



Send Forth your Spirit, O Lord!

**PRAYERS AT HOME
FOR A FRESH OUTPOURING
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Preparing for Pentecost 2021

Day I: Waiting for the Spirit

Friday 21st May, 2021

A Prayer Ritual at Home

Gather around the prayer space with the other members of your household. Place in the prayer space a bowl of water as a reminder of baptism – the day we became a Christian. Add pictures of family baptisms and an unlit baptismal candle(s) or one of the most beautiful candles you have in your house. These candles should remain unlit until Pentecost Day.

For the ritual action (below) prepare a small glass or cup to symbolise drawing anew the life-giving presence of the Spirit.

As We Begin to Pray

Pause in silence for a moment to become aware of God's presence.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, today we begin three days of prayer as we await a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost. Help us to calm our minds and our hearts. Give us a greater appreciation of the wonders of the world around us, of our very existence and the blessing of family and friends. Renew in us a sense that we have been called by Jesus, baptised into his followers and commissioned to do some good in life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

From Sacred Scripture - Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, *Theophilus*, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. While at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is', he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but, not many days from now, **you are going to be baptised with the Holy Spirit.** (*Acts 1*)

Reflection

More than a century ago, a great sailing ship was stranded off the coast of South America. Week after week the ship lay there in the still waters with not a hint of a breeze. The captain was desperate; the crew was dying of thirst. And then, on the far horizon, a steamship appeared, headed directly toward them. As it drew near, the captain called out, "We need water! Give us water!" The steamship replied, "Lower your buckets where you are." The captain was furious at this cavalier response but called out again, "Please, give us water." But the steamer gave the same reply, "Lower your buckets where you are!" And with that they sailed away! The captain was beside himself with anger and despair, and he went below. But a little later, when no one was looking, a yeoman lowered a bucket into the sea and then tasted what he brought up: It was perfectly sweet, fresh water! For you see, the ship was just out of sight of the mouth of the Amazon. And for all those weeks they had been sitting right on top of all the fresh water they needed! What we are really seeking is already inside us, waiting to be discovered, waiting to be embraced: The Holy Spirit of God, living within us from the moment of our Baptism. The Holy Spirit is saying to us at this very moment from deep in our heart, "Lower your buckets where you are. Taste and see!" Come, Holy Spirit! Fill our hearts and set us on fire! Amen. *(Rev. Antony Kadavil)*

Ritual Action

To the prayer space, add a glass or cup to symbolise drawing anew from the life-giving presence of the Spirit.

Intercessions

We take a moment to bring before God our needs and the needs of the world at this time:

We pray for all people in this time of Pandemic; we pray for those who are sick because of Covid-19; those who have died and their families.

We pray for our medical staff; our priests; our political leaders; our scientists.

We pray in particular for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost – that the Holy Spirit will dwell anew in our hearts and bring to our lives the gifts and fruits of his presence.

Add your own intercessions at this time.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Our Father ...

Prayer

Let us Pray (Pause for Silent Prayer)

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord and renew the face of the earth.

Come Holy Spirit. Make our ears to hear. Make our eyes to see. Make our mouths to speak. Make our hearts to seek. Make our hands to reach out and touch the world with your love. Amen

Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us; The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us; The Lord turn his face toward us and give us his peace both now and forever. Amen

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Call to Action

Read a little more of Acts of the Apostles from the Bible. Begin to think about how the Holy Spirit might work in your life. Put a red ribbon or a cut-out of a dove on your door to show to others you are preparing for Pentecost. Post a picture of your prayer space on social media or share this prayer service.





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