SPIRITAN NOVENA
TO THE

HOLY SPIRIT

The Spiritans, Carfin
“Working Worldwide with People in Need”
The Spiritan Community at Carfin Scotland share the Novena to the Holy Spirit developed by them for use in parishes throughout the Diocese of Motherwell, Scotland.

This Novena combines local popular piety with an updated and biblical based spirituality.
Traditionally, at Mass on Ascension Thursday, the Easter candle was extinguished after the Gospel was proclaimed. It had been lit during Mass on each of the forty days after Easter to symbolise the risen Christ appearing on earth. During the nine days following the Ascension, we look forward to Jesus’ new presence through the Holy Spirit. These are the nine days that the Apostles spent in prayer, along with Jesus’ relations, the women from Galilee and Mary his mother.

These nine days of prayer and expectation led to the custom of praying for special intentions. Such a period of prayer is called a novena. The novena for Pentecost is the origin and most important of any novena. It was initiated by the Lord Jesus himself, and prepares us to accept anew the greatest gift from heaven to earth—the gift of the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit.
FIRST DAY: The Holy Spirit

A suitable hymn is chosen

In the Name of the Father……..

LEADER: “in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters”  

(Genesis 1:1-2)

ALL Prayer of Dedication to the Holy Spirit

All loving God and Father, you have called me into your family and consecrated me into your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through my baptism with your Holy Spirit. I have heard your voice and wish to give myself to you anew in service of your gospel. I offer myself totally to you today and I dedicate myself to your Holy Spirit:-

O Holy Spirit, fill my heart with noble desires to make my life wise with knowledge, beautiful with love, and useful with service. Enlighten the scriptures for me. Teach me what I ought to pray for to enrich my life with the fruit that only you can give. Guide my mind that I may always choose what is right, that I may know which choice to make and which to reject.

O Holy Spirit, open my eyes that I may see the truth, Strengthen my heart so that I may face the truth. Enlighten my mind that I may understand the truth. Give me the willpower that I may obey the truth.

O Holy Spirit, in you I live and move and have my being, Give me peace of mind and heart. Watch over me in my weakness and give me the grace to say to you always and everywhere: “speak Lord, your servant is listening”.

The Spirit of God hovers over the waters of creation

Reader: Read: Genesis 1:1-13 or Psalm 104

Leader: (Sharing on the theme of the day) THE HOLY SPIRIT

God cannot be limited to human understanding of male or female but since Jesus called God, Father, we too tend to think in masculine terms about God. However, the Holy Spirit is sometimes seen as the “feminine” in God. (Wisdom 9:9)

This Spirit of God permeates all creation. We can discover her presence in our own lives if we meditate on the circumstances of each day; but not in a manner in which we can lay claim to her as our own possession. We cannot say, “I know where the Spirit blows (John 3:8). We can only find her in seeking God with open hearts and with generous outgoing love. We need to continually ask ourselves how close we are to a real experience of the Holy Spirit and examine any barriers to the Spirit’s gifts in our lives.
Each day we have the opportunity to expand our hearts in selfless giving and so become more fully alive in the Spirit of God, and more completely a new creation in God’s image.

Liturgical action: (All are invited forward to bless themselves from the holy water placed in a prominent place - a reminder of our Baptism. During this action a Hymn can be sung or music played)

ALL PRAY:-

Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send us your Spirit, Lord, and make of us new creation and through us renew the face of the earth. O God who has taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, by the gifts of the same Spirit may we be always truly wise, always rejoicing in your loving kindness, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

ALL:

Lord Jesus Christ, before you ascended into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to complete your work and bring us the fullness of grace. May this same Holy Spirit live in me and fill me with the gifts that I need:

The gift of Wisdom to judge between right and wrong and make the right use of knowledge.

The gift of Understanding to teach me what is important for my ultimate happiness.

The gift of Counsel to advise and direct my inexperience.

The gift of Fortitude that I may have courage to endure in the struggle for justice and right.

The gift of Knowledge to instruct my ignorance.

The gift of Piety to make me devout in my spiritual life and works of mercy.

The gift of Fear that I may dread the fascination of evil and hold in reverence and awe the sacred presence of my creator, venerating the holiness of creation.

Give me a new heart and a renewed spirit so that the gifts of your Holy Spirit may bear fruit in:­

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience,
Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness,
Gentleness and Self Control.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be….

+Blessing

When prayed in common a suitable final hymn is sung.
SECOND DAY : Wisdom

A suitable hymn is chosen

In the Name of the Father……...

LEADER: “Blessed are those who have discovered wisdom, those who have acquired understanding. In wisdom God laid the foundations of the earth, in understanding, he spread out the heavens” (Proverbs 3:13-19)

ALL

Prayer of Dedication to the Holy Spirit

All loving God and Father, you have called me into your family and consecrated me into your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through my baptism with your Holy Spirit. I have heard your voice and wish to give myself to you anew in service of your gospel. I offer myself totally to you today and I dedicate myself to your Holy Spirit:-

O Holy Spirit, fill my heart with noble desires to make my life wise with knowledge, beautiful with love, and useful with service.
Enlighten the scriptures for me. Teach me what I ought to pray for to enrich my life with the fruit that only you can give.
Guide my mind that I may always choose what is right, that I may know which choice to make and which to reject.

O Holy Spirit, open my eyes that I may see the truth, Strengthen my heart so that I may face the truth. Enlighten my mind that I may understand the truth. Give me the willpower that I may obey the truth.

O Holy Spirit, in you I live and move and have my being, Give me peace of mind and heart.
Watch over me in my weakness and give me the grace to say to you always and everywhere: “speak Lord, your servant is listening”.

God breathes his Spirit and creates man and woman

Reader: Read: Genesis 2:4-7 or Psalm 8

Leader: (Sharing on the theme of the day) WISDOM

Wisdom has nothing to do with cleverness; it is more than knowledge and intelligence. No amount of exam successes or university degrees can substitute for wisdom. In traditional societies, it is not the learned who are consulted to solve problems but the elders. Not only is their experience valued, but more important is the fact that they are closer to the eternal reality of life after death, and therefore their creator.
While wisdom is closely related to understanding born of experience, it has its foundation in the mind of God and shows itself in those who reflect upon God’s plan of salvation. If you wish to acquire greater wisdom you would do well to meditate on God’s law expressed in the Beatitudes. (Matthew 5:1-12)
Liturgical action:  (All are invited forward to kiss/touch/bless themselves from the Bible enthroned in a prominent place - God’s Wisdom from on high among us. During this action a Hymn can be sung or music played)

ALL PRAY:-

O Wisdom from on high, descend into my heart to help me discern the important from the passing, the fundamental from the superficial, the deep from the shallow, the good from the bad. May I never be blinded to see in knowledge and wealth my source of happiness rather may I always seek after wisdom in my thoughts, words and actions, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

ALL:

Lord Jesus Christ, before you ascended into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to complete your work and bring us the fullness of grace. May this same Holy Spirit live in me and fill me with the gifts that I need:

The gift of Wisdom to judge between right and wrong and make the right use of knowledge.

The gift of Understanding to teach me what is important for my ultimate happiness.

The gift of Counsel to advise and direct my inexperience.

The gift of Fortitude that I may have courage to endure in the struggle for justice and right.

The gift of Knowledge to instruct my ignorance.

The gift of Piety to make me devout in my spiritual life and works of mercy.

The gift of Fear that I may dread the fascination of evil and hold in reverence and awe the sacred presence of my creator, venerating the holiness of creation.

Give me a new heart and a renewed spirit so that the gifts of your Holy Spirit may bear fruit in:-

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be….

+Blessing

When prayed in common a suitable final hymn is sung.
THIRD DAY : Understanding

A suitable hymn is chosen

In the Name of the Father……..

LEADER: “..Understanding, this is grey hairs, untarnished life, this is ripe old age” (Wisdom 4:9)

ALL Prayer of Dedication to the Holy Spirit

All loving God and Father, you have called me into your family and consecrated me into your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through my baptism with your Holy Spirit. I have heard your voice and wish to give myself to you anew in service of your gospel. I offer myself totally to you today and I dedicate myself to your Holy Spirit:-

O Holy Spirit, fill my heart with noble desires to make my life wise with knowledge, beautiful with love, and useful with service. Enlighten the scriptures for me. Teach me what I ought to pray for to enrich my life with the fruit that only you can give. Guide my mind that I may always choose what is right, that I may know which choice to make and which to reject.

O Holy Spirit, open my eyes that I may see the truth, Strengthen my heart so that I may face the truth. Enlighten my mind that I may understand the truth. Give me the willpower that I may obey the truth.

O Holy Spirit, in you I live and move and have my being, Give me peace of mind and heart. Watch over me in my weakness and give me the grace to say to you always and everywhere: “speak Lord, your servant is listening”.

The Spirit of God leads the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt through the waters of the sea. (Read: Exodus 14:19-31 or 1 Cor 10:1-4)

Leader: (Sharing on the theme of the day) UNDERSTANDING

Understanding helps us to grasp the truths of the knowledge we receive each day. It enables us to sieve from the confusion of information what is relevant and useful from what is entertainment, false news or just rubbish. It shows itself best when we have more self-awareness of who we are and how we affect others. Understanding also informs our faith. By faith we accept the mysteries of Christianity but understanding helps us to value and appreciate them. To accept without questioning is not a mature or healthy attitude. It will not deepen our spiritual life and it will not allow us to answer the questions of others. If we do not seek to inform ourselves about our faith, then our faith will grow dormant and dull. God has given us a treasure in our faith to be discovered, explored and cherished. Consequently, our rule of life should always be “Faith seeking Understanding”
**Liturgical action:**  (All are invited forward to kiss/ touch / bless themselves from the Bible enthroned in a prominent place - God’s knowledge of the truth. During this action a Hymn can be sung or music played)

ALL PRAY:-

Come, O Spirit of understanding and help me to see in the world around me the mystery of your presence. Teach me to understand your ways and rejoice in the discovery of your truths. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

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**Prayer for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit**

ALL :

Lord Jesus Christ, before you ascended into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to complete your work and bring us the fullness of grace. May this same Holy Spirit live in me and fill me with the gifts that I need:

The gift of *Wisdom* to judge between right and wrong and make the right use of knowledge.

The gift of *Understanding* to teach me what is important for my ultimate happiness.

The gift of *Counsel* to advise and direct my inexperience.

The gift of *Fortitude* that I may have courage to endure in the struggle for justice and right.

The gift of *Knowledge* to instruct my ignorance.

The gift of *Piety* to make me devout in my spiritual life and works of mercy.

The gift of *Fear* that I may dread the fascination of evil and hold in reverence and awe the sacred presence of my creator, venerating the holiness of creation.

Give me a new heart and a renewed spirit so that the gifts of your Holy Spirit may bear fruit in:-

*Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be….

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+Blessing

When prayed in common a suitable final hymn is sung.
FOURTH DAY : Counsel

A suitable hymn is chosen

In the Name of the Father………

LEADER: “Ask advice of every wise person; never scorn any useful advice. Bless the Lord God in everything; beg him to guide your ways and bring your paths and purposes to their conclusion” (Tobit 4: 18-19)

ALL Prayer of Dedication to the Holy Spirit

All loving God and Father, you have called me into your family and consecrated me into your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through my baptism with your Holy Spirit. I have heard your voice and wish to give myself to you anew in service of your gospel. I offer myself totally to you today and I dedicate myself to your Holy Spirit:-

O Holy Spirit, fill my heart with noble desires to make my life wise with knowledge, beautiful with love, and useful with service.
Enlighten the scriptures for me. Teach me what I ought to pray for to enrich my life with the fruit that only you can give.
Guide my mind that I may always choose what is right, that I may know which choice to make and which to reject.

O Holy Spirit, open my eyes that I may see the truth, Strengthen my heart so that I may face the truth. Enlighten my mind that I may understand the truth. Give me the willpower that I may obey the truth.

O Holy Spirit, in you I live and move and have my being, Give me peace of mind and heart.
Watch over me in my weakness and give me the grace to say to you always and everywhere: “speak Lord, your servant is listening”.

The Holy Spirit enters into the Virgin Mary who gives birth to Jesus, our Saviour

Leader: (Sharing on the theme of the day) COUNSEL

There are many times when we are unsure of what we should say, or unclear as to what is the best course of action. Often we may seek to avoid a problem by doing nothing about it, hoping it will go away of its own accord. If we are wise we take advice from others in such situations, usually someone we know and trust or someone who has experienced similar difficulties. The Spirit of Jesus is our ultimate friend. This same Spirit works with our human spirit so that grace will build on and perfect our human nature. In prayer we open our minds and hearts to the guiding advice of the Spirit of Jesus incarnate in our human nature. This same Holy Spirit is our advocate, our counsellor in our relationship with God. When we don’t know how to pray she translates our darkness into light, our frustrations into hope. She speaks for us in the heart of God. When faced with problems enter into the sanctuary of your spirit and there listen to the Holy Spirit speaking words of comfort and peace.
Liturgical action: (candles are distributed and the renewal of baptismal promises takes place) During this action a Hymn can be sung or music played.

ALL PRAY:-

O Spirit of good Counsel, quieten my troubled mind, give peace to my heart. Help me to take stock of my life that I may judge rightly what must be done for my good and the good of others. May I always be guided by your inspirations and so seek to do the will of God my Father, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

ALL:

Lord Jesus Christ, before you ascended into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to complete your work and bring us the fullness of grace. May this same Holy Spirit live in me and fill me with the gifts that I need:-

The gift of Wisdom to judge between right and wrong and make the right use of knowledge.

The gift of Understanding to teach me what is important for my ultimate happiness.

The gift of Counsel to advise and direct my inexperience.

The gift of Fortitude that I may have courage to endure in the struggle for justice and right.

The gift of Knowledge to instruct my ignorance.

The gift of Piety to make me devout in my spiritual life and works of mercy.

The gift of Fear that I may dread the fascination of evil and hold in reverence and awe the sacred presence of my creator, venerating the holiness of creation.

Give me a new heart and a renewed spirit so that the gifts of your Holy Spirit may bear fruit in:-

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience,
Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness,
Gentleness and Self Control.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be….

+Blessing

When prayed in common a suitable final hymn is sung.
**FIFTH DAY : Fortitude**

A suitable hymn is chosen

In the Name of the Father……..

**LEADER:** “I am reminding you now to fan into a flame the gift of God that you possess through the laying on of my hands. God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power and love and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord.”
(2 Tim 1:2-8)

**ALL**

**Prayer of Dedication to the Holy Spirit**

All loving God and Father, you have called me into your family and consecrated me into your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through my baptism with your Holy Spirit. I have heard your voice and wish to give myself to you anew in service of your gospel. I offer myself totally to you today and I dedicate myself to your Holy Spirit:-

O Holy Spirit, fill my heart with noble desires to make my life wise with knowledge, beautiful with love, and useful with service. Enlighten the scriptures for me. Teach me what I ought to pray for to enrich my life with the fruit that only you can give. Guide my mind that I may always choose what is right, that I may know which choice to make and which to reject.

O Holy Spirit, open my eyes that I may see the truth, Strengthen my heart so that I may face the truth. Enlighten my mind that I may understand the truth. Give me the willpower that I may obey the truth.

O Holy Spirit, in you I live and move and have my being. Give me peace of mind and heart. Watch over me in my weakness and give me the grace to say to you always and everywhere: “speak Lord, your servant is listening”.

**Jesus is baptised and sent out in the power of the Holy Spirit**


**Leader:** (Sharing on the theme of the day) **FORTITUDE**

The gift of fortitude challenges any feelings of inadequacy and strengthens our resolve in the face of doubt and fear. There are times when we are called to do things of which we would normally be afraid; to take risks that we wouldn’t usually take. This often happens in cases of urgency when there is no other help around, or we may be inspired to do so for love of another. It is in moments like these that the Spirit of fortitude is given to us. Much more often the everyday and mundane things of life require of us great fidelity and resolve. When we must patiently endure sickness in ourselves or in others; when love of husband or wife makes us happy to sacrifice our personal freedom; when loyalty to our faith asks us to give witness to the truth; when it seems easier for us to give up rather than continue to do the right thing and so on and so on. - on such occasions the Spirit of God, gifted to us in Baptism and Confirmation, helps us to be strong and to persevere even when it is hard going. The witness
of the saints, ancient and modern, are an example to us and a reminder that our Lord Jesus too required the gift of fortitude when he prayed in his anguish: “Father take this cup away from me. But let your will be done, not mine”

Liturgical action: (All are invited forward to be anointed with Oil – God’s strength among us. a reminder of our confirmation. During this action a Hymn can be sung or music played)

ALL PRAY:- O Spirit of Fortitude, help me to endure through the doubts and uncertainties of my life. Make me constant in faith and give me courage to face the unknown. May I always realise that, however impossible a situation may seem, your strength can remove mountains. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

ALL:

Lord Jesus Christ, before you ascended into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to complete your work and bring us the fullness of grace. May this same Holy Spirit live in me and fill me with the gifts that I need:

The gift of Wisdom to judge between right and wrong and make the right use of knowledge.

The gift of Understanding to teach me what is important for my ultimate happiness.

The gift of Counsel to advise and direct my inexperience.

The gift of Fortitude that I may have courage to endure in the struggle for justice and right.

The gift of Knowledge to instruct my ignorance.

The gift of Piety to make me devout in my spiritual life and works of mercy.

The gift of Fear that I may dread the fascination of evil and hold in reverence and awe the sacred presence of my creator, venerating the holiness of creation.

Give me a new heart and a renewed spirit so that the gifts of your Holy Spirit may bear fruit in:-

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be….

+Blessing

When prayed in common a suitable final hymn is sung.
SIXTH DAY: Knowledge

A suitable hymn is chosen

In the Name of the Father……..

LEADER: “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or lacking clothes, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?….. In so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me ” ( Mt 25: 44-45 )

ALL Prayer of Dedication to the Holy Spirit

All loving God and Father, you have called me into your family and consecrated me into your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through my baptism with your Holy Spirit. I have heard your voice and wish to give myself to you anew in service of your gospel. I offer myself totally to you today and I dedicate myself to your Holy Spirit:-

O Holy Spirit, fill my heart with noble desires to make my life wise with knowledge, beautiful with love, and useful with service.
Enlighten the scriptures for me. Teach me what I ought to pray for to enrich my life with the fruit that only you can give.
Guide my mind that I may always choose what is right, that I may know which choice to make and which to reject.

O Holy Spirit, open my eyes that I may see the truth, Strengthen my heart so that I may face the truth. Enlighten my mind that I may understand the truth. Give me the willpower that I may obey the truth.

O Holy Spirit, in you I live and move and have my being, Give me peace of mind and heart. Watch over me in my weakness and give me the grace to say to you always and everywhere: “speak Lord, your servant is listening”.

Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on the Apostles

Reader: Read: John 20: 19-23 or Matthew 28:16-20
Leader: ( Sharing on the theme of the day) KNOWLEDGE

Don’t criticise what you don’t understand. Never make a judgement until you have all the facts at your disposal. The jury can sit for days and weeks in order to get insight into the full picture of events. With all the facts at hand they can understand, and with knowledge can judge with wisdom. Knowledge of the facts is the bedrock on which understanding and wisdom is built. Ignorance makes fools of us. We live in a world of false news and a media which often misrepresents the facts. We must be careful to inform ourselves from reliable sources otherwise we risk becoming biased and bigoted. The ‘daily rag’ usually distorts reality! While we often thirst for the daily news, how often do we seek out the facts of our faith? How many of us read the Gospel to gain greater insight into the person of Jesus? How much knowledge do we have of the teachings of the church? How interested are we in the injustices done to our brothers and sisters in many parts of our society and the wider world? Do we know what effects our consumerist mentality has on the welfare of nature and our planet? Do we ever read a
Catholic newspaper? Ignorance of the facts can never fully excuse us. The Holy Spirit is given to those who seek to inform themselves properly.

**Liturgy action:** (All are invited forward to kiss/ touch / bless themselves from the Bible enthroned in a prominent place - God’s Word of truth will set us free. During this action a Hymn can be sung or music played)

**ALL PRAY:**

O Spirit of Knowledge, lead me to seek the truth and not be satisfied with my ignorance or apathy. May I always know how to think and act by informing myself in the ways of the faith of the Christian community. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

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**Prayer for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit**

**ALL:**

Lord Jesus Christ, before you ascended into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to complete your work and bring us the fullness of grace. May this same Holy Spirit live in me and fill me with the gifts that I need:

The gift of **Wisdom** to judge between right and wrong and make the right use of knowledge.

The gift of **Understanding** to teach me what is important for my ultimate happiness.

The gift of **Counsel** to advise and direct my inexperience.

The gift of **Fortitude** that I may have courage to endure in the struggle for justice and right.

The gift of **Knowledge** to instruct my ignorance.

The gift of **Piety** to make me devout in my spiritual life and works of mercy.

The gift of **Fear** that I may dread the fascination of evil and hold in reverence and awe the sacred presence of my creator, venerating the holiness of creation.

Give me a new heart and a renewed spirit so that the gifts of your Holy Spirit may bear fruit in:–

*Love, Joy, Peace, Patience,*

*Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness,*

*Gentleness and Self Control.*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be….

**+Blessing**

When prayed in common a suitable final hymn is sung.
SEVENTH DAY : Piety

A suitable hymn is chosen

In the Name of the Father……...

LEADER: “those who were baptised remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the shared community, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers”. (Acts 2:42)

ALL Prayer of Dedication to the Holy Spirit

All loving God and Father, you have called me into your family and consecrated me into your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through my baptism with your Holy Spirit. I have heard your voice and wish to give myself to you anew in service of your gospel. I offer myself totally to you today and I dedicate myself to your Holy Spirit:-

O Holy Spirit, fill my heart with noble desires to make my life wise with knowledge, beautiful with love, and useful with service.
Enlighten the scriptures for me. Teach me what I ought to pray for to enrich my life with the fruit that only you can give.
Guide my mind that I may always choose what is right, that I may know which choice to make and which to reject.

O Holy Spirit, open my eyes that I may see the truth, Strengthen my heart so that I may face the truth. Enlighten my mind that I may understand the truth. Give me the willpower that I may obey the truth.

O Holy Spirit, in you I live and move and have my being, Give me peace of mind and heart. Watch over me in my weakness and give me the grace to say to you always and everywhere: “speak Lord, your servant is listening”.

The Holy Spirit creates the Church at Pentecost

Reader: Read: Acts 2:1-12 or Acts 2:32-41

Leader: (Sharing on the theme of the day) PIETY

Few of us understand the real meaning of piety and we would not like to be given the title ‘pious’ or ‘holy’. This is because it has become associated with the distorted image of an overzealous, other worldly person out of touch with reality. This is a pity. Piety is more than just saying our daily prayers or offering a novena; it is an attitude of affection towards our God, the loving Father which frees us to live our lives in faith, hope and love. When we understand this gift of the Holy Spirit, it should give us a deep joy which causes us to celebrate to celebrate our Christian life in the midst of the community of faith to which we belong.

The truly pious person will not only join regularly with other Christians in prayer and worship, but will also rejoice in helping others without any thought of personal reward. Anyone who is filled with the gift of piety finds the practice of the Christian life to be a delightful service, rather than a burdensome duty; for where there is love there is no labour; and where there is
love there is holiness.

**Liturgical action:** (All are invited forward to kiss/touch/adore the cross - God’s love for us. The Cross is held for individual veneration as on Good Friday. During this action a Hymn can be sung or music played)

**ALL** PRAY:-

**O Spirit of Piety, source of all holiness.** May my holiness given to me in the sacraments never be an embarrassment to me. Instead may I quietly give witness to it by remaining faithful to my prayer life and the practice of my faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Prayer for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit**

**ALL :**

*Lord Jesus Christ, before you ascended into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to complete your work and bring us the fullness of grace. May this same Holy Spirit live in me and fill me with the gifts that I need:*

The gift of **Wisdom** to judge between right and wrong and make the right use of knowledge.

The gift of **Understanding** to teach me what is important for my ultimate happiness.

The gift of **Counsel** to advise and direct my inexperience.

The gift of **Fortitude** that I may have courage to endure in the struggle for justice and right.

The gift of **Knowledge** to instruct my ignorance.

The gift of **Piety** to make me devout in my spiritual life and works of mercy.

The gift of **Fear** that I may dread the fascination of evil and hold in reverence and awe the sacred presence of my creator, venerating the holiness of creation.

Give me a new heart and a renewed spirit so that the gifts of your Holy Spirit may bear fruit in:

*Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be….

+Blessing

When prayed in common a suitable final hymn is sung.
EIGHTH DAY: Fear of the Lord

A suitable hymn is chosen

In the Name of the Father……..

LEADER: “…when they saw him walking on he sea they thought it was a ghost and cried out, for they were terrified. But at once he spoke to them and said, ‘Courage! It’s me! Don’t be afraid.’” (Mk 6:49-50)

ALL

Prayer of Dedication to the Holy Spirit

All loving God and Father, you have called me into your family and consecrated me into your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through my baptism with your Holy Spirit. I have heard your voice and wish to give myself to you anew in service of your gospel. I offer myself totally to you today and I dedicate myself to your Holy Spirit:-

O Holy Spirit, fill my heart with noble desires to make my life wise with knowledge, beautiful with love, and useful with service.
Enlighten the scriptures for me. Teach me what I ought to pray for to enrich my life with the fruit that only you can give.
Guide my mind that I may always choose what is right, that I may know which choice to make and which to reject.

O Holy Spirit, open my eyes that I may see the truth, Strengthen my heart so that I may face the truth. Enlighten my mind that I may understand the truth. Give me the willpower that I may obey the truth.

O Holy Spirit, in you I live and move and have my being. Give me peace of mind and heart. Watch over me in my weakness and give me the grace to say to you always and everywhere: “speak Lord, your servant is listening”.

The Holy Spirit makes us children of God in Baptism and confirmation

Reader: Read: John 3:5-6 or 1 John 3:1-2

Leader: (Sharing on the theme of the day) FEAR of the LORD

Surely the most misunderstood of all these gifts of the Spirit. People are often afraid of the unknown and sometimes the unknown can be so threatening that an inner fear paralyses them and prevents them from being fully human. This negative fear. Fear can also be seen in a positive light when it warns us of danger. As such it is part of the human condition. The disciples in the storm experienced this fear.
The ‘fear’ of the Lord has nothing to do with human fear. Jesus came to take away fear and replace it with peace. The ‘fear’ of God which is commonly expressed in the scriptures is more accurately translated by the word ‘reverence’ or ‘respect’.
Only those who do not know our God revealed to us by Jesus can be afraid of him; “for God is love and the one who lives in God lives in love” (1 John 4:7-8,16). The disciples’ attitude changed from fear to wonder and awe when they listened to the teaching of Jesus and witnessed...
his actions. We too may need to change our attitude if our faith is based on fear of God instead of loving reverence. Otherwise we cannot say that we have truly accepted Jesus as our saviour from sin.

Liturgical action: (All are invited forward and place a few grains of incense into a suitable vessel containing hot charcoal, bringing a prayer in their hearts and saying “let my prayer rise before you like incense” - the mystery of God is honoured. During this action a Hymn can be sung or music played)

ALL PRAY:-
O Spirit of wonder and awe, may I always give proper respect to all creation because it is a reflection of my creator. You know the hidden, unconscious life of hurts, fears and frustrated desires within me. Help me to respect the dignity of others and show reverence for your presence in my heart which heals my fears and fills me with love for you and my neighbour. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

ALL:
Lord Jesus Christ, before you ascended into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to complete your work and bring us the fullness of grace. May this same Holy Spirit live in me and fill me with the gifts that I need:

The gift of Wisdom to judge between right and wrong and make the right use of knowledge.

The gift of Understanding to teach me what is important for my ultimate happiness.

The gift of Counsel to advise and direct my inexperience.

The gift of Fortitude that I may have courage to endure in the struggle for justice and right.

The gift of Knowledge to instruct my ignorance.

The gift of Piety to make me devout in my spiritual life and works of mercy.

The gift of Fear that I may dread the fascination of evil and hold in reverence and awe the sacred presence of my creator, venerating the holiness of creation.

Give me a new heart and a renewed spirit so that the gifts of your Holy Spirit may bear fruit in:-

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, 
Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, 
Gentleness and Self Control.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be….

+Blessing
When prayed in common a suitable final hymn is sung.
NINTH DAY: Gifts to Fruits

A suitable hymn is chosen

In the Name of the Father……..

LEADER: “All who are guided by the Spirit of Gad are children of God; for what you received was not the spirit of slavery to bring you back into fear; you received the Spirit of adoption, enabling us to cry out, ‘Abba, Father’. ” (Romans 8:14-15)

ALL Prayer of Dedication to the Holy Spirit

All loving God and Father, you have called me into your family and consecrated me into your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through my baptism with your Holy Spirit. I have heard your voice and wish to give myself to you anew in service of your gospel. I offer myself totally to you today and I dedicate myself to your Holy Spirit:-

O Holy Spirit, fill my heart with noble desires to make my life wise with knowledge, beautiful with love, and useful with service. Enlighten the scriptures for me. Teach me what I ought to pray for to enrich my life with the fruit that only you can give. Guide my mind that I may always choose what is right, that I may know which choice to make and which to reject.

O Holy Spirit, open my eyes that I may see the truth. Strengthen my heart so that I may face the truth. Enlighten my mind that I may understand the truth. Give me the willpower that I may obey the truth.

O Holy Spirit, in you I live and move and have my being. Give me peace of mind and heart. Watch over me in my weakness and give me the grace to say to you always and everywhere: “speak Lord, your servant is listening”.

The Spirit lives in us to give us everlasting life

Reader: Read: Ezekiel 37:1-14 or Romans 8:5-13

Leader: (Sharing on the theme of the day) GIFTS to FRUITS

It is customary to reflect on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are attributes which the prophet Isaiah points to as marking out the Messiah (Is 11:1-3). There are many other God-given gifts which shine out in people’s lives, some spectacular but most are ordinary. We are all given gifts to be shared. Only when a gift is shared does it show itself in the fruits of the Spirit of which St Paul writes (Galatians 5:22). Gifts are there to be shown and developed, not hidden in the earth (Mt 25:14-30) or placed under a bed! (Luke 8:16-18). The gifts of the Holy Spirit are freely given to those who ask for them so that they will be used for the spread of God’s Kingdom on earth.

If we have the fruits of the Spirit, then we are no longer slaves of an Old Testament law but free children of God, so that the Holy Spirit cries out in us ‘Abba, Father’. She intercedes for
us in words we cannot utter. She is the holy anointing, the seal and the surety. She is the fountain of eternal water which has its source in the heart and rises up to eternal life, whispering: “Come! Come home to the Father”.

**Liturgical action:** (All are invited forward to kiss/ touch / bless themselves from the Bible enthroned in a prominent place - the fruit of the Holy Spirit. During this action a Hymn can be sung or music played)

ALL PRAY:-  Lord, Jesus, send us your Spirit. Give us again and again your Pentecostal gift. Make our spiritual eye bright and our spiritual awareness sensitive, so that we are able to distinguish your Spirit from all others. Give us your Spirit that it may be said of us: “if the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of his Spirit living in you” (Romans 8:11)

**Prayer for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit**

ALL:

Lord Jesus Christ, before you ascended into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to complete your work and bring us the fullness of grace. May this same Holy Spirit live in me and fill me with the gifts that I need:

The gift of **Wisdom** to judge between right and wrong and make the right use of knowledge.

The gift of **Understanding** to teach me what is important for my ultimate happiness.

The gift of **Counsel** to advise and direct my inexperience.

The gift of **Fortitude** that I may have courage to endure in the struggle for justice and right.

The gift of **Knowledge** to instruct my ignorance.

The gift of **Piety** to make me devout in my spiritual life and works of mercy.

The gift of **Fear** that I may dread the fascination of evil and hold in reverence and awe the sacred presence of my creator, venerating the holiness of creation.

Give me a new heart and a renewed spirit so that the gifts of your Holy Spirit may bear fruit in:-

**Love, Joy, Peace, Patience,**

**Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness,**

**Gentleness and Self Control.**

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be….

+Blessing

When prayed in common a suitable final hymn is sung.
Sequence to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, Lord of light
From your clear celestial height
Your pure beaming radiance give.

Come O Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure,
Come, the light of all that lives.

You of all consolers best,
You the soul’s delightful guest,
Do refreshing peace bestow.

You in toil are comfort sweet,
Pleasant coolness in the heat,
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
Visit here these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill.

If you take your grace away,
Nothing pure in us will stay,
all our good is turned to ill.
Heal our wound, our strength renew,
   On our dryness pour your dew,
   Wash the stains of guilt away.

Bend the stubborn heart and will,
   Melt the frozen, warm the chill,
   Guide the steps that go astray.

   You on those who evermore,
   You confess and You adore,
   in your sevenfold gifts descend.

   Give us comfort when we die,
   Give us life with you on high,
   give us joys that never end.
Hymn to the Holy Spirit

Creator Spirit,
Come and visit the souls that are yours,
And fill with your heavenly grace
The hearts that you created.

Kindle a light in our minds.
Pour love into your hearts
And uphold with your unfailing strength
The frailty of our human nature

Drive our enemy far from us
And give us always the gift of peace.
With your grace ever guiding us
May we avoid all that is sinful.
Amen!
The Spirit who renews

Holy Spirit, fulfil in us the work begun by Jesus.
Make fruitful and steadfast the prayer we make on behalf of the whole world.
Hasten the hour when each of us will achieve a deep interior life.
Invigorate our work that it may reach all peoples, all those redeemed by the blood of Christ,
And all his inheritance.
May no vain attachment hinder the work of your vocation. May no personal interest cause us to
shrink from the demands of justice. May no personal scheming cause us to reduce love to our
own petty dimensions.
May all be noble in us: the search and reverence for truth, the readiness to sacrifice even to the
cross and death.
And may all be accomplished according to the last prayer of the Son to his heavenly Father
and according to the grace which Father and Son give through you, the Spirit of love, to the
church and to her institutions, to each soul and to all peoples.
Amen! Amen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Prayer of Pope John XXIII)
Awaken us

Holy Spirit, come like a mighty rushing wind and awaken us out of our complacency,
Our apathy, our indifference.

Stir us up, disturb us, for we are too content to let things go on as they are.
Awaken us to a sense of urgency. Penetrate the closed gate of our hearts and make us live again.
Make us struggle with the problems around us, for in this way we will grow and develop,
Whilst in our apathy and indifference we will slowly die.
Descend, Holy Spirit

Descend, Holy Spirit of life!
Come down into our hearts that we may live.

Descend into the emptiness that the emptiness may
be filled.

Descend into the dust that the dust may flower.

Descend into the dark that the light may shine in darkness.

Change our tepid nature into the warm humanity of
Christ, as he changed water into wine. Be in us a
Stream of life as wine in the living vine.

(Caryll Houselander 1901-1954)
Spirit of the living God

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me,
Fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me.
Come to us Spirit of the Lord

Your Spirit, Lord, is truth:
   May it make us free.
Come to us spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, is fire:
   May it enkindle us with love.
Come to us Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, is Gentleness:
   May it bring us peace.
Come to us Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, renews the face
   of the earth.
May it renew the depths of our hearts.
Come to use Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, is prayer:
   May it open our hearts to give you praise.
Come to us Spirit of the Lord!

Your Spirit, Lord, fills the whole universe:
   May it live among us forever.
Come to use Spirit of the Lord!
Your Spirit, Lord, is life:
May it raise us up on the last day,
Come to us Spirit of the Lord!

(Lucien Deiss, C.S.Sp.)