

Pentecost

SOLEMNITY

Pope's prayer intention for June

Evangelisation: That priests, through the modesty and humility of their lives, commit themselves actively to a solidarity with those who are more poor.

BE STILL

- Take a moment to allow whatever is in your heart to rise and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Lord today.
- Sing, play or listen to '[Abide, O Spirit of life](#)' by David Haas.

THIS WEEK

- Monday 10 June: The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church (memorial)
- Tuesday 11 June: St Barnabas, apostle (memorial)
- Thursday 13 June: St Anthony of Padua (memorial)

Gathering prayer:

Sit with the words of the gospel acclamation for Pentecost Sunday:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever.

If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.'

—John 14:15–16, 23–26

The Gospel of the Lord.

Ponder:

Re-read the gospel. Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) noted that in the presence of God, during a recollected reading of the text, it is good to practice *lectio divina*—the reading of God's word in prayer asking that it 'enlighten and renew' us. The following questions may help with this:

- Lord, what does this text mean to me?
- What is it about my life that you want me to change in response to this text?
- What troubles me about this text?
- Why am I not interested in this?
- What do I find pleasant about this text?
- What is it about this word that moves me?
- What attracts me?
- Why does it attract me?

Reflect:

Pope Francis writes:

A Christian without memory is not a true Christian but only halfway there: a man or woman, a prisoner of the moment, who doesn't know how to treasure his or her history, doesn't know how to read it and live it as salvation history. With the help of the Holy Spirit, however, we are able to interpret interior inspirations and life events in light of Jesus' words. And thus within us grows the knowledge of memory, knowledge of the heart, which is a gift of the Spirit. May the Holy Spirit rekindle the Christian memory within all of us!

—Pope Francis, *Walking with Jesus: A Way Forward for the Church*

Perhaps this week offers the opportunity to reflect on how the wisdom of the Spirit is alive and active in our lives and in our world. And perhaps it is also a reminder to us that when we find it difficult to see the work of the Spirit in our lives, we can trust in our sacred memory and be confident that yes, even in the midst of suffering and disappointment, the Spirit is present.

So as we move forward from the great feast of Pentecost, may we build upon the work of our earliest ancestors and share with them the profound sense that in the midst of it all, the Spirit continues to breathe life into this world of ours. And may the Spirit of Pentecost bless us with courage and peace and breathe new energy into the work of the church, enabling us to continue to show the face of the Good News—Jesus.

PRAY

Reflect on the words of the Pentecost sequence:

Holy Spirit, Lord of Light
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which
endure;
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in us will stay;
All our good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength
renew;
On our dryness pour thy dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray

Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend:

Give us comfort when we die;
Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.