

SUNDAY PLUS

Spirit-led

The gift of the Spirit

By Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

What we celebrate at Pentecost is the coming of the Advocate, the one who enables the apostles to be witnesses to Jesus' claims in the world. Before the coming of the Spirit, the apostles were incapable of acting as witnesses: they were frightened men who were too confused and hurt to act as effective witnesses on behalf of Jesus. With the gift of the Spirit, they are graced with a new courage. Their courtroom is the marketplace of the world and they are willing to testify to the truth of Jesus' claims to anyone who has ears.

As we know from experience, the need for witnesses continues today. There will always be opposition to face, there will always be onlookers to persuade. The Spirit continues to be the

Advocate, calling on generations of Christians to come forward as witnesses in the case.

We are the witnesses. To us it is given to continue the case on behalf of Jesus. The disbelieving world still looks to Jesus' witnesses to make their case – not so much by the quality of our information, but by the quality and courage of our lives.

The world is not dying from lack of information. It might be dying from not having life in Jesus' name. The evangelist John finishes his case on behalf of Jesus by telling us that he has advanced his cause "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name" (20:31). So, the case continues.

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, www.rpbbooks.co.uk.



Holy Spirit of wisdom and peace, bring wisdom and peace to our troubled world which so needs you. 🙏 Amen.

Listen and hear

By Ellen Teague

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic parish in London's White City is a vibrant multicultural community. In 2020, alarmed by hearing anecdotes of racist behaviour both outside and inside the parish, parishioners met to listen more deeply and to identify areas of parish life where racism could be uprooted.

True listening, guided by the Holy Spirit's influence, prompted people to choose new pathways. One area ensured that different racial groups would be equally represented in parish ministries. Another reviewed the church's artwork. As a result, new stained-glass windows were installed, containing

faces reflecting the multicultural nature of the congregation. In two collages, saints of colour – such as Josephine Bakhita, Martín de Porres and Andrew Kim Taegon – are honoured alongside Bernadette of Lourdes and Maximilian Kolbe. The parish produced a book *Rooting out Racism from our Parish*, with the desire to celebrate the diversity of the congregation and counter racism.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/parish-discussion-on-racial-justice/>

Ellen Teague, a regular writer for Redemptorist Publications, writes and campaigns on justice, peace and ecology issues on behalf of the Columban Missionary Society for whom she edits their newsletter, *Vocation for Justice*.

Feast of the week
Monday 20 May

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

Mother, help our faith!

Open our ears to hear God's word and to recognize his voice and call. Awaken in us a desire to follow in his footsteps, to go forth from our own land and to receive his promise.

Help us to be touched by his love, that we may touch him in faith. Help us to entrust ourselves fully to him and to believe in his love, especially at times of trial, beneath the shadow of the cross, when our faith is called to mature.

Sow in our faith the joy of the Risen One.

Remind us that those who believe are never alone.

Teach us to see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that he may be light for our path. And may this light of faith always increase in us, until the dawn of that undying day which is Christ himself, your Son, our Lord!

Pope Francis

The Holy Spirit himself is harmony... He is indeed harmony. Only the Spirit can awaken diversity, plurality and multiplicity, while at the same time building unity.

Pope Francis

Today: Vigil Mass: Genesis 11:1-9 Exodus 19:3-8 16-20	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Joel 3:1-5 Romans 8:22-27 John 7:37-39	Mass During the Day: Acts 2:1-11 Galatians 5:16-25 John 15:26-27 16:12-15	Monday: Genesis 3:9-15 20 or Acts 1:12-14 John 19:25-37	Tuesday: James 4:1-10 Mark 9:30-37	Wednesday: James 4:13-17 Mark 9:38-40	Thursday: James 5:1-6 Mark 9:41-50	Friday: James 5:9-12 Mark 10:1-12	Saturday: James 5:13-20 Mark 10:13-16	Next Sunday: Deuteronomy 4:32-34 39-40 Romans 9:14-17 Matthew 28:16-20
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