

SUNDAY PLUS



Spirit-blessed

A Year of the Word

Thy Kingdom Come

by Margaret Doherty

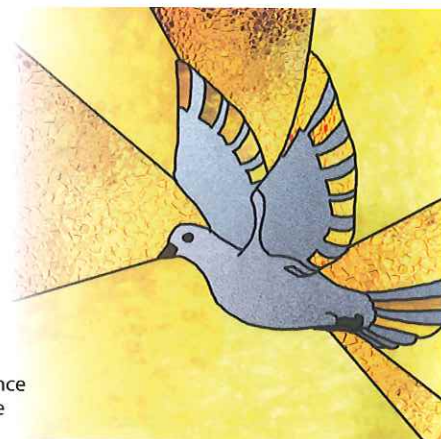
Last year, thousands of Christians gathered in Trafalgar Square on Pentecost Sunday to mark the end of Thy Kingdom Come 2019, the annual prayer campaign launched by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, which invites Christians to pray for their friends and family that they come to know Christ.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recorded a video message with Pope Francis for Thy Kingdom Come. In that message, the Holy Father said: "Come Holy Spirit. This is the cry of all Christians on this day of Pentecost. Come, Holy

Spirit – the promise of the Father; the promise of Jesus, that the Holy Spirit might enlarge and widen our hearts. We all have a problem, and that is our hearts tend to shrink. Become smaller and close. We can't solve that problem by ourselves. Only the Holy Spirit can solve it. Come, Holy Spirit and to Jesus, thy kingdom come, the kingdom of the Father that you came to announce."

Perhaps, we might all consider following Pope Francis' lead and invite the Holy Spirit to come into our lives, to enlarge and widen our hearts, to enable us to do our bit in God's mission for the world, knowing that with the Holy Spirit, we are not alone in that mission.

Margaret Doherty is the Deputy Director of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales Communications Office and Director of the Art of Dying Well project based at St Mary's University.



"The path of Christian courage is a grace given by the Holy Spirit. There are indeed so many paths we could take, which even give us a certain courage... All of this, however, is an instrument of something greater: the Spirit. And if the Spirit isn't there, we can do many things, a great deal of work, but it is pointless."

Pope Francis

Receive the Holy Spirit

by Sr Thérèse Garman SMP

Pentecost recalls the story of creation when God breathes his own life into us (Genesis 2:7). It's an act of re-creation.

Jesus greets the disciples with the words, "Peace be with you". He breathes peace and invites us to do likewise. The Holy Spirit is a powerful force, yet can come to us in the simplest way. Each breath can be a prayer, an opening to God's Spirit. Have you ever noticed the peace that

arises when we simply stop what we're doing and take a few deep breaths? Each breath can be taking in the Holy Spirit and then breathing this Spirit out into our world.

Jesus commissions his disciples to go out into the world with power to forgive. It's through the Holy Spirit being breathed into each one of us that allows us to have the power of forgiveness within us. Receiving and giving the peace of Christ is part of the act of giving and receiving forgiveness. We can never have the peace of Christ in our lives unless we learn to forgive.

Sr Thérèse Garman is a Sister of Our Lady of Providence.

We remember, we celebrate, we believe

by Anne M Walsh

For Christians, "remembering" means that the events and people that have shaped us and made us who we are don't belong to the past, but are available to us here and now. So today, when we remember and celebrate Pentecost, God's gift of the Holy

Spirit, "the giver of life" is not only the event that occurred two thousand years ago to those gathered in the Upper Room. The wonderful thing is that Pentecost is still happening in the Church, in our families, and in our own lives. Pentecost means that, today and every day, God offers us new life when we need it and as we need it.

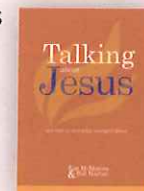
Today and every day, the Spirit's gifts of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe in the presence of God are offered to me as I need them and in abundance. For us, Pentecost really is today and every day!

Anne M Walsh is the Director of Partnership in Mission of the Redemptorist Conference of North America.

Holy Spirit of Love, someone who cannot feel fear is not brave. A courageous person does what is right in spite of being afraid of the consequences. Lord, when I feel scared and weak, fill me with hope and courage. Let me give and not count the cost. ☩ Amen.

Talking about Jesus
Our call to everyday evangelisation

Jim McManus
& Bill Horton



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