

Pentecost Year A – 31st May 2020

Preparation

- If possible arrange candles, a crucifix and a Gospel or Sunday Missal on a table.

Introduction

Today is the Feast of Pentecost. (The Jews celebrated this fifty days after the Passover). In the Gospel today, Jesus visits His disciples, who were so afraid after His death, that they locked themselves away. Jesus enters the locked room and after saying “Peace be with you”, breathes on them and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us.

An adult lights the candles.

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Especially when our daily routines are different just now. Have you shown patience to those around you? Have you been kind and helpful even when you don't feel like it and it's difficult?

Lead the children in singing the “Sorry Song”.

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

(To the Tune of Frere Jacques)

Gloria (Sung)

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship You, we give You thanks,
we praise You for Your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ,

only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
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 the Father.

Amen

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

(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.

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel According to St. John

All say "Glory to You Oh Lord" while making a cross on your forehead, on your lips and on your heart.

John 20:19-23 (refer to) <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children's> liturgy

Finish by saying: The Gospel of the Lord

All reply : Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Ask the children what they remember about today's Gospel?

What were the disciples doing? (They were hiding in a locked room).

Why were they doing this? (They were afraid that the people who crucified Jesus would come after them and attack them also as they knew they were friends of Jesus).

How do you think the disciples were feeling without Jesus?(They were afraid, worried, confused and very sad).

How do you think they felt when Jesus came in to the locked room?(They were maybe scared at first)

What did Jesus say to the disciples? Jesus said:

"Peace be with you. As God has sent me to you, now I am sending you to others". (1)

What happened next? (Jesus showed them His hands and His side so that they knew it was really Him).

Then what happened?

Jesus breathed on his disciples and said;

"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (1)

What the disciples were experiencing was the Holy Spirit coming to them for the first time. When did we receive the Holy Spirit the first time? (This was when we were Baptised. Discuss the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation with the children).

After the disciples received the Holy Spirit, they are no longer afraid and go out and tell others about Jesus and how He has risen from the dead, and if we live lives of love as Jesus showed us, we will join Him in Heaven when we die.

The Holy Spirit gives us seven gifts:

Joy, Love, Patience, Kindness, Understanding, Reverence and Courage.
These were given to the disciples and to us to help us to spread the message of Jesus.

Discuss with the children how they can use these gifts in their everyday lives.

Prayers of the Faithful

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

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Strengthen us today that we may use each gift wisely and share the talents you have given us with others.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Lord Jesus,

Strengthen us with the Holy Spirit and give us courage to do what is right even when this is not easy.

Lord in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Closing Prayer

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

For Parents or Carers reading this at home, there are some further resources on the Archdiocesan website including some craft ideas to prepare in advance to help with reflection or enjoy afterwards

(1) Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children. (Year A).Sr. Paule Freeburg. Treehaus Communications Inc .P.64

