

Pentecost, Year A- 28th May 2023

Introduction

Today we celebrate Pentecost. The Jews celebrated this fifty days after the Passover. We are told how Jesus fulfilled his promise of sending his Holy Spirit to the disciples.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights the candles).

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Ask them if they have always been kind and helpful to others, obedient to their parents, listened to their teachers etc.

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.

(sung to tune of Frere Jacques)

Gloria (sung)

Choose a children’s version of the Gloria from one of our listed Children’s Liturgy Resource books, or you may have another CL resource. You will probably want to practice your chosen Gloria and use it every week so that everyone becomes familiar with it.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia. Jesus prayed, for us all,
“Peace be with you! Receive the Holy Spirit.”
Alleluia, Alleluia.

(same tune as above)

In addition to the Gospel today read the First Reading p 62. Acts 2:1-8,11b.

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children’s Lectionary. This week it’s on page 63. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children.” (Year A)

John 20:19-23

“A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John”.

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart (in this way we think God’s word, speak God’s word and keep God’s word in our hearts) **as we say together “Glory to You, O Lord.”**

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

“The Gospel of the Lord”.

All reply: **“Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ”**. Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

In today’s Gospel, What did the disciples experience as they were celebrating the feast of Pentecost?

(There was a strong wind and the room filled with flames above each of their heads)

How do you think this made them feel?

(Scared, worried, maybe they knew straight away that it was Jesus. Allow the children to offer their responses and discuss these with them)

What the disciples were experiencing was the Holy Spirit coming to them for the first time. When do people receive the Holy Spirit for the first time now?

(Discuss the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and what happens/What they think happened at this special time)

Why did Jesus send the Holy Spirit?

(To show that he would always be with us, he would never leave us)

Jesus left us with Gifts of the Holy Spirit; Joy, Love, Patience, Kindness, Understanding, Reverence and Courage. Discuss with the children how they can use these gifts in their everyday lives.

Prayers of the Faithful (optional/ time dependent)

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves 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,

Help us to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit, that you have given to us. May we always strive to show your love with everybody we meet.

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.

Now, ask for volunteers for the Offertory Procession. After the procession, children return quietly to sit with their families in church.