

Pentecost Sunday Year C

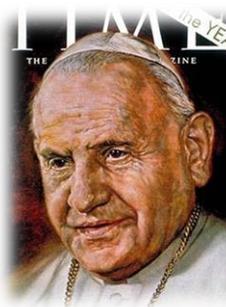
A couple of weeks ago, parishioners were delighted to be able to celebrate Canon Alan's birthday. It is important to celebrate birthdays as they give us an opportunity to reflect on all the goodness and love we have received over our lifetime. We remember, we celebrate, we believe.

In a similar way, today is an opportunity to celebrate the birthday of the Church. Jesus had promised his friends that they would receive power from on high and they should wait in the city until they were clothed with the Holy Spirit.



Tradition says that the apostles were not on their own in the room at Pentecost. Mary, the mother of Jesus and other friends, male and female, gathered with them. As it says in the Acts of the Apostles, "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus."

At Vatican Council II, Pope John XXIII said



I want to throw open the windows of the Church so that we can see out and the people can see in.

— Pope John XXIII —

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In doing so, he enabled the Holy Spirit to enter that Vatican Council and renew the face of the Church. Some people felt that the reforms of Vatican Council reduced their power base and were uncertain about allowing the Holy Spirit in. It is important that we continue to listen to the Holy Spirit so that we can be the voice of the poor; the voice of the sick; the voice of those hurt by the institutional church; the voice of

the oppressed; the voice of the abused; the voice of the lonely. This is what Pentecost is about - allowing the Holy Spirit of love, who emanates from the Godhead of the Trinity in relationship, to enter our hearts.



In more recent times, Pope Francis said:

“The Holy Spirit is the fire of love burning in the Church and in our hearts. Spirit of God, who dwell in my heart and in the heart of the Church, guiding and shaping her in diversity, come! Like water, we need you to live. Come down upon us anew, teach us unity, renew our hearts and teach us to love as you love us, to forgive as you forgive. Amen.”

In the scriptures, we hear that Peter and the others, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke to all who would listen, telling them all about Jesus. So Pentecost became a marker in history – the moment that the Church was born. So, on the birthday of the Church, we pray:

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.*

*O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise
and ever enjoy His consolations,
Through Christ Our Lord, Amen*

