
PENTECOST SUNDAY – YEAR A

24th May 2026

Vestment Colour: Red

The Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh has a website that contains further resources, information and plans for Children's Liturgy for use by Children's Liturgy Leaders. A full template is available on the website.

Health & Safety: *Once you are all assembled, take a head count in case of the need to evacuate (if possible, roster of names). Candles are permitted if they are included in your risk assessment.*

Introduction:

Leader: Today, we hear that the disciples, seeing Jesus again, receive the Holy Spirit. The Disciples become bold witnesses to Jesus Christ.

The Jews celebrate the feast of Shavuot (feast of weeks) 50 days after the second day of Passover. The origine of the word Pentecost is from the Greek. The Jews celebrate the giving of the Torah (Law) at Mount Sinai. Our Christian celebration celebrates the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

The Collect:

Leader: 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.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

The Gospel Acclamation: All stand to welcome the Gospel. (*Sing to the tune of 'If You're Happy and You Know It'*)

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,

As we listen to the story,
let us praise him for his glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.

Or Say (*You can encourage the children to sing the Alleluia*).

Alleluia, Alleluia

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia

Gospel: Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary (Year A). Alternatively use an approved translation of the Bible (the ESV-CE version or Good News Bible for Children). *Do not paraphrase the Gospel; however, you may need to explain unusual or difficult words and names to the children.*

John 20:19-23

Leader: "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John".

All: "Glory to You, O Lord."

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

Leader: "The Gospel of the Lord".

All reply: "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ". Ask everyone to be seated.

Gospel Reflection: *the following are some suggestions to help with a discussion around the Gospel.*

- **Where were the disciples?** (Hiding in the upper room locked away still unsure and afraid)
- **What did Jesus say when he entered the room?** ('Peace be with you' – Jesus understood their fear and calmed them with his words)

- **What does Jesus do to the disciples?** (He breathes on them and they receive the Holy Spirit)
- **Can you think of times when the Holy Spirit comes to us today?** (Baptism, Confirmation, through receiving the sacraments in form of graces, Mass through the hearing of the Word of God and during the liturgy of the Eucharist)

If you have time you could discuss Baptism and Confirmation in more detail or perhaps the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord).

Prayers of the Faithful:

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

We now ask Our Lord to hear our prayer

Dear Jesus

We pray that all nations and people will be open to your gift of peace

All: Come Holy Spirit.

Dear Jesus

We pray that through the prays of Mary, Our Mother, we will be filled with a new zeal for your kingdom.

All: Come Holy Spirit.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Father

As you poured out the Spirit on the disciples, may He strengthen us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

*Without the Holy Spirit, God is far away....
With the Holy Spirit, the Gospel is the power of life.*

St Ignatius of Antioch