

## PENTECOST VIGIL ~ WEDNESDAY

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



O God, who have brought us to rebirth by the word of life, pour out upon us your Holy Spirit, that, walking in oneness of faith, we may attain in our flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me  
Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me*

### **Ezekiel 37: 1-14**

**The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Lord, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'" So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.**

**Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore prophecy and say to them: 'This is what the Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.'"**

As I settle to pray, I ask that the Holy Spirit may open me to God's Word. Much of the Prophet Ezekiel's ministry was among the exiles in Babylon, first among those exiled in 597 BC and later among those exiled after the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 BC. He had a very important role to play in preparing the people for the future that awaited them if they would only turn to God in their time of trial. After the fall of Jerusalem, with the destruction of the Temple, Ezekiel had to show the people that this was not the end. God would restore them to life. This is the powerful image that we have in today's reading. The people are more than dead. They are bones completely dried out. All life and hope had gone. But at the command of God and at the invocation of the spirit, the bones come to life – a vast army is raised up. There are overtones of the story of creation: "God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being." (Genesis 2: 7)

At Pentecost, with the coming of God's Holy Spirit, we, who were dead through sin, are raised to new life. We reap the rewards of the Jesus' suffering

and death, so much so, that Paul is able to say, 'I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me' (Galatians 2: 20) The Holy Spirit, the living breath of God, breathes new life into each one of us.

Let us be open to God's breath this Pentecost.

Let us feel his energy and vitality.

May it lift us out of our gloom and uncertainty.

Free us from small niggling sins and destructive habits.

May the Spirit turn us from ourselves to the splendour of God.

**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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### **Second Vatican Council -**

#### **On the mission of the Holy Spirit in the Church**

When the work which the Father had given the Son to do on earth was accomplished, the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost that he might forever sanctify the Church. In this way all believers would have access to the Father through Christ in the one Spirit. He is the Spirit of life, a fountain of water springing up to eternal life. Through him the Father gives life to all who are dead from sin, till at last he revives in Christ even their mortal bodies.

The Spirit dwells in the Church and in the hearts of the faithful as in a temple. In them he prays and witnesses to the fact that they are adopted sons and daughters. Guiding her into all truth and uniting her in Communion and service, he bestows upon her various gifts, both hierarchic and charismatic, and adorns her with the fruits of his grace. By the power of the gospel he allows the Church to keep the freshness of youth, and leads her to perfect union with her spouse. The Spirit and the bride (Church) both say to the Lord Jesus: 'Come!'

Thus, the Church shines forth as a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.