

Intercessions

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and for the whole Jewish people. **All: Come, Holy Spirit upon the Jewish people, Israel, and prepare them for the full realisation of the hope of Israel - bless our elder brother, the people of your covenant.**

We pray for the culture of Pentecost to renew the Church in prayer, holiness, communion and proclamation, in the world, in our continent, in our nation. **All: Come, Holy Spirit, rekindle your fire and renew your Church.**

We pray for reconciliation, and the healing of memories and divisions of Christianity in the world, in our continent, in our nation. **All: Come, Holy Spirit, unite your Church – Father, make us one that the world may believe.**

We pray for the culture of life born by the Spirit, to penetrate society. In the world, in government, in our continent, in our nation. **All: Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth. Transform society by the power of your Spirit.**

We pray that the lost may be found, for growth in holiness and the revelation of God's glory, in the Church, in the world, in our families. **All: Come, Holy Spirit, let faith and hope arise in the hearts of peoples and let your glory be manifested in your Church.**

We pray for reconciliation and healing to bring unity in our families, our diocese, our pastoral area, our parishes and all Christian communities. **All: Come, Holy Spirit, help us live together in unity, in humility and love.**

We pray for new empowerment by the Holy Spirit to be Christ's witnesses, for bringing the Gospel to the whole of creation, for New Evangelisation in the Church. **All: Come, Holy Spirit, empower us to fulfill your call to be witnesses to the ends of the earth to be bearers of the Good News.**

We pray for the proclamation of the power and victory of the Holy Cross and its saving power to be manifested over all the earth. **All: Come, Holy Spirit, let your victory be proclaimed and your glory be revealed upon the face of the earth.**

All: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love, though the peoples spoke different tongues you united them in proclaiming the same faith, alleluia."

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: A time of prayer and adoration

At the conclusion of adoration we pray together: Our Father...

Concluding Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit by Pope John XXIII

All: Renew your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost. Grant to Your Church that, being of one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Come, Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth. Amen.

Novena Prayer Service *Preparing for Pentecost*



Welcome

Opening Hymn: Come Holy Ghost Creator Come

Introduction

After his resurrection from the dead and before ascending into heaven Jesus Christ commanded his disciples to stay in the city until they had been clothed with power, power from on high. Faithful to the Lord's command the disciples returned to the Upper Room in Jerusalem where they all joined together constantly in prayer. When the day of Pentecost came the promise of the Father was fulfilled and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Like those early disciples we in our day need to be clothed with power from on high, we too need to be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit. For this reason the Church presents us with an opportunity in preparation for Pentecost to 'return to the Upper Room' in order to pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our own lives, upon the Church and the whole world. By taking part in this prayer service we are joining with many others who are praying during the nine days leading up to Pentecost. Just as Pope John XXIII and the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council did we ask once again that the Lord would "renew his wonders in this our day as by a new Pentecost".

Opening Prayer

Reader: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

All: And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Reader: Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

All: And you will renew the face of the earth.

Reader: Let us pray:

All: O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of your faithful, grant that by that same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise, and ever rejoice in your consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Themed Readings and prayer responses follow overleaf

The Holy Spirit pours God's love into our hearts

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Reader: The Holy Spirit is the love of God poured into our hearts. Let us open ourselves anew to the Holy Spirit, and so come to know the love of God more deeply and ourselves as beloved sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father.

A short time for silent reflection

All: Abba Father we believe that through the grace of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you have made us your beloved sons and daughters. In the name of Jesus we ask that you would pour out your love anew into our hearts and renew us in your love. Amen.

Hymn: Abba Father send your Spirit

The Holy Spirit convinces the world of sin

Scripture Reading John 16:7-8,13

Reader: The Holy Spirit comes to lead us into all truth. The Holy Spirit searches our hearts and will show us any areas of our lives that are not what they should be. The Holy Spirit does not condemn but convinces us, by gently and lovingly leading us along the path of honesty, truth, repentance and change. If we are open the Spirit of God will purify us like a holy fire so that we become more like Jesus every day.

A short time for silent reflection

All: Holy Spirit, I acknowledge that you are the Spirit of Truth. Help me to be honest with you, with others and myself. I ask your forgiveness for the times that I have grieved you by choosing to live in a selfish way. Please come and purify my heart in the fire of your divine love and help me to always choose to live in your truth and love.

The Holy Spirit is the gift of life poured out from the cross of Jesus

Scripture Reading: John 19:31-35

Reader: Jesus has saved us and given us life through his death on the cross. Jesus Christ truly is the saviour of the world for he has conquered sin, death and all evil. By dying for us and rising again Jesus has given us the gift of eternal life. The Holy Spirit is the Lord the giver of life who renews in us the free gift of salvation that Jesus Christ has won for us.

A short time for silent reflection

All: Lord Jesus we proclaim you as the only Saviour of the world. We thank you for giving your life for us on the cross to set us free us from sin and death. Through the gift of your Spirit may we experience the fullness of life that you have won for us. May we know ever more deeply in our lives your forgiveness, freedom and new life.

Hymn: O Lord my God (How great Thou art)

The Holy Spirit enables us to believe in Jesus and proclaim Him as Lord

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:11

Reader: We all know that day to day life has many demands and we can often be tempted to live for ourselves and follow the way of the world. The Holy Spirit enables us to believe in Jesus who has risen from the dead for us and is alive. The Holy Spirit leads us to entrust the whole of our life to God by making Jesus the *only* Lord of our lives.

A short time of silent reflection

All: Lord Jesus, I believe that you are risen from the dead and that you are alive. I give you my life. By the power of your Holy Spirit draw me deeper into you and help me to live for you in every aspect of my life. I renounce everything that would separate me from you and I proclaim you as the *only* Lord of my life.

Hymn: Majesty

Pentecost: A Promise Fulfilled- A Promise to be Claimed

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:32-33,39

A short time of silent reflection

All: Lord Jesus, we believe that God has anointed you with the fullness of the Holy Spirit and that you are the Messiah, the anointed one. We come to you now, with expectant faith to claim anew the promise of the Holy Spirit that you long to give.

The Holy Spirit is given to those who are thirsty

Scripture Reading: Revelation 22:17

All: Lord, we thirst for the water of life. We join now with the whole Church in asking for a new outpouring of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to fill your people afresh with the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Hymn: Holy Spirit Lord of Love/ Spirit of the Living God/ Holy Spirit we welcome you

Intercessions follow overleaf

Acknowledgements

This resource has been produced by the Northampton Diocesan Evangelisation Team and can be adapted and used to resource Pentecost Novena initiatives. More resources are available via the Northampton Diocesan website Evangelisation section www.northamptondiocese.org (faith). Our grateful thanks go to Yvonne Bell who has allowed us to use her beautiful Water of Life image for our Pentecost resources. Yvonne Bell produces Christian Art and Church Vestments- Illustrating the Gospel Message and Dressing the Church. Please see christian-art.vpweb.co.uk/default.html for more information.