

## PENTECOST VIGIL ~ MONDAY

*Come Holy Spirit and fill the Hearts of your Faithful!*



Dear brothers & sisters, we have now begun our Pentecost Vigil, after the example of the Apostles & disciples, who with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, persevered in prayer, awaiting the Spirit promised by the Lord; like them, let us, too, listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God.

Let us meditate on how many great deeds God in times past did for his people & let us pray that the Holy Spirit, whom the Father sent as the first fruits for those who believe, may bring to perfection his work in the world.

(Roman Missal)

*Spirit of God, on the waste and the darkness  
hov'ring in power as creation began,  
drawing forth beauty from clay and from chaos,  
breathing God's life in the nostrils of man.*

*Come and sow life in the waste of our being,  
pray in us, form us as sons in the Son.  
Open our hearts to yourself, mighty Spirit,  
bear us to life in the Three who are One.*

### Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth." But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

All our readings over these coming days, are taken from the Vigil of Pentecost. We begin by listening to the book of Genesis. The story of Babel concludes the dramatic history of creation, and although it is three thousand years old, it still has an important message for us today. When reflecting on the history of Israel, the Old Testament writers were not so much concerned about what had happened, but how and why something happened and they were particularly concerned about humankind – their dignity as lords over creation and yet their propensity to revolt against God. The story of Babel is very similar to the fall of Adam and Eve when there is an attempt to oust God – '*We no longer need God. We can do perfectly well without him. Thank you.*' God doesn't so much punish the the people, but by throwing them into confusion, he seeks to protect them from themselves – from getting to high and mighty. The events of Pentecost responds to the tragedy of Babel. The Spirit of God will gather the far-flung peoples together, creating one family. The Holy Spirit makes God present to us, enabling us to know Him and to love Him. "You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." (St Augustine)

*Is God the centre of my life?*

*Is God the beginning and end of all that I say and do?*

**All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ send your Holy Spirit upon us to be our helper and guide. Give us the spirit of wisdom, and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill us with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. Amen.**

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### **Pentecost Reflection ~ St Cyril of Jerusalem (315 – 386)**

*‘The water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’ This is a new kind of water, living, welling up, welling up for those who are worthy. Why did he call the grace of the Spirit water? Because all things depend on water. Water produces herbs and living things. Water comes down from heaven as rain: water always comes down in the same form, yet it’s effects are manifold - thus it takes one form in the palm tree and another in the vine; it is in all things and takes all forms, though it is uniform and always remains itself. For the rain does not change, coming down now as one thing and now as another, but it adapts itself to the nature of the things which receive it and it becomes what is appropriate to each.*

*Similarly with the Holy Spirit... he uses the tongue of one man for wisdom, he illuminates the soul of another by prophecy, to another he imparts the power of driving out devils, to another the gift of interpreting the sacred scriptures; he strengthens the self control of one man, teaches another the nature of alms giving, to another to fast and mortify himself, another to despise the things of the body; he prepares another man for martyrdom. He acts differently in different men while himself remaining unchanged, as it is written: ‘To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.’*

