

## READINGS, REFLECTION AND PRAYERS FOR PENTECOST DAY

(from the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference Mass Readings <https://www.catholicbishops.ie/readings/> )

### A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 2:1-11

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When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together.

Suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind,  
and it filled the entire house in which they were.

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire,  
which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues,  
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem.

At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused  
because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

They were astounded, and in amazement they asked,

“Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?

Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?

We are Parthians, Medes, Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,  
Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene,  
as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs,  
yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.”

### The Word of the Lord.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

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**RESPONSE: LORD, SEND OUT YOUR SPIRIT, AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, you are great indeed!

How manifold are your works, O Lord! The earth is full of your creatures;

**R. LORD, SEND OUT YOUR SPIRIT, AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.**

May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord be glad in his works!

Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the LORD.

**R. LORD, SEND OUT YOUR SPIRIT, AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.**

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

**R. LORD, SEND OUT YOUR SPIRIT, AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.**

## A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

1 COR 12:3B-7, 12-13

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Brothers and sisters:

No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit.

There are different forms of service but the same Lord.

There are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

### The Word of the Lord.

#### PENTECOST DAY SEQUENCE

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, come and from your celestial home shed a ray of light divine!

Come, Father of the poor! Come, source of all our store! Come, within our bosoms shine!

You, of comforters the best. You, the soul's most welcome guest.

Sweet refreshment here below, in our labour, rest most sweet,

Grateful coolness in the heat, solace in the midst of woe.

O most blessed Light divine, Shine within these hearts of yours, and our inmost being fill!

Where you are not, we have nothing good in deed or thought, nothing free from taint of ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew. On our dryness pour your dew.

Wash the stains of guilt away. Bend the stubborn heart and will.

Melt the frozen, warm the chill. Guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful, who adore and confess you, evermore in your sevenfold gift descend.

Give them virtue's sure reward. Give them your salvation, Lord.

Give them joys that never end. Amen. Alleluia.

<p>Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.</p>
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**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 20:19-23**

On the evening of that first day of the week,  
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews,  
Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.  
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."  
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,  
"Receive the Holy Spirit.  
Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them and whose sins you retain are retained."

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**REFLECTION**

**SEEKING THE INSPIRATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

John's Gospel portrays Jesus continuing his mission in the world, no longer through his physical presence which ended with his death, but through his Spirit acting in every person and inviting all into the intimate communion of Father, Son and Spirit. How critical then it is for us to discern and respond to the Spirit's graced gifts in our lives both in these fragile circumstances of the Pandemic and as we prepare for the unknown circumstances to come!

Science and medicine have guided and protected us from the invisible, indiscriminate virus. Community organizations and our Faith, Hope and Love have informed our response to our economic, domestic, occupational, social, psychological, emotional and spiritual stresses. May the Spirit of God continue to inform how we respond and contribute to our own, our family's, our Parish's, our community organizations' and our society's recovery.

Our immediate focus may be our response to our own or others' most basic needs. Are we eating healthily and getting the exercise and sleep we need? What can we do to cover our payments and to look after our own or our family's health? Though stressed, do we still reflect on how we speak and act towards family or others and maintain our connections with relatives and friends, especially the elderly and those we know with challenges? Despite limitations upon us, are there goals and inexpensive activities for us which complement our interests, talents and capacities? Finally, have we discerned a purpose for ourselves in terms of which we can make choices imbued with our beliefs, values, morality, and our personality and creativity? May the Spirit guide us!

With a broader focus addressed to the world, a most significant Spirit-filled gift for Catholics would be our reading of Pope Francis' Encyclical 'Laudato Si', five years old on 24 May. Please don't think this suggestion is crazy or impossible. It speaks about how we have experienced

life in our world and time. It is translated into readable and beautiful English. Beginning with the basics of the relationship between creatures and the Creator, it discloses that everything is connected. It connects, realistically but respectfully, issues related to society, climate change, migration, war, poverty, and underdevelopment to underlying ethical, cultural and spiritual crises. So much can be said; what needs to be said is that we Catholics need to read it – at least twice! - and gather together to discuss it.

May the Spirit guide us!

The text is available: Google “Laudato Si Encyclical”

or [www.vatican.va/.../papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://www.vatican.va/.../papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

St Paul’s Book Shop, next to St Stephen’s Cathedral Phone 3336 9236 or online

Explore websites which come under “Laudato Si” or “Laudato Si Anniversary Year”

On this the 5th anniversary of his Encyclical “*Laudato si’: On the Care for our Common Home*,” which seeks to “call attention to the cry of the Earth and of the poor,” Pope Francis has designated 24 May 2020 until 24 May 2021 as Laudato si’ Year:

“I invite all people of goodwill to take part, to care for our common home and our most vulnerable brothers and sisters.” Francis invites all Christians to pray this special prayer:

**Loving God,**

**Creator of Heaven, Earth, and all therein contained.**

**Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we can be part of Creation, your gift.**

**Be present to those in need in these difficult times,  
especially the poorest and most vulnerable.**

**Help us to show creative solidarity  
as we confront the consequences of the global pandemic.**

**Make us courageous in embracing the changes required to seek the common good.**

**Now more than ever, may we all feel interconnected and interdependent.**

**Enable us to succeed in listening and responding  
to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.**

**May their current sufferings become the birth-pangs  
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.**

**We pray through Christ our Lord,  
under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,  
Amen.**