

Pentecost-Whitsunday message and prayers

Pentecost Sunday, as the name suggests, comes fifty days after Easter Day. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church of Christ. On this day the Holy Spirit filled the apostles with wisdom, love and power and they began to build the community of the Church. The Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2, describes the event in terms of a rushing wind – the breath of God – and tongues like fire – symbols of the preaching of the gospel and the fire of inspiration and purification. The Jewish Pentecost (fifty days after the Passover) was a harvest festival, so the Christian Pentecost represents the gathering together – the harvest – of Christ's people throughout the world. The name Whitsunday (White Sunday) probably comes from the early tradition of newly baptised adults wearing white robes for church on this day. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to every Christian, bringing wisdom, love and strength, and is received through Baptism and Confirmation. But the Holy Spirit is then received continually through prayer, worship and Holy Communion. At this time and at all times, we can make this prayer our own: 'Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your waiting people, and kindle in us the fire of your love!'

Pentecost Sunday

'O God, who 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 the Spirit's holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.'

Monday to Saturday after Pentecost

'O God, from whom all good things come, grant to us your unworthy servants, that by your holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by your merciful guiding may put them into action; through Christ our Lord. Amen.'

During the Pandemic

'Merciful God, we entrust to your unfailing care all those who are suffering from pain or grief at this challenging time, especially those we know and love. Comfort and heal, restore to health and strength, all those in need; guide and support all who care for them; give wisdom and insight to those working for a cure; through the great Healer, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'

The Lord's Prayer. +The Grace.

dr.paul.avis@gmail.com