

Parish of Ribbleton

St. Mary Magdalene (SMM) The Ascension (ASC) -Longsands (LS)

Sunday 31st May
Pentecost

Alleluia, alleluia.

There are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit. Alleluia.

There are varieties of service but the same Lord. Alleluia.

We are all brought into one body by baptism in the one Spirit. Alleluia

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God, who as 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 his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

FIRST READING (Acts 2:1-21)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.
Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.
They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.
All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.
Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.
When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.
Utterly amazed, they asked:
'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?
Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?
Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs – we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!'

Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?'
Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'
Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:
'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.
These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!
No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:
"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.
Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.
I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"



RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 104:26-37)

The response to the Psalm is:

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number,
both small and great. **R/**

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.

When you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth. **R/**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.
So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord.
Let sinners be consumed out of the earth
and the wicked be no more. **R/**

SECOND READING (1 Corinthians 12:3-13)

Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,

to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,

to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,

and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

GOSPEL (John 20:19-23)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said,

'Peace be with you!'

After he said this, he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said,

'Peace be with you!'

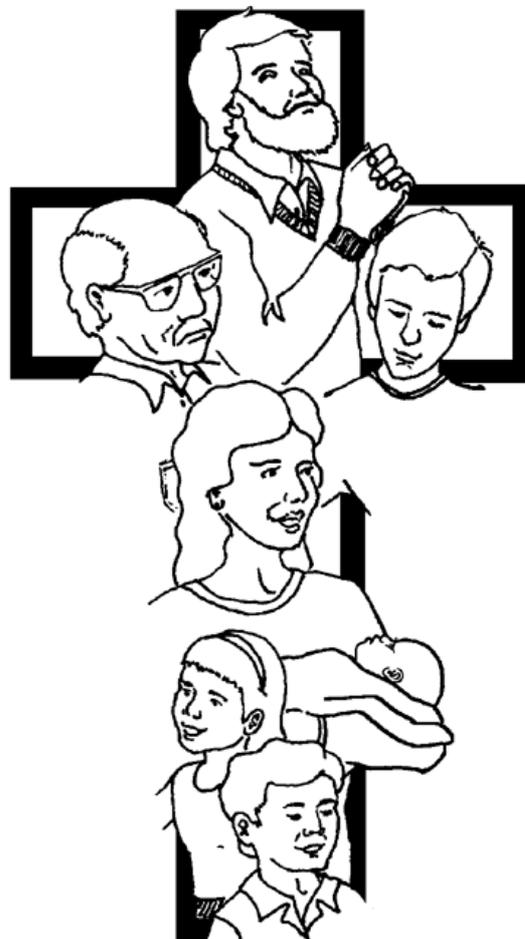
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'

And with that he breathed on them and said,

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven;

if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'



Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body

Sunday Reflection

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Pentecost – Locked Down with the Holy Spirit

It's Pentecost – Whit Sunday.

To the Jews, Pentecost was the fiftieth day after Passover.

To Christians, it's the fiftieth day of Easter.

It's our celebration of the day when the disciples discovered, much to their total amazement, that all that Jesus had been to them, they could be to others.

That they too could be signs of God's loving presence in the world.

That just as the Spirit had flowed out through Jesus, so it was flowing out through them too.

Today the Church celebrates its birthday.

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, not just to those first disciples, but to all of us.

The birthday gift that makes us what we are: God's people, God's family, God's Church.

Through us, God's Spirit can flow out, making us too a sign of his loving presence.

But this Pentecost is strange.

When St Luke writes about that first Pentecost, in the second chapter of Acts, he begins by telling us that 'they were all gathered together'.

Don't we find it easiest to recognise the Holy Spirit when we're with other people?

We worship together, we laugh together or we comfort one another.

We share news and concerns together.

We work together.

And it's in the times we're together that we're most often aware of God's presence through his Spirit.

This year we can't meet.

Even as some of the restrictions begin to be eased, many of us will choose to stay apart until we can be much surer that we and our friends are safe.

We miss that regular assurance of the Spirit in our services, our singing and praying together, our conversations.

But the Spirit can be found in solitude too.

In the times when we're on our own, silent, puzzled or anxious, we each have within us a quiet place where the Holy Spirit makes his home.

Think back to Lent, and Jesus' time of testing, alone in the wilderness.

It's easy to miss the fact that it was the Holy Spirit that led Jesus into the desert to be tempted.

To face all the hard questions about his mission.

To work out what it meant to announce and represent God's loving presence.

There were tough challenges, but Jesus met them in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In this tough time of lock-down, of shielding, of isolation and anxiety, we too are tested.

But as Jesus did, so can we look into that place where the Holy Spirit lives deep within ourselves.

The world we return to will have changed, but we can return to it strengthened and made new.

Father Chris

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Intercessions

Breathe on your Church, O God. Refresh and revive us with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Fill us with your gifts that your glory may be proclaimed throughout the world.

Renew and refresh those who you have called to lead your church and to proclaim your gospel to all people, among them our bishops - Julian, Jill and Philip.

Comfort and bless all who live in fear and danger because of their faith: we hold before you the Christian communities of Egypt, Pakistan and Nigeria.

We ask your blessing on Fr Keith, Fr Chris, Captain David and Linda, and on our parish wardens, Ron and Jacqueline. Support and encourage them as they serve our parish and inspire us to work with them in prayer and action.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Breathe on your creation, O God. Renew your works by your holy and life-giving Spirit, that peace may spread from shore to shore, and all creation unite to sing your praises.

Inspire all who hold positions of power and authority in the nations with the grace to see the needs and problems of your world through the eyes of love, hope, justice and mercy.

Open our eyes to the reality of the needs of the poor and hungry and to the comfort of our own lives.

Give us the grace and the courage to abandon prejudice and to build bridges of reconciliation.

We hold before you those who live in fear and turmoil - remembering the people of Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan - and the many thousands who live in uncertainty in refugee camps.

We pray also for those struggling to rebuild their lives after the devastation of floods and cyclones, and all affected by the coronavirus pandemic, especially where medical and health care resources are scarce.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Breathe on the people of your making, O God. Unite us by your holy and life-giving Spirit, into one family and fellowship rejoicing in the wonders of your love.

We pray for our parish and our communities. May your Spirit of loving kindness fill our homes, schools and places of work. By your grace, may family rifts be healed and conflicts resolved.

Support and encourage those of our neighbours who struggle with the demands and needs of daily life, those without homes or work and those needing to use the Community Pantry and foodbanks.

We pray for those who work in our schools and child care settings, as they make decisions about re-opening. We ask your protection for them and the children they care for,

We ask your blessing on those who serve our communities, providing health and social care, working in shops, and cleaning our streets.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Breathe on all who are sick or frail, afraid or weary, O God. Refresh them with the living waters that flow from your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Comfort those who are close to death and those who mourn their loss.

Bless and protect those who work in our hospitals and emergency services, and those caring for the elderly and vulnerable at home or in residential care.

We hold before you those who need your healing touch in their lives: those suffering from covid-19, those known to us, and those named on our prayer list. May your Spirit fill and renew them.

Open our hearts to those who feel alone in their troubles and grant them the comfort of your presence.

May your Holy Spirit touch all our lives bringing wholeness and well-being.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Breathe on all who have died, O God. Bring them to eternal life by the power of your holy and life-giving Spirit. May they be given merciful judgement and welcomed into the glory of heaven.

We remember those who have been killed this week in the ongoing disasters and conflicts of our world.

We pray for those in our parish who have died recently, and those whose anniversary of death is around this time

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Breathe on us, O God. Renew and refresh us with the power of your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Hear now the silent prayers of our hearts for ourselves and those we love.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

If you would like to sing:

Breathe on me breath of God

<https://youtu.be/elu0nuPX4Us>

Love divine all loves excelling

<https://youtu.be/qwHxRxER650>

Spirit of the living God

<https://youtu.be/GK-O5nfL1Mo>

bonus track:

We are one in the spirit

<https://youtu.be/cEwb51LawAI>

Readings for Sunday 7th June
Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40:12-17&27-31; Psalm 8;
2Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

It's Pentecost!

Did you remember to display your Pentecost flame in your window or to make yourself a flame headband? Have you taken a photo and added it to our Face Book page as a comment under "Ribbleton Aflame"? - Parish of Ribbleton, St Mary Magdalene

More resources are on our website

<https://www.parihofribbleton.com>

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