

Pentecost Novena

The Pentecost Novena is the first of all novenas, nine days of prayer that naturally fall between the Ascension of the Lord Jesus into heaven and the feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles “together with several women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers” whom we are told had been in continuous prayer since their return to Jerusalem from Mt. Olivet (Acts 1:14). When on that day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit comes it is in fulfilment of the promise of Jesus last repeated just before his Ascension to the Father. (Luke 24:49).

“The pious exercise of the Pentecost novena, widely practised among the faithful, emerged from prayerful reflection on this salvific event.

“Indeed, this novena is already present in the Missal and in the Liturgy of the Hours, especially in the second vespers of Pentecost: the biblical and eucological (prayer) texts, in different ways, recall the disciples' expectation of the Paraclete. Where possible, the Pentecost novena should consist of the solemn celebration of vespers. Where such is not possible, the novena should try to reflect the liturgical themes of the days from Ascension to the Vigil of Pentecost.¹

On 15th May 1897, Pope Leo XIII gave to the Church the first major teaching document (at least in modern times) on the Holy Spirit in which he declared: “We decree and command that throughout the whole Catholic Church, this year and in every subsequent year, a novena shall take place before Whit-Sunday (Pentecost), in all parish churches.”²

The two threads that run through this novena are i. the passages from the gospels in which Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit accompanying the disciples after his passion, resurrection and departure from them, and ii. a brief consideration of the Gifts of the Spirit (Isaiah 11:2). These seven days are begun with the briefest consideration of prayer and concluded with a reflection on Mary who was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit so many years earlier. The pattern and much of the text remains for the same each day, but the focus changes. Many of the ‘Church Teaches’ readings are from the encyclical *Spiritus Paraclitus* (The Holy Spirit the Comforter) of P. Benedict XV a hundred years ago on St. Jerome whose 1600 anniversary this year has been part of the prompt behind the **2020 God Who Speaks** project of the Church in England and Wales.

¹ DPP No. 155

² DIM No. 13

Pentecost Novena – Day 1
Friday after Ascension - Prayer

Introduction

The Gospels give us glimpses of Jesus' prayer in solitude, with his disciples and in the practice of his Jewish faith. In them all there is the uniting of his human heart to the mystery of the will of the Father – a prayer that at its climax becomes the source of salvation to all who obey him (cf. Hebrews 5:7-9) In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus teaches his disciples to pray (Mt.6:7-15), not just with a formula, but with a simple structure and few words that is like his own prayer. Before his death and in the Garden his closest disciples could not stay awake to pray with him, but now after his Ascension they are faithful to prayer in the temple as well as the upper room. That fidelity yields its fruit and prepares for the birth of the Church.

Invitation to Praise

✠ Let us bless our Heavenly Father, source of every perfect gift.

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless Christ, wellspring of every blessing

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life

✠ Glory to you forever

Greeting³

Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth,
present everywhere and filling all things
treasure of all good and source of all life,
come dwell in us, cleanse and save us,
you who are All-good.

Reading

Acts 1:10-14

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

³ CCC. No.2671

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women Mary the mother of Jesus and his brothers.

After the Reading⁴

✠ Spirit of wisdom and understanding

✠ Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful.

✠ Spirit of counsel and fortitude. ✠

✠ Spirit of knowledge and piety. ✠

✠ Spirit fear of the Lord. ✠

The Church Teaches⁵

A Reading from the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudate et Exsultate* of P. Francis
Finally, though it may seem obvious, we should remember that holiness consists in an habitual openness to the transcendent, expressed in prayer and adoration. The saints are distinguished by a spirit of prayer and a need for communion with God. They find an exclusive concern with this world to be narrow and stifling, and, amid their own concerns and commitments, they long for God, losing themselves in praise and contemplation of the Lord. I do not believe in holiness without prayer, even though that prayer need not be lengthy or involve intense emotions.

Saint John of the Cross tells us: "Endeavour to remain always in the presence of God, either real, imaginative, or unitive, insofar as is permitted by your works". In the end, our desire for God will surely find expression in our daily lives: "Try to be continuous in prayer, and in the midst of bodily exercises do not leave it. Whether you eat, drink, talk with others, or do anything, always go to God and attach your heart to him".

For this to happen, however, some moments spent alone with God are also necessary. For Saint Teresa of Avila, prayer "is nothing but friendly intercourse, and frequent solitary converse, with him who we know loves us". I would insist that this is true not only for a privileged few, but for all of us, for "we all have need of this silence, filled with the presence of him who is adored". Trust-filled prayer is a response of a heart open to encountering God face to face, where

⁴ Cf. Isaiah 11:2

⁵ GE No.147-150

all is peaceful and the quiet voice of the Lord can be heard in the midst of silence.

In that silence, we can discern, in the light of the Spirit, the paths of holiness to which the Lord is calling us. Otherwise, any decisions we make may only be window-dressing that, rather than exalting the Gospel in our lives, will mask or submerge it. For each disciple, it is essential to spend time with the Master, to listen to his words, and to learn from him always. Unless we listen, all our words will be nothing but useless chatter.

Intercessions

Jesus encourages his disciples to pray always and all ways, for those things asked of the Father in his name will be granted.

℞ Accept O Father our prayers and grants our needs.

For the Church, that we may be moulded by the Holy Spirit into the living stones built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Let us pray to the Lord: ℞

For all Christian communities, that aware of the grace of Easter peace they may work for reconciliation and healing in the divisions that exist in our society and world. Let us pray to the Lord: ℞

For those rich in the things of this world, that they share them generously with the poor, the oppressed and the down hearted. Let us pray to the Lord: ℞

For those in search of meaning in their lives, that they may have hearts and minds open to the still small voice of God, hear his word and respond in humble love. Let us pray to the Lord: ℞

The Lord's Prayer

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal.4:6) and so we confidently pray:

Our Father ...

Prayer

O God who taught the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of that same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.

Through Christ our Lord. ℞ Amen

Blessing⁶

May the God of hope fill you with every joy in believing.

May the peace of Christ abound in your hearts.

May the Holy Spirit enrich you with his gifts.

R Amen



⁶ BB No.130

PENTECOST NOVENA – DAY 2
Saturday after Ascension - Wisdom

Introduction

The out-pouring of the Holy Spirit increases the gift of wisdom that assists us and accompanies us along the journey of life. The Spirit of God is the inner voice and Master who gives wisdom to the hearts of the simple and opens them to accept the word of Jesus Christ - Word of God and Wisdom of the Father.

Invitation to Praise

✠ Let us bless our Heavenly Father, source of every perfect gift.

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless Christ, wellspring of every blessing

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life

✠ Glory to you forever

Greeting⁷

Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth,
present Everywhere and filling all things
treasure of all good and source of all life,
come dwell in us, cleanse and save us,
you who are All-good.

Reading

John 7:37-39

A Reading from S. John's Gospel

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

After the Reading⁸

✠ Spirit of wisdom and understanding

✠ Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful.

⁷ CCC. No.2671

⁸ Cf. Isaiah 11:2

✠ Spirit of counsel and fortitude. *R*

✠ Spirit of knowledge and piety. *R*

✠ Spirit fear of the Lord. *R*

The Church Teaches⁹

A reading from the Encyclical *Spiritus Paraclitus* of P.Benedict XV.

Now, if we make use of the "Greatest of Doctors" as our guide and teacher we shall derive from so doing not only the gains signalized above, but others too, which cannot be regarded as trifling or few. What these gains are, we will set out briefly. At the outset, then, we are deeply impressed by the intense love of the Bible which St. Jerome exhibits in his whole life and teaching: both are steeped in the Spirit of God. This intense love of the Bible he was ever striving to kindle in the hearts of the faithful, and his words on this subject to the maiden Demetrias are really addressed to us all: "Love the Bible and wisdom will love you; love it and it will preserve you; honour it and it will embrace you; these are the jewels which you should wear on your breast and in your ears." (. . .) St. Jerome's love of the Bible: this is so conspicuous in his letters that they almost seem woven out of Scripture texts; and, as St. Bernard found no taste in things which did not echo the most sweet Name of Jesus, so no literature made any appeal to Jerome unless it derived its light from Holy Scripture. Thus he wrote to Paulinus, formerly senator and even consul, and only recently converted to the faith:

"If only you had this foundation (knowledge of Scripture); nay, more - if you would let Scripture give the finishing touches to your work - I should find nothing more beautiful, more learned, even nothing more Latin than your volumes. . . If you could but add to your wisdom and eloquence study of and real acquaintance with Holy Scripture, we should speedily have to acknowledge you a leader amongst us."

Intercessions

We pray to God our Father that he may give us the grace to know, love and practice that which is pleasing to him.

R Give us, O God, your spirit of wisdom.

For the Church throughout the world – may the wisdom of the Gospel guide her words and actions, so that she may make Christ the Saviour known to all peoples. *R*

⁹ SP No.31-33

For ourselves - that in union with the Virgin Mary we may prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; may the wisdom of Jesus her Son be the light and blessed joy of our daily lives. **R**

For governments and the leaders of nations; that they be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead their people to the common good and solidarity among and all nations. **R**

The Lord's Prayer

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal.4:6) and so we confidently pray:
Our Father ...

Prayer

O God who taught the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of that same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. **R** Amen

Blessing¹⁰

May the God of hope fill you with every joy in believing.
May the peace of Christ abound in your hearts.
May the Holy Spirit enrich you with his gifts.
R Amen



¹⁰ BB No.130

PENTECOST NOVENA – DAY 3

Sunday after Ascension –Seventh Sunday of Easter - Understanding

Introduction

Understanding is the gift of the Holy Spirit that reveals to our minds the will of God. Who can know the mind of God unless they are guided by the Holy Spirit? We ask the Lord to light the way of humankind through this decade. May he grant us spiritual understanding to perceive the signs of his presence in history.

Invitation to Praise

✠ Let us bless our Heavenly Father, source of every perfect gift.

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless Christ, wellspring of every blessing

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life

✠ Glory to you forever

Greeting¹¹

Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth,
present Everywhere and filling all things
treasure of all good and source of all life,
come dwell in us, cleanse and save us,
you who are All-good.

Reading

John.16:5-8, 12-13

A Reading from S. John's Gospel

Jesus said, "But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement, ...

"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you things that are to come."

¹¹ CCC. No.2671

After the Reading¹²

✠ Spirit of wisdom and understanding

✠ Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful.

✠ Spirit of counsel and fortitude. ✠

✠ Spirit of knowledge and piety. ✠

✠ Spirit fear of the Lord. ✠

The Church Teaches¹³

A Reading from the Encyclical *Spiritus Paraclitus* of P. Benedict XV

... in a brief space Jerome became so enamoured of the "folly of the Cross" that he himself serves as a proof of the extent to which a humble and devout frame of mind is conducive to the understanding of Holy Scripture. He realized that "in expounding Scripture we need God's Holy Spirit"; he saw that one cannot otherwise read or understand it "than the Holy Spirit by Whom it was written demands." Consequently, he was ever humbly praying for God's assistance and for the light of the Holy Spirit, and asking his friends to do the same for him. We find him commending to the Divine assistance and to his brethren's prayers his Commentaries on various books as he began them, and then rendering God due thanks when completed.

As he trusted to God's grace, so too did he rely upon the authority of his predecessors: "What I have learned I did not teach myself - a wretchedly presumptuous teacher! - but I learned it from illustrious men in the Church. Again: "In studying Scripture I never trusted to myself." To Theophilus, Bishop of Alexandria, he imparted the rule he had laid down for his own student life: "It has always been my custom to fight for the prerogatives of a Christian, not to overpass the limits set by the Fathers, always to bear in mind that Roman faith praised by the Apostle."

Intercessions

We pray to God our Father, that he may give us the grace to understand his will and to behave in a manner worthy of our calling.

✠ Give us, heavenly Father, your spirit of understanding.

For the men and women of our time, that they may not lose sight of the spiritual value of existence and the wonder of creation, we pray to the Lord. ✠

¹² Cf. Isaiah 11:2

¹³ *SP* No.35-36

For ourselves, that the Spirit we received in Confirmation may teach us, in the light of the Gospel, how to read the signs of the times in our own lives and the history of the world, we pray to the Lord. **R**

The Lord's Prayer

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal.4:6) and so we confidently pray:
Our Father ...

Prayer

O God who taught the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of that same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. **R** Amen

Blessing¹⁴

May the God of hope fill you with every joy in believing.
May the peace of Christ abound in your hearts.
May the Holy Spirit enrich you with his gifts.
R Amen



¹⁴ Book of Blessings No.130

PENTECOST NOVENA – DAY 4

Monday of Seventh Week of Easter - Counsel

Introduction

The gift of counsel, which may be described in the biblical terms of light and spiritual guidance, as well as plan or design is opened up for us by means of the inexhaustible wellspring of the Word of God.

Let us ask the Lord, by means of prayer, that his Spirit of Counsel may never be lacking to believers in Christ, so that they may always walk the paths of justice and peace.

Invitation to Praise

✠ Let us bless our Heavenly Father, source of every perfect gift.

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless Christ, wellspring of every blessing

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life

✠ Glory to you forever

Greeting¹⁵

Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth,
present Everywhere and filling all things
treasure of all good and source of all life,
come dwell in us, cleanse and save us,
you who are All-good.

Reading

Mt. 10:16-20

A Reading from S. Matthew's Gospel

Jesus said, "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."

¹⁵ CCC. No.2671

After the Reading¹⁶

✠ Spirit of wisdom and understanding

✠ Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful.

✠ Spirit of counsel and fortitude. ✠

✠ Spirit of knowledge and piety. ✠

✠ Spirit fear of the Lord. ✠

The Church Teaches¹⁷

A Reading from the Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini* of P. Benedict XVI
With the Synod Fathers I express my heartfelt hope for the flowering of “a new season of greater love for sacred Scripture on the part of every member of the People of God, so that their prayerful and faith-filled reading of the Bible will, with time, deepen their personal relationship with Jesus”.

Throughout the history of the Church, numerous saints have spoken of the need for knowledge of Scripture in order to grow in love for Christ. This is evident particularly in the Fathers of the Church. Saint Jerome, in his great love for the word of God, often wondered: “How could one live without the knowledge of Scripture, by which we come to know Christ himself, who is the life of believers?” He knew well that the Bible is the means “by which God speaks daily to believers”. His advice to the Roman matron Leta about raising her daughter was this: “Be sure that she studies a passage of Scripture each day... Prayer should follow reading, and reading follow prayer... so that in the place of jewellery and silk, she may love the divine books”. Jerome’s counsel to the priest Nepotian can also be applied to us: “Read the divine Scriptures frequently; indeed, the sacred book should never be out of your hands. Learn there what you must teach”. Let us follow the example of this great saint who devoted his life to the study of the Bible and who gave the Church its Latin translation, the Vulgate, as well as the example of all those saints who made an encounter with Christ the centre of their spiritual lives. Let us renew our efforts to understand deeply the word which God has given to his Church: thus we can aim for that “high standard of ordinary Christian living” proposed by Pope John Paul II at the beginning of the third Christian millennium, which finds constant nourishment in attentively hearing the word of God.

Intercessions

God’s love sustains all who turn to him conscious of their true needs. We ask the Father, giver of all good gifts to inspire and animate all our actions and

¹⁶ Cf. Isaiah 11:2

¹⁷ VD No.72

offer our lives for the glory of his name, praying: **R** Heavenly Father, fill us with the power of your love.

For all teachers and catechists, that as they form and educate young minds they may help them to find their place in God's design and generously use their gifts for the betterment of all peoples. We pray: **R**

For those who suffer in mental ill-health, addiction, loneliness or abuse, that they find new life in the care and protection given by those who truly understand. We pray: **R**

For those discerning their future lives in vocation, marriage or single life, that through good advice, prayer and sound judgement they may discover the plan for their lives that brings them peace. We pray: **R**

The Lord's Prayer

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal.4:6) and so we confidently pray:
Our Father ...

Prayer

O God who taught the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of that same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. **R** Amen

Blessing¹⁸

May the God of hope fill you with every joy in believing.
May the peace of Christ abound in your hearts.
May the Holy Spirit enrich you with his gifts.
R Amen



¹⁸ Book of Blessings No.130

PENTECOST NOVENA – DAY 5

Tuesday of Seventh Week of Easter - Fortitude

Introduction

Fortitude is the divine gift that makes us firm in the faith, strengthens us to resist evil, and gives us the courage to witness to the crucified Christ in word and deed. We recognise in our midst the cross, present in our churches, homes and schools: it is the sign with which God has manifested, in Christ, his full participation in our weakness, but also of the immeasurable power that comes from above.

Invitation to Praise

✠ Let us bless our Heavenly Father, source of every perfect gift.

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless Christ, wellspring of every blessing

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life

✠ Glory to you forever

15

Greeting¹⁹

Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth,
present Everywhere and filling all things
treasure of all good and source of all life,
come dwell in us, cleanse and save us,
you who are All-good.

Reading

John 14:15-17

A Reading from the Gospel of S. John

Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth,

¹⁹ CCC. No.2671

whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

After the Reading²⁰

✠ Spirit of wisdom and understanding

✠ Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful.

✠ Spirit of counsel and fortitude. ✠

✠ Spirit of knowledge and piety. ✠

✠ Spirit fear of the Lord. ✠

The Church Teaches²¹

A Reading from the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* of P. Francis. Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others. We see this in some holy communities. From time to time, the Church has canonized entire communities that lived the Gospel heroically or offered to God the lives of all their members. We can think, for example, of the seven holy founders of the Order of the Servants of Mary, the seven blessed sisters of the first monastery of the Visitation in Madrid, the Japanese martyrs Saint Paul Miki and companions, the Korean martyrs Saint Andrew Taegon and companions, or the South American martyrs Saint Roque González, Saint Alonso Rodríguez and companions. We should also remember the more recent witness borne by the Trappists of Tibhirine, Algeria, who prepared as a community for martyrdom. In many holy marriages too, each spouse becomes a means used by Christ for the sanctification of the other. Living or working alongside others is surely a path of spiritual growth. Saint John of the Cross told one of his followers: “You are living with others in order to be fashioned and tried”. Each community is called to create a “God-enlightened space in which to experience the hidden presence of the risen Lord”. Sharing the word and celebrating the Eucharist together fosters fraternity and makes us a holy and missionary community.

Intercessions

We pray to the God who is bulwark and shield for all who seek refuge in him, protecting with rod and staff and granting his comfort.

✠ Lord, give the Church your Spirit of fortitude.

²⁰ Cf. Isaiah 11:2

²¹ GE No.141-142

For all Christians who are persecuted for the Gospel by which they live and, the faith they profess, may they know the strength of the Holy Spirit, love those who count them enemies and pray for their persecutors. **R**

For our brothers and sisters who struggle to make the right decisions by the teachings of Jesus, may they know the intercession of Mary and follow her example in living by the word of Father. **R**

The Lord's Prayer

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal.4:6) and so we confidently pray:
Our Father ...

Prayer

O God who taught the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of that same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. **R** Amen

Blessing²²

May the God of hope fill you with every joy in believing.
May the peace of Christ abound in your hearts.
May the Holy Spirit enrich you with his gifts.
R Amen



²² Book of Blessings No.130

PENTECOST NOVENA – DAY 6

Wednesday of Seventh Week of Easter - Knowledge

Introduction

With this gift, the Holy Spirit introduces us to the knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God. It is not so much intellectual knowledge that is meant here, as an experience of God in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit teaches the words of Jesus, writes them in the hearts of the faithful, brings them to mind in those who have strayed and teaches us how to live in a Christian way in the world.

Invitation to Praise

✠ Let us bless our Heavenly Father, source of every perfect gift.

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless Christ, wellspring of every blessing

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life

✠ Glory to you forever

Greeting²³

Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth,
present Everywhere and filling all things
treasure of all good and source of all life,
come dwell in us, cleanse and save us,
you who are All-good.

Reading

Jn.14:23-27

A Reading from S. John's Gospel

Jesus answered Judas – this was not Judas Iscariot, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me. These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, who the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubles, neither let them be afraid.”

²³ CCC. No.2671

After the Reading²⁴

✠ Spirit of wisdom and understanding

✠ Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful.

✠ Spirit of counsel and fortitude. ✠

✠ Spirit of knowledge and piety. ✠

✠ Spirit fear of the Lord. ✠

The Church Teaches²⁵

A Reading from the Encyclical *Spiritus Paraclitus* of P. Benedict XV.

Immense, then, was the profit Jerome derived from reading Scripture; hence came those interior illuminations whereby he was ever more and more drawn to knowledge and love of Christ; hence, too, that love of prayer of which he has written so well; hence his wonderful familiarity with Christ, Whose sweetness drew him so that he ran unfalteringly along the arduous way of the Cross to the palm of victory. Hence, too, his ardent love for the Holy Eucharist: "Who is wealthier than he who carries the Lord's Body in his wicker basket, the Lord's Blood in his crystal vessel?" Hence, too, his love for Christ's Mother, whose perpetual virginity he had so keenly defended, whose title as God's Mother and as the greatest example of all the virtues he constantly set before Christ's spouses for their imitation. No one, then, can wonder that Jerome should have been so powerfully drawn to those spots in Palestine which had been consecrated by the presence of our Redeemer and His Mother. It is easy to recognize the hand of Jerome in the words written from Bethlehem to Marcella by his disciples, Paula and Eustochium:

What words can serve to describe to you the Saviour's cave? As for the manger in which He lay - well, our silence does it more honour than any poor words of ours. . . Will the day ever dawn where we can enter His cave to weep at His tomb with the sister (of Lazarus) and mourn with His Mother; when we can kiss the wood of His Cross and, with the ascending Lord on Olivet, be uplifted in mind and spirit?

Filled with memories such as these, Jerome could, while far away from Rome and leading a life hard for the body but inexpressibly sweet to the soul, cry out: "Would that Rome had what tiny Bethlehem possesses!"

Intercessions

We pray to the Father that we may grow in the knowledge and love of the teachings of our Saviour and his Son.

✠ Hear us O Lord and inspire us with your Spirit.

²⁴ Cf. Isaiah 11:2

²⁵ SP No.67

For ourselves that we may grow in the knowledge of the Father's will and the mystery of the love of the Holy Trinity. **R**

For all the faithful that they may accept with trust the teachings of the Church and grow in the hope they proclaim. **R**

For all who advance the boundaries of human knowledge, especially in science, medicine and technology that they see beauty and providence of all God's created work. **R**

The Lord's Prayer

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal.4:6) and so we confidently pray:
Our Father ...

Prayer

O God who taught the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of that same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. **R** Amen

20

Blessing²⁶

May the God of hope fill you with every joy in believing.
May the peace of Christ abound in your hearts.
May the Holy Spirit enrich you with his gifts.
R Amen



²⁶ Book of Blessings No.130

Pentecost Novena – Day 7
Thursday of Seventh Week of Easter - Piety

Introduction

The spiritual gift of piety expresses an attitude that guides our intentions and actions toward God and our neighbour according to the mind of God. It is opposed to all “impiety” the various manifestations and consequences of which are often described in the psalms and wisdom literature of the Bible.

Invitation to Praise

✠ Let us bless our Heavenly Father, source of every perfect gift.

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless Christ, wellspring of every blessing

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life

✠ Glory to you forever

Greeting²⁷

Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth,
present Everywhere and filling all things
treasure of all good and source of all life,
come dwell in us, cleanse and save us,
you who are All-good.

Reading

Jn.15:26-27

Jesus said, “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.”

After the Reading²⁸

✠ Spirit of wisdom and understanding

✠ Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful.

✠ Spirit of counsel and fortitude. ✠

✠ Spirit of knowledge and piety. ✠

²⁷ CCC. No.2671

²⁸ Cf. Isaiah 11:2

✠ Spirit fear of the Lord. ✠

The Church Teaches²⁹

A Reading from the Encyclical *Spiritus Paraclitus* of P. Benedict XV.

To ... the question of formation. We must lay the foundations in piety and humility of mind; only when we have done that does St. Jerome invite us to study the Bible. In the first place, he insists, in season and out, on daily reading of the text. "Provided," he says, "our bodies are not the slaves of sin, wisdom will come to us; but exercise your mind, feed it daily with Holy Scripture." And again: "We have got, then, to read Holy Scripture assiduously; we have got to meditate on the Law of God day and night so that, as expert money-changers, we may be able to detect false coin from true."

For matrons and maidens alike he lays down the same rule. Thus, writing to the Roman matron Laeta about her daughter's training, he says:

Every day she should give you a definite account of her Bible-reading . . . For her the Bible must take the place of silks and jewels . . . Let her learn the Psalter first, and find her recreation in its songs; let her learn from Solomon's Proverbs the way of life, from Ecclesiastes how to trample on the world. In Job she will find an example of patient virtue. Thence let her pass to the Gospels; they should always be in her hands. She should steep herself in the Acts and the Epistles. And when she has enriched her soul with these treasures she should commit to memory the Prophets, the Heptateuch, Kings and Chronicles, Esdras and Esther: then she can learn the Canticle of Canticles without any fear."

He says the same to Eustochium: "Read assiduously and learn as much as you can. Let sleep find you holding your Bible, and when your head nods let it be resting on the sacred page."

Intercessions

Animated by the Holy Spirit to sing the praises and glory of God we raise our hearts and minds in prayer.

✠ Let my prayer arise like incense in your presence O Lord.

For all believers that they may always have sense of the power and majesty of God permeating all that exists. ✠

For artists and craftsmen that their work may reflect the beauty and marvellous works of God. ✠

²⁹ SP No.40-42

For our deacons, priests and bishops, that their lives and ministry may be an expression of the holiness of God. **R**

The Lord's Prayer

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal.4:6) and so we confidently pray:
Our Father ...

Prayer

O God who taught the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of that same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. **R** Amen

Blessing³⁰

May the God of hope fill you with every joy in believing.
May the peace of Christ abound in your hearts.
May the Holy Spirit enrich you with his gifts.
R Amen



³⁰ Book of Blessings No.130

PENTECOST NOVENA – DAY 8

Friday of Seventh Week of Easter – Fear of the Lord

Introduction

“Holy Fear”, “Fear of the Lord” or “Awe of God” is a spiritual attitude that is not reducible to the fear of man before the Transcendent and Divine Holiness. It expresses instead the awareness of how feeling the love of God, one cannot live outside the logic and demands of the “Covenant.”

To live in holy fear is to realise that God has fixed his tent among us, while still remaining totally other from us: only God is God. Man is a creature defined by the Creator, upon whom depends the happiness of all. For this, “the beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord” (Sirach 1:12), as also, “fullness of wisdom is fear of the Lord; she inebriates men with her fruits.” (Sirach 1:14).

Invitation to Praise

✠ Let us bless our Heavenly Father, source of every perfect gift.

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless Christ, wellspring of every blessing

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life

✠ Glory to you forever

Greeting³¹

Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth,
present Everywhere and filling all things
treasure of all good and source of all life,
come dwell in us, cleanse and save us,
you who are All-good.

Reading

Mk.13:9-11

A Reading from S. Mark’s Gospel

Jesus said, “But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you

³¹ CCC. No.2671

over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”

After the Reading³²

✠ Spirit of wisdom and understanding

✠ Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful.

✠ Spirit of counsel and fortitude. ✠

✠ Spirit of knowledge and piety. ✠

✠ Spirit fear of the Lord. ✠

The Church Teaches³³

A Reading from a treatise on the Psalms by S. Hilary of Poitiers.

“Fear” is not to be taken in the sense that common usage gives it. Fear in this ordinary sense is the trepidation our weak humanity feels when it is afraid of suffering something it does not want to happen. We are afraid, or made afraid, because of a guilty conscience, the rights of someone more powerful, an attack from one who is stronger, sickness, encountering a wild beast, suffering evil in any form. This kind of fear is not taught: it happens because we are weak. We do not have to learn what we should fear: objects of fear bring their own terror with them.

But of the fear of the Lord this is what is written: *Come, my children, listen to me, I shall teach you the fear of the Lord.* The fear of the Lord has then to be learned because it can be taught. It does not lie in terror, but in something that can be taught. It does not arise from the fearfulness of our nature; it has to be acquired by obedience to the commandments, by holiness of life and by knowledge of the truth.

For us the fear of God consists wholly in love, and perfect love of God brings our fear of him to its perfection.

Intercessions

In awe and wonder Mary pondered her Son’s life in the depths of her being, may she teach us what it is to be a disciple of his, the Son of God.

✠ May the intercession of Mary, Mother of the church be heard now and at the hour of our death.

For all married couples and their families, that their lives may be a true reflection of the love of Christ for his bride, the church, we pray: ✠

³² Cf. Isaiah 11:2

³³ From a treatise on the psalms by Saint Hilary of Poitiers. The meaning of "the fear of the Lord" Liturgy of the Hours Office of Readings. Lent Thursday 2.

For those who have left their families and homes to proclaim the Gospel to the world, may they bring the joy which caused the child in Elizabeth's womb to leap on knowing the closeness of salvation. **R**

The Lord's Prayer

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal.4:6) and so we confidently pray:
Our Father ...

Prayer

O God who taught the hearts of your faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of that same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord. **R** Amen

Blessing³⁴

May the God of hope fill you with every joy in believing.
May the peace of Christ abound in your hearts.
May the Holy Spirit enrich you with his gifts.
R Amen



³⁴ Book of Blessings No.130

PENTECOST NOVENA – DAY 9

Saturday of Seventh Week of Easter - Mary

Introduction

Long before the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles at the feast of Pentecost Mary had graciously come under the power of the Holy Spirit, described by S.P. John Paul II as “the woman who was docile to the voice of the Spirit, a woman of silence and attentiveness, a woman of hope. From her we learn to be open to the inspiration of the Spirit and learn how to become credible witness of Emmanuel to humanity” in the 21st Century. Hers was a miraculous Motherhood set up by God as the type and exemplar of the fruitfulness of the Virgin Church, which becomes herself a mother ... for by her preaching and by water and blood and the Holy Spirit she brings forth to a new and immortal life, children conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of God.

Invitation to Praise

✠ Let us bless our Heavenly Father, source of every perfect gift.

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless Christ, wellspring of every blessing

✠ Glory to you forever

✠ Let us bless the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life

✠ Glory to you forever

Greeting³⁵

Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth,
present Everywhere and filling all things
treasure of all good and source of all life,
come dwell in us, cleanse and save us,
you who are All-good.

Reading

Luke 24:44-53

A Reading from S. Luke's Gospel.

Jesus said to his disciples: “These are my words which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures and he said to them. “Thus it is written, that the

³⁵ CCC. No.2671

Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

After the Reading³⁶

✠ Spirit of wisdom and understanding

✠ Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful.

✠ Spirit of counsel and fortitude. ✠

✠ Spirit of knowledge and piety. ✠

✠ Spirit fear of the Lord. ✠

The Church Teaches³⁷

A Reading from the Encyclical *Dominum et Vivificantem* of S. P. John Paul II. In the midst of the problems, disappointments and hopes, desertions and returns of these times of ours, the Church remains faithful to the mystery of her birth. While it is an historical fact that the Church came forth from the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost, in a certain sense one can say that she has never left it. Spiritually the event of Pentecost does not belong only to the past: the Church is always in the Upper Room that she bears in her heart. The Church perseveres in preserves, like the Apostles together with Mary, the Mother of Christ, and with those who in Jerusalem were the first seed of the Christian community and who awaited in prayer the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Church perseveres in prayer with Mary. This union of the praying Church with the Mother of Christ has been part of the mystery of the Church from the beginning: we see her present in this mystery as she is present in the mystery of her Son. It is the Council that says to us: "The Blessed Virgin...overshadowed by the Holy Spirit... brought forth...the Son..., he whom God placed as the first-born among many brethren (cf. Rom 8:29), namely the faithful. In their birth and development she cooperates with a maternal love"; she is through "his singular graces and offices...intimately united with the Church.... [She] is a model of the Church." "The Church, moreover, contemplating Mary's mysterious sanctity, imitating her charity,...becomes herself a mother" and

³⁶ Cf. Isaiah 11:2

³⁷ DV No.66

"herself is a virgin, who keeps...the fidelity she has pledged to her Spouse. Imitating the Mother of The Lord, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, she preserves with virginal purity an integral faith, a firm hope, and a sincere charity."

Intercessions

Lord God, with you all things are possible and you alone work wonders as we witness in the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through her prayer for the Church may the power of the Holy Spirit overshadow our lives to the glory of you name. **R** The mercy of the Lord is from age to age for all generations.

We pray for the humble, the hungry, the down cast, that they may know the compassion of the Lord and be filled with his good things. **R**

We pray for all who seek to be the disciples of Jesus, that they may follow Mary's premier example and faithfully serve him in joyous and sorrowful times. **R**

We pray for ourselves, that we may receive God's word with joy and never be fearful to seek his help and blessing for others, as did Mary at Cana in Galilee. **R**

We pray faithful departed, that as their mortal bodies have been the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit they may through the mercy of Father now take their place in the kingdom of his Son. **R**

The Lord's Prayer

God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal.4:6) and so we confidently pray:
Our Father ...

Prayer³⁸

Lord our God, through the Blessed Virgin Mary
You have shown us the example of a disciple
who is faithful to the words of life;
open our hearts to receive your saving word
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
it may speak to us in our daily lives
and may bring forth a rich harvest of holiness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

³⁸ Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary. No.10

Blessing³⁹

May he who has willed that all his scattered children
Should be gathered together in his Son,
grant that you may become his temple
and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

R Amen



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