



## Solemnity of Pentecost Sunday (Whitsunday)

† Sunday 9th June 2019

England & Wales Cycle of Prayer:

New Members of the Church and Evangelisation

Keynote: In one Spirit born – to give witness

### Acts of the Apostles 2: 1–11

Inaugurated by the Holy Spirit, Pentecost marks a new era of salvation history. Recalling the events of the first Pentecost, and the sudden overwhelming manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit, Luke sees the Pentecostal Spirit as overcoming the ancient division of human tongues, which began at the Tower of Babel. The disciples are so empowered by the Spirit that they are transformed, they set out to proclaim the word of salvation beginning at Jerusalem. Now reaching out to all peoples with a message of truth – a message that transcends the boundaries of nations, culture and language. This day in Jerusalem is the starting point of the mission, which will bring the gospel to all peoples *‘They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.’* We catch a glimpse of the busy city: *‘Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven... each one bewildered to hear these men speaking in their own language... “Surely”, they said, “All these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native tongue? ... We hear them preaching about the marvels of God.”’* So who will speak of the marvels of God to our own generation and in their language?

**Responsorial Psalm 103 (104)** – A song of worship before the Lord of creation. Alleluia!

### Letter of Paul to the Romans 8: 8-17\*

Paul writes: *‘People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you... though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified.’* Thus the apostle urges us to live by the Spirit and to put an end to the misdeeds of the body: *‘Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received... is the spirit of sons, and it makes you cry out: “Abba, Father!”’*

**Sequence is sung** ‘Holy Spirit, Lord of light...’

### Gospel according to John 14: 15-16, 23-26\*

Jesus speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper says: *‘If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever.’* The Lord promises that: *‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him... the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.’* With such an assurance, why need we fear when called upon to stand and profess our faith or to explain the teaching of the gospel? We have the Spirit of Wisdom to instruct and to guide us, and God is with us.

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**Note 1** [Alternative readings may be taken from Year A]: First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13; Gospel John 20: 19–23

**Note 2** This is the end of Eastertide. Tomorrow the Sunday cycle of Readings Year C resume with Week 10 in Ordinary Time. The weekday cycle of Readings resume with Week 10 in Ordinary Time readings cycle 1; Psalter week 2.