

SUNDAY PLUS

Come, Holy Spirit!



Happy Birthday!

By Fr Richard Reid
C.Ss.R.

Happy Birthday! Yes: it is indeed the day when we mark the birth of our holy Church. Pentecost was the great moment when the Holy Spirit descended upon the heads of the Apostles and gave renewed life and strength that would allow them to go forward in faith, announcing the Good News. Prior to this, they were a group of devastated people who really didn't understand what more could be done and perhaps they even thought of giving up.

The Holy Spirit is living and working among us, inspiring you and me as we take our places within the Church. In every generation there have been Christians of every

kind and ability, all having been empowered to hand on the Church to the next generation. This is the only reason that we are still here today nearly two thousand years later, simply because before us there was someone who gave a powerful witness to Christ and that inspired us.

As we celebrate "our" birthday on this Pentecost Sunday, it's perhaps a good moment to rededicate ourselves and our service to the Lord Jesus, asking the Holy Spirit to renew in us the many gifts that have been given to us, and to ask for the gifts that we will need in the future, the ones we have no idea we will need! Let us also ask the Lord to empower us to be a powerful, authentic and dynamic witness for him, inspiring others to take their place within the Church.

Fr Richard Reid C.Ss.R. is the Provincial Superior of the Redemptorists' London Province.

"To be born from above is to be born with the strength of the Holy Spirit. We cannot keep the Holy Spirit for ourselves; we can only allow him to transform us. And our docility opens the door to the Holy Spirit; it is he who changes us, who works this transformation in us, this rebirth from on high. This is the promise that Jesus makes: to send the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is capable of wondrous things that we cannot even imagine."

Pope Francis

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

"Breathe in me O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen."

St Augustine

Feast of the week
Monday 6 June


Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

A mother is there for her family. Mary watched Jesus die on the cross and then, despite her grief, comforted his bereaved friends and disciples. Most ran away when Jesus needed them most, but she forgave them and supported them in their pain and shame. Despite the horrors she had witnessed, she embraced their heartbreak, her strength giving

strength, her courage inspiring courage in their brokenness. Jesus' companions would have tried to support Mary, but, in their sorrow, they also needed a mother.

In his dying words, Jesus gave Mary to John as his mother, and gave John to Mary as her son. That's why, although Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church, Mary was already its mother.

She's there for us in all our ups and downs, joys and sorrows. That's why the newly established feast of Mary as "Mother of the Church" celebrates what we've known all along: she's a "go-to person" for each one of us.

Holy Spirit of love, fill me, melt me, mould me, use me in ways that I have never imagined. Be with me. Stay with me forever.  Amen.

Today: Acts 2:1-11 Romans 8:8-17 John 14:19-26, 26-29	Monday: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14 John 15:26-34	Tuesday: 1 Kings 17:7-16 Matthew 5:13-16	Wednesday: 1 Kings 18:20-39 Matthew 5:17-19	Thursday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest (Feast): Isaiah 6:1-4, 8 or Hebrews 2:10-18; John 17:1-2, 9, 14-26	(F&S) St Columba (Colum Cille) (Feast): Colossians 1:24-29; Mark 10:17-32	Friday: 1 Kings 19:8, 11-16 Matthew 5:27-32	Saturday: Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3 Matthew 10:7-13	Next Sunday: Proverbs 8:22-31 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15
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