

Resources on the Sunday Readings – Pentecost

Picture Reflection (p1), Bible Reading & Study Questions (p2)

See separate families' sheet.

Picture Reflection

Filled to overflowing – Acts 2: 1 - 21

On the day of the Jewish festival of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples experience being filled dramatically with God's Holy Spirit. This power and life spills out into the whole of creation.



- Spend a few minutes having a good look at the imagewhat do you see?
- How does this image reflect the high energy and strong emotion of the first Pentecost?
- Reflect on when you have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfil promises.... to change lives... to touch hearts and minds...to be there to support those in need...
- How might God's Holy Spirit be prompting us today to go out and care for others and God's creation?

Bible Study Questions.

THE PENTECOST READING Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

- What does this reading tell us about the Holy Spirit?
- How have you experienced the Holy Spirit in your life?
- What are the different responses to the coming of the Spirit? Do you experience any of these responses to the Spirit?
- What might it look like to see God's Spirit poured out in our community today? Where might this change and shaking up be most needed in the world today?
- What is the significance do you think of the disciples communicating with people from so many different places?
- Where are the disparate communities who need to hear the good news spoken and enacted in their own language today?