

A short para-liturgy to  
Celebrate Pentecost- The Birthday of the Church

Prayer Focus

*A Red cloth on prayer focus- Red reminds us of the Holy Spirit that appeared above the heads of the Apostles.*

*An open bible- Acts 2:1-11*

*'Flames' Made from card*

*'Come, Holy Spirit'*

*Flowers*

*Candles*

*Different words for Church in different languages to represent the global Church.*

We Gather –

*You may wish to use a hymn or piece of music to set the scene. If you are able to sing together, Shine Jesus Shine would be particularly appropriate for this time of prayer. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXF5\\_oUI5zs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXF5_oUI5zs) Holy Spirit Come could be used as the children gather for the time of prayer.*

Reader 1:

We gather together as the family of God, united in faith, hope and love

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*

*Amen*

Reader 2:

We celebrated on Sunday the Birthday of the Church. The Apostles are gathered together in the upper room. They were afraid and sad that their friend Jesus had ascended into heaven. When the Holy Spirit descended upon them they were filled with courage and strength. Jesus had promised not to leave them alone. The Holy Spirit was present with them, allowing them to speak with God's words. We give thanks for this great gift during our time of prayer today. It is the Church's birthday because it is from Pentecost that the Disciples went out to spread the Good News throughout the whole world.

**Reader 3:**

We turn to God now in prayer:

*On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' friends with peace and hope.*

*Come, Holy Spirit and bring us peace in our hearts, our homes, our schools and our world.*

*Make we be friends of Jesus and friends of each other.*

*Amen*

**Reader 4:** *This video could be used for younger children:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKy1Mx49M>

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language.

They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God Liturgical Dance -

We pray together -

Holy Spirit, fill us with your energy and excitement- *Come, Holy Spirit!*

Holy Spirit, give us courage to speak your Good News – *Come, Holy Spirit!*

Holy Spirit, heal the sick, comfort the sad, fill us with hope- *Come, Holy Spirit!*

Holy Spirit, let your love and peace be in the hearts of all - *Come, Holy Spirit!*

Holy Spirit, break down all barriers that separate us- *Come, Holy Spirit!*

*Holy Spirit, help us see Jesus in all those we meet- Come, Holy Spirit!*

*Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us forever- Come, Holy Spirit!*

The day after Pentecost is the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church. We turn to Mary now, asking her to take our needs and the needs of the whole world to Her Son as we say:

*Hail Mary,  
Full of Grace,  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary,  
Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now,  
and at the hour of our death.  
Amen*

As we go now to our daily work, may the Spirit come to us in new and exciting ways:

*All: as a gentle whisper, in dreams, in silence, in prayer;*

As a strong wind, in lives filled with love and compassion;

*All: as a mighty storm, in cheerful hearts of joy.*

So let us go now, filled with the Spirit all our days!

*All: Amen*

May the Lord bless us and keep us safe

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*

*Amen*

## *Pentecost Prayer Stations*

These simple prayer stations are based around symbols of the Spirit—oil, water, fire and wind. There are prayers/reflections to accompany each action. Obviously, some of these stations may need to be adapted because of COVID restrictions!

### Oil –

*You'll need: A bowl of perfumed oil, such as aromatherapy massage oil.*

Sit or stand and close your eyes. Wait for the scent to reach you. It is invisible but we sense its presence with us. Thank God that he is always with us through his invisible Spirit, even though we can't see him with our eyes.

Choose to invite God's Holy Spirit into your life today and, as a sign of your invitation, smooth a little of the oil on to your wrist.

### Water –

*You'll need: a sand tray or tray of dry compost or stones to represent a barren desert, a bucket of water surrounded by lush greenery like pot plants, and plenty of small waterproof bowls or pots.*

The Holy Spirit brings life to dead places, just as water brings life to a barren desert. What part of your life or which place or situation or relationship is dry and dead like the desert? Ask God to make his Spirit flood into that place like a spring of fresh water.

Fill a small bowl with water and place it in the desert as a sign of your prayer.

### Fire –

*You'll need: some flame shapes cut out from red / orange card or tissue paper and a set of photos of familiar local places - schools, shops, your church building, the playground, etc—and worldwide ones of different countries.*

The Holy Spirit brings fire, energy and passion to places and people who were dull or loveless and afraid. Pray for people and places around you, by placing a flame on the place or places you would like God's Spirit to set alight with his love and courage.

### Wind –

*You'll need: a bowl of bubble mixture and several bubble wands.*

*Ideally, situate this near a warm air source like a heating vent to give the bubbles more buoyancy. (You could do this activity with helium balloons, but make sure you can get them down afterwards...)*

God's Spirit can lift a situation or relationship and take it to a new level, filled with life and hope. Hold such a situation before God now and breathe out your concern for the people involved by blowing into a bubble-wand and watching the bubble take on a life of its own.