

Pentecost Sunday

Today is Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Church. The word Pentecost is a Greek word which means 50th, it was originally a Jewish festival which they celebrated on the 50th day after the Passover. For us Christians it is the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus. For us it is a remembrance and celebration of that day on which Jesus out poured his Holy Spirit on his first followers. It is the celebration of the fulfilment of God's desire to dwell in us. We can say, in Bethlehem: God with us, in Calvary: God is for us, in Pentecost God in us". Therefore, Pentecost is celebration of God in us, the presence of the Holy Spirit in us.

The apostle John called Holy Spirit Paraclete which is translated in Bible as counsellor or helper. The Paraclete means, the one who is called to give aid, help and comfort. During Jesus's public ministry he was a Paraclete to his disciples. But as His Crucifixion drew near, he assured his disciples that He would send them the same Paraclete who will be with them, in them, for ever. Our first reading of today gives us a vivid description of how that promise of Jesus was fulfilled on the Pentecost day and how that event drastically transformed the timid and fear-stricken disciples of Jesus to vibrant and valiant, witnesses of Christ.

The Pentecost is not merely a memorial of a past Event. The Holy Spirit continues to descend on the believers every moment in every part of the world and great conversions, miracles, signs and wonders are happening in various parts of the world. We need not wait for the Holy Spirit. We have received him in our Baptism and Confirmation. On this Pentecost day once again, the Church reminds us to stir up, fan into flame the Holy Spirit we have received so that we too like the first disciples of Christ become vibrant and effective witnesses of Christ and continue His mission.

Let us now therefore pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in us, in the Church and all the people across the world. Lord Jesus Christ we pray with all our brothers, sisters, all over the world, pour out your Holy Spirit afresh on us on this Pentecost Sunday, pour out on us gathered here, on your Church, on all your children, we need the wind of your Holy Spirit, may the mighty wind of your Holy Spirit blow on us, stir us now like a rushing wind and invigorate us, Lord breath afresh life in us with your breath of your Spirit. Lord inflame us with the fire of you love, cleanse us, purify us, wash us from all our sins, Lord let the fire of your Holy Spirit ignite us with passion to share the good news of Jesus, Lord Jesus baptise us with the fire of your Holy Spirit so that we can be your living flames that set the whole world on fire of your love and peace.

Holy Spirit, you are the living water, come down on us quench our thirst and let the springs of living water well up within us and let it overflow. Lord Jesus anoint us with the Oil of Life, bathe us in the oil of your love, heal our bodies, heal our minds, heal our hearts. Let your healing power flow through us. Let your presence and peace radiate through us. Ignite us with passion to spread the good news. O Holy Spirit of God Bless us with your presence and make us a blessing to all your creation.