

## Pentecost Reflection for Families



The feast of Pentecost is one of special celebrations in the atrium. We read the event from Acts 2 and wonder about what it would be like to be one of the apostles at this time, afraid and alone. Often the children will think about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and choose one in particular to continue to reflect on in their own lives.

Here are a few thoughts especially for families with children who are reading well, to support your own reflection. You might like to read about what happened on the day of Pentecost in the Holy Bible.

**What really happened on the day of Pentecost?** The Apostles were back in Jerusalem. Think about how they may have been feeling. It was 50 days after the Resurrection. They were still uncertain of what they should do now. Jesus had returned to his Father. They were together in the upper room. Was this the end of all that Jesus had said and done?

**To find out what happened next read Acts 2:1-4**

Imagine if you were there in the room with them. What would you be thinking about? Did they have any idea of what was about to happen? What did they hear and see? Was what was happening normal?

Something amazing happened. The doors were closed. There was a sound like wind inside the room. Then fire appeared. Fire! It rested on their heads and everything changed. What do you think these outward signs tell us about what was happening inside of them?

Jesus had promised them this would happen, but they were still amazed. What were they were being transformed and empowered to do?

The Holy Spirit was among them and they found they could talk to everyone, and everyone could hear them and understand.

**What were the words they said? Read Acts chapter 2.**

Pentecost is the day we recall that the Apostles began their mission to share the good news about Jesus, God with us. The Church was born.

**Becoming a witness.** The Apostles are called to be witnesses to Jesus' life and his message to us. A witness is someone who tells what they have seen and heard. They do not need to persuade or convince people to change, that is the job of the Holy Spirit to change peoples' hearts.





**What changed?** How did the Holy Spirit enable them to change? What gifts did he share with them?

**You can read more about the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Isaiah 11:2-3.** He was a prophet and told about the one who would come, the one who would have all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. And that one, wants to share these gifts with us too.

What happened when the apostles received the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

**Jesus gives his Spirit to us too.** We receive these gifts in a particular way at Baptism and Confirmation. How do they change us? Do they make us like the Apostles, able to spread the Good News? **Read what Jesus calls us to do in Acts 1:8.**

**The Church celebrates this feast.** The Priest wears red and we have a red cloth on the prayer table to represent the fire of the Holy Spirit. You may decide to wear red that day to celebrate. Perhaps you can prepare your home prayer space with a red cloth. You may have a red candle to light, or you may choose to have 7, for each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



**The Gifts.** Below is a list of the 7 gifts, sometimes we know them by more than one name. You may like to think about what these gifts look like in your life. How do they enable you to be a witness to the Good News? You could draw about one particular gift that you would like the Holy Spirit to teach you more about.

- 🔥 **Wisdom**
- 🔥 **Understanding**
- 🔥 **Piety- Reverence**
- 🔥 **Knowledge**
- 🔥 **Counsel – Right Judgement**
- 🔥 **Fortitude – Strength – Courage**
- 🔥 **Fear of the Lord – Wonder and Awe**

**Pentecost with young children.** If you have very young children, you may like to prepare a prayer space with a red cloth and a red candle (or 7). Everyone could dress in red that day. You could read Acts 2: 1-4 together and wonder about the sounds they heard and the things they saw. Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church, so you may want to prepare a special birthday cake to celebrate together.