

THE EMPOWERING SPIRIT

(JOHN 20:19-23)



"Dove of the Holy Spirit" at Throne of St Peter by Bernini (1600s) in St Peter's Basilica, Rome

The miraculous appearance of Jesus among the disciples in a locked room shows that he is no longer constrained by physical limitations.

Although the disciples have been told by Mary Magdalene that she has experienced the risen Lord, they have not done so for themselves, and so are still fearful of the Jewish authorities who were so hostile to Jesus and brought about his execution. Once Mary's message has been confirmed by their own experience, they respond with joy and the peace which the risen Jesus has bestowed on them.

Jesus "breathes" the Holy Spirit on them: at the moment of his expiring on the cross, he handed over his spirit to the two figures at the foot of the cross, his unnamed mother, who represents the community of disciples, and the anonymous disciple whom Jesus loved, who stands for the individual follower of Jesus. Earlier, the evangelist had observed that there was no Spirit since Jesus had not been glorified. For John, the crucifixion is the exaltation of Jesus in glory, so the Spirit can now be poured out. On the evening of Easter Day, the risen Jesus confers the Spirit on the assembled group of disciples to empower them to carry on his mission, which can only be accomplished with the presence of the Spirit of holiness. The peace that Jesus brings is not to be a comfort which allows the disciples to remain safely locked away, but will allow them to confront the world, just as Jesus did: we remember that the reason for Jesus' mission is that "God loved the world"; it is in this spirit that the disciples are now to take up and continue Jesus' work. ■

REFLECT

This Gospel account is often referred to as "Little Pentecost", as it is so different to the dramatic account of Luke, with its "mighty, rushing wind" and "tongues of fire". Some writers refer to the Holy Spirit as "the forgotten person of the Trinity": if this is true, it is very unfortunate indeed, since the Spirit is the life-force of the Church and should be the driving power in the life of the individual Christian. But like any source of power, it will remain unused unless it is connected to the person and actively engaged in the disciple's life.

One way of understanding the Holy Spirit is to liken it to electricity, which can transform a simple light bulb, composed of metal and glass, into a source of light and heat, too bright to look at directly, too hot to handle unprotected. Perhaps some of us are reluctant to turn on the switch, afraid of what the Spirit might make us capable of. It can be more comfortable to stay in the locked room, safe from danger, real or imagined. That is not the purpose of the Spirit: it is to enable us to live as true disciples of Jesus and to teach others about our faith by example, if not by word. Often, attraction is more effective to others than direct and explicit promotion. ■

DO

Switch on the light: consider the effects of the power of electricity. Apply this image to the Holy Spirit and yourself.



SAY

Attraction rather than promotion.

(Twelve-Step Programme)

LEARN

In the New Testament, the term "spirit" is neuter in gender: the appropriate pronoun would be "it".

In the Hebrew scriptures, the term "spirit" is feminine in gender: the appropriate pronoun, therefore, would be "she".

Pentecost is a Jewish festival (also known as the "Feast of Weeks"), commemorating God's self-revelation at Sinai and the giving of the Law. (the Torah).

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...
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 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.

PSALM

Psalm 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 as 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.

Or Galatians 5:16-25

SEQUENCE

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light,
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure;
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow.

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour thy dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warn the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die;
Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful

and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 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.

*The Second Reading from Galatians 5:16-25
Or John 15:26-27; 16:12-15*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
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.

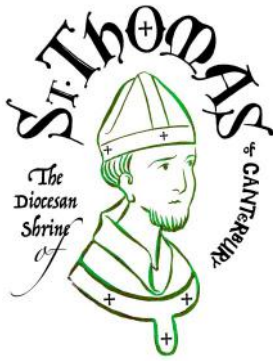
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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...
Amen.

NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>  St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): OPEN SUNDAYS FROM AFTER 9.30 MASS UNTIL 12 NOON

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: tjherbst@gmail.com

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin: Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is open Mondays, Tuesdays,
Thursdays and Fridays 10am to 3.00pm
(closed 1.00pm to 1.30pm for lunch)

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00 pm (Vigil: Jennifer Scott - birthday (*Scott Family*))

Sunday 23rd May: Pentecost Sunday *Jn15:26-27; Jn16:12-15*

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: For the Filipino Community and Families

11.00am: Mary, William & Tony Ashman (*Catherine Ashman*)

12.15: *Baptism of Kiera, Xarem and Itzae Pearson-Nunez*

4.00pm: *Polish Community Mass*

6.00 pm: Ruby Cookman - RIP (*Robert Cookman*)

2nd Collection: SVP

Monday 24th May: Mary, Mother of the Church *Jn19:25-34*

7.30 am: Ron Goldsmith - RIP (*Angela Nichols*)

12 noon: Michael McDermott - RIP (*Noreen Egan*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

Tuesday 25th May: St Bede the Venerable *Mk 10: 28-31*

12 noon: Betty Scott - birthday (*Linda & Rhys*)

6.00pm: Live-streamed Prayer

Wednesday 26th May: St Philip Neri *Mk 10: 32-45*

7.30 am: Marion Nash - RIP (*Fr Anthony*)

10.30am - 11.30pm: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Beloved Hannah Purbrick (*Sue Purbrick*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

Thursday 27th May: Our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eternal High Priest *Mk 14: 22-25*

7.30 am: Peter Avery - RIP (*Joan Sutton*)

12 noon: Stella Waterman - RIP (*Tessa Metcalfe*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

7 - 8pm: *Adoration for Young Adults with Fr John*

Friday 28th May: Feria *Mk 11: 11-26*

12 noon: Tina & Phil - welfare (*Angela Nichols*)

After Mass, Adoration until 1.30pm

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

7.30pm: Varkey - RIP (*T Joy*)

Saturday 29th May: St Paul VI, Pope *Mk 11: 27-33*

10.30am - 11.30pm: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Marion Nash - RIP (*Howie Family*)

6.00 pm (Vigil): Bella on her birthday (*Maria Dabrowska*)

Sunday 30th May: The Most Holy Trinity *Mt 28: 16-20*

8.00am: Armande Bardy - RIP (1st Ann.) (*John & Marie-Claire*)

9.30am: In thanksgiving for safe arrival of Amelia Picozzi

11.00am: People of the Parish

12.15: *Baptism of Anna Rowe*

6.00 pm: Eufronia Andrade - RIP (*Ignacio Family*)

PARISH MATTERS

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Fr John Slater, Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Sr Margaret McGrath, Angela Nichols, Jean Boyce and Sandra Monger

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Patricia Collins, Andrzej Czupkowski, Chris Bateman, Pia Iannacci, Antonio Iannacci, Ellen Fitzgerald, Anna Koeller, Fr Michael Gwinnett, Ann Sexton, Paulina Manfredini, Fr Michael Boland, Fr George Webster, Theresa Ramsundar, Canon Frank O'Sullivan, Margaret Willis, Rev Paul Saunders, Sylvia Guy, Pat Gill, Baby Layla Green, Paul Card, Alan Skeet, Rodolfo Ignacio, Isabella Bannon, HRH Prince Philip - Duke of Edinburgh, Dean Brazier, Marion Nash and Fr Kevin Alban (O.Carm)

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are this month:

Thomas Hodges, Gertrande Brock, Rebecca Judge

COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections:

This weekend: 22/23 May: SVP Please give generously as usual to our local chapter of the SVP.

Next weekend: 29/30 May: Porchlight: Representatives from Porchlight will speak to us at all Masses about their work.

Our Church Shop

New Books (for all ages); New Cards (for all occasions)

Come and have a look in the Church Shop.

We've got new products using quality suppliers including a local artist.

Support your Repository - please.

Opening Hours:

Thurs 10.30 - 15.00

Fri 11.00 - 15.00

Sat 10.30 - 15.00

Sun 09.00 - 12.00



The Passage Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Patron of The Passage,

will celebrate Mass at Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 25

May 2021 at 5.30pm to mark 40 years of service to homeless

people. The Mass will be broadcast live online, the link is:

<https://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk/> Attending the Mass in

person is possible, but strictly limited under Covid regulations.

Please register your interest with andrew.h@passage.org.uk

and we will let you know on Mon 24th May if a place is available.

The late Cardinal Suenens quoted a French bishop who said: "We have the ability to create pipe water systems, to lay the mains but we cannot cause a spring to gush forth." Reforming and renewing the church and the parish and its structures is always necessary but we must remember that it is only to allow the Holy Spirit to flow freely and transform our hearts. The apostles were with Mary and locked away in the Upper Room, full of fear, but when filled of the Spirit the doors were burst open and they emerged with the gift of speech so that people from many nations and languages could hear about the marvels of God.

Today we need to allow the Spirit to free us from fear and give us that gift of speech that allows us to communicate effectively with all among whom we live. In the Gospel for this Sunday Jesus says: "But when the Spirit of Truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth". Lord let the Spirit lead us to witness effectively and powerfully to Jesus in a language and a way that others will want to listen to and understand. People's lives and hearts will only be touched and changed by the Holy Spirit when we are willing to be effective instruments of his power.

I like the image that Pope Francis gives when he said that without the Holy Spirit we risk being just an "armchair Christian" who recites "a cold morality" without actually living out the Gospel. Do not keep the Holy Spirit a prisoner, locked inside your heart; rather let him "push" and "move" you to boldly bring Jesus to others and to be able to be patient under pressure.

Today we remember that it is the Holy Spirit who works in the Church, in our hearts, he is the one who makes each Christian unique, but united together as one family of God.

It's the Holy Spirit who "opens the doors and invites us to bear witness to Jesus", as well as inspiring people to pray and to see God as father, liberating individuals from feeling like an "orphan", which is what the devil would like to see".

On this feast of Pentecost, we need to ask ourselves the same question that Pope Francis asked. Am I keeping the Holy Spirit, which I received at baptism, locked inside my heart - like in a "luxury" prison- where he is not free to incite, inspire and explain Jesus words to the outside world?

COVID GUIDELINES FOR ST THOMAS' WEEKDAYS

1. Please take personal responsibility when visiting the church for using the Trace and Trace **QR CODE** or completing the **FORMS**.
2. Use **HAND SANITISER** on **ENTERING** and **EXITING** church.
3. Wear **FACE COVERINGS** (unless exempt) when in church.
4. Keep **ALL doors OPEN** during services.
5. Keep a **1 METRE** safe distance.

Thank you

PARISH AGM NOTES AND REPORTS The notes of the AGM together with the reports presented at the meeting are available on the Parish webpage: *News and Info PPC News - St Thomas' Church - AGM Report 18/04/21*

We have our **Parish Pastoral Council Meeting** on Monday, 24 May 2021. If you have anything to be discussed, please email Rob Meredith at rob@evbs.co.uk

LIVESTREAMING IN CHURCH . Parishioners are reminded that we use livestreaming for all Masses. If any services are to be recorded we will inform the parish of those specific services.

CHURCH OPENING TIMES FROM 24 MAY 2021

The church will be open for **PRAYERS AND VISITING**:

Monday to Friday: 08h00 to after Mass at 12 noon.
Saturday: 08h00 to after Mass at 18h00
Sunday: closed after 11h00 Mass until 18h00 Mass

ADORATION:

Wednesdays: 10h30 to 11h30
Fridays: after 12 noon Mass to 13h30
Saturdays: 10h30 to 11h30

RECONCILIATION:

Wednesdays: 10h30 to 11h30
Saturdays: 10h30 to 11h30
or by appointment with the Priests.

SAFEGUARDING MESSAGE

The government have launched the "Ask for ANI" codeword scheme in partnership with Boots and independent pharmacies across the country for those who are victim to or at risk of domestic abuse. Please click here for more information on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codeword-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>