wonderful gift and realisation that the breath of God lies within you.

If we were to recognise the Divine within ourselves and live within every situation from that Divine place what difference would you notice in your life?

