

The Living Word

Pentecost Sunday, Year C

8 June 2025

First Reading Acts 2:1-11

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

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.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

**R. Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.**
or

R. 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 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

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 as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

or Rom 8:8-17

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless

you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

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

As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

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.'

or

Gospel Jn 14:15-16, 23-26

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.

Jesus said to his disciples

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever.
If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my words.
And my word is not my own;
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you
while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all that I have said to you.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

In the very old days, the 'Holy Spirit' was known as the 'Holy Ghost'. It comes from the old English word 'gust' which 'blows wherever it pleases'. St Luke's account of Pentecost tells of what 'sounded like a powerful wind from heaven'. This is the Divine Wind, this is the Holy Gust, the Holy Spirit. Out of nowhere, this mighty Gust burst into the disciples' lives with gale force, sweeping away their fear.

The Divine Wind is nothing less than the Breath of God. 'O Breathe on me Breath of God' is one of the most beautiful hymns, sung to a traditional Irish melody. One verse goes: 'O Breathe on me Breath of God . . . until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine'. It is like a log at the back of the fireplace late at night. The log is intact but absolutely glowing through and through with fire. It is to be the same with us.

Peter was inspired to preach to the crowds 'with a loud voice' about 'Jesus the Nazarene' and the fact that 'God raised him to life'. That is the gospel. That is the message which those who breathe with the breath of God have been preaching since the birthday of the Church at Pentecost.

We could pause for a moment to pray an ancient chant of the Church:

'Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

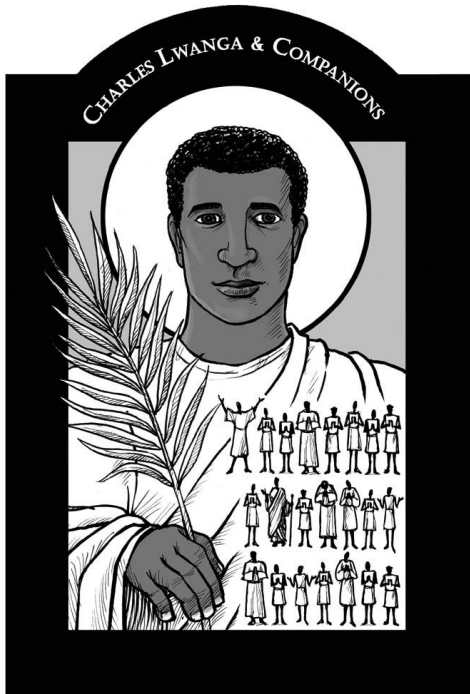
and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they will be created,

and you will renew the face of the earth.'

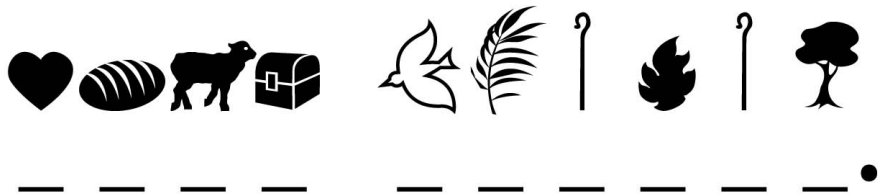
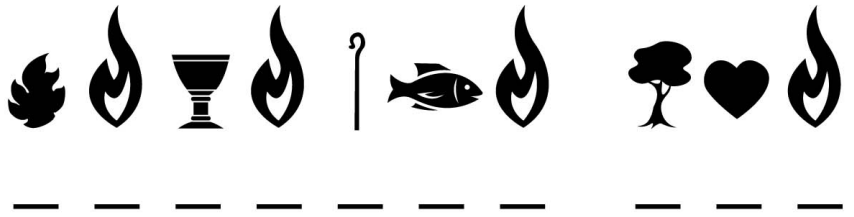
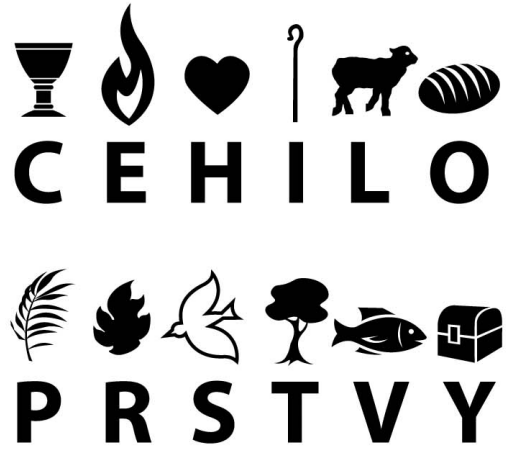
mtate@bigpond.com

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the **Lectionary for the Mass** ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from **The Psalms, A New Translation**, ©1983 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the **Jerusalem Bible**, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.



Charles Lwanga and his companions were African Catholics who died for their faith in Uganda in the 1880s. At the time Uganda was ruled by King Mwanga who persecuted Christians for their primary allegiance to God rather than their king. Charles Lwanga was the head of the royal page boys, some of whom he had baptised. One day all the pages were assembled and the Christians were separated from the group and arrested. Charles and his companions, many only boys, were martyred for their belief. The example of these passionate young Africans inspired many people who then became converts to Christianity.

Use the code
to work out what
Jesus said to
his disciples.



Crossword

Across

- 1: frightened or scared
- 3: bad deeds
- 6: it has fingers and a thumb
- 7: the time of day between afternoon and night
- 8: Jesus breathed the _____ on his disciples
- 10: another word for centre
- 11: the opposite of give

Down

- 2: Jesus said to the disciples, 'If you _____ anyone's sins, they will be forgiven'
- 4: the day after Saturday
- 5: to have come into sight
- 8: glad
- 9: someone who leads

