



**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

***Pentecost***

**Gospel Reading**

**John 14.8-17**

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

**The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

<sup>15</sup> 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. <sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

**25-27**

<sup>25</sup> 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

**Other Readings: Acts 2.1-21 or Genesis 11.1-9**

**Psalms 104.26-36, 37b**

**Romans 8.14-17 or Acts 2.1-21**

**Homily**

Imagine the congregation of a church being accused of being drunk before 9am! It would raise quite a few eyebrows and questions, and maybe hit the headlines on Look North.

Yet the early disciples faced this accusation after the extraordinary days that spanned the Crucifixion to the Ascension. After being told to wait for the Holy Spirit, they received it with such power and joy that they were accused of indulging in something worldly, rather than godly.

Pentecost raises an important question: What were this frightened group of people—and what are we—to make of this strange event?

Regardless of outward appearances, it marked the birth of the Church.

Jesus had prepared his followers for this moment, even if they didn't fully understand his teachings. In today's Gospel, Philip makes an obvious request: "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied." He believed seeing God would clarify all of Jesus' seemingly obscure teachings. Jesus gently corrects Philip, pointing out that Philip has seen the Father in seeing him. He emphasises, "I am in the Father, and the Father is in me." If they struggle to believe this, Jesus urges them to trust in the works he has done—his miracles, teachings, and interactions with his followers.

What the disciples do not yet realise is that the promise of the Holy Spirit signifies the closing of one door—Jesus's earthly life and ministry—but importantly opens another door—the empowerment of a new and uncertain gathering of believers in Jesus, which will give rise to a Church that will spread throughout the world.

Jesus will depart, but the Holy Spirit will come. When the Spirit arrives, we can receive two key features.

Firstly, there is nurture and empowerment. The Holy Spirit's empowering presence helps the disciples—and now us—live faithful lives, immersed in the reality of God the Father's love.

Secondly, the Holy Spirit is the 'Spirit of truth,' who teaches and enables the community to remember all that Jesus has taught. This community will need to understand this truth, which carries a warning that it will not be easy. This holds as true now as it did then. The Holy Spirit provides us with the motivation and desire to safeguard and share our faith with others.

I see signs of the Spirit everywhere: in the Eucharist and baptisms, in how congregations, parish council members, and churchwardens work diligently to keep the church open and services running with welcome and hospitality. I see it in the tenacity of our clergy, who continue to proclaim the Gospel through thick and thin. I observe it in the lives of Christians in secular employment who reach out with the values of our faith, and even in the darkest places in the world, where hope appears lost.

A well-known inscription on the walls of a Nazi concentration camp from the 1940s resonates here:

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

I believe in love even when I cannot feel it.

I believe in God, even when he is silent.

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost makes all of this possible. Today, we thank God for him.

### Conversation Questions

1. Is there anything else from the passage not already discussed that speaks to you?  
What is it?
2. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today? #everydayfaith

### Prayer

Spend some time in prayer, responding to what you have heard today and listening to what God might be saying to you.

### Collect of the day

*God, who as at this time  
taught the hearts of your faithful people  
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:  
grant us by the same Spirit  
to have a right judgement in all things  
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;  
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.*

*(or)*

*Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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