

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2** Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. **6** When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. **7** Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? **8** Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? **9** Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome **11** (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” **12** Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

Peter Addresses the Crowd

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. **15** These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! **16** No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 “In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21 And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Reflection for Sunday 31st May

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. This is how our reading starts for this great occasion. Today unfortunately, we are not able to be together to worship in one place, but I can tell you this, I personally cannot wait to be able to worship and praise God with my church family! I can get very excited at the thought of it and for some reason when I picture us all in the church, our singing is even louder too!

Pentecost is all about God giving us the gift of His Holy Spirit. Now I don't know about you but receiving gifts as an adult is very different to when we were children. Children accept eagerly, smiling and embracing gifts with eyes wide open and beaming smiles. As an adult we are very grateful of the gifts we receive but sometimes embarrassment or being concerned that we may not be able to reciprocate these gifts or our pride and self-reliance takes over.

During this time of Covid 19 we have all had to deal with life very differently. Whether we are still working as keyworkers or not. Our daily life has changed even if it is not being able to have a cup of tea with a neighbour. I find it hard not to greet people with a hug.

Many of the adverts on the television have reminded us to take care of our mental health. Radio stations have positively surprised me at how they are promoting mental health and wellbeing. Recent new songs have been about loneliness, coming together, more surprisingly many songs by current popular pop stars have asked for God's Grace and guidance, these types of songs are not very often played on Radio One or other local radio stations. I have found that this has helped me with my faith. Knowing that God is still working out His mission among us.

In times like this we need to take notice of everything that happens in our daily lives it can be so easy to miss what God is doing for us and around us.

How is your faith right now?

Maybe you feel that your faith is just the same, it hasn't changed at all. Maybe you feel that your faith isn't as strong as it was when you were able to attend church. Please do not worry if this is the case but take comfort that God is with you and as our reading tells us: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

God's gift of the Holy Spirit is for all of us he wants you to receive it. Be like a child and open your eyes wide, have a beaming smile because God loves you and wants to show you how much. Be like a child and constantly ask God for the gift of His Holy Spirit.

Submit to our Lord God and let Him give you the Power of His Holy Spirit so that you can be strong in these times and forever more. There is no other love or power or gift like God's Holy Spirit and God is longing to give it to each and every one of you!