

# Virtual Family Prayer Bag



Dear Parent / Carer,  
here is an electronic version of our Prayer Bag  
for Pentecost.

## Celebrating Pentecost Sunday

Please take some time over the next few days  
to come together, as a family, in prayer.  
Pentecost Sunday, this year, is celebrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> May.



The Feast of Pentecost, as the name suggests, is fifty days after Easter. This is the day when Jesus fulfilled his promise to pour out the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. Do you remember what happened on Good Friday? Most of these disciples ran away. They spent the next few days in hiding. Even when Jesus appeared to them and showed them his wounds, they were not totally convinced about what seemed to be happening. After Ascension Day, they did what Jesus asked them to do. They returned to Jerusalem and waited to be clothed with power from on high. And now, this little group of disciples was instantly changed! They are filled with bold confidence, they are quite prepared to go out onto the streets and to bear witness to Jesus. They do what Jesus promised would happen, they can work miracles in his name. They teach in a very powerful way, the message of Jesus, and hearts and lives are changed! Wow, what a wonderful day that must have been! Wouldn't you like to be standing in the streets of Jerusalem when all this was taking place?



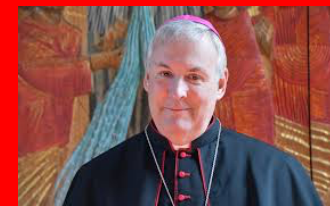
The truth is, we can experience this in our own lives today. Pentecost is a picture of what the Church is called to be. Yes I know, it is very difficult to imagine this when we think about our experience of Church these days. But the Holy Spirit has not gone away, and in truth, God is still wanting to share the things which happened on Pentecost day with us today. Please do join me in praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I can still remember being about 14 years old, and praying one summer evening in my bedroom. The room was filled with light, and something happened which made me filled with joy and peace. You could say, this was my personal Pentecost. And of course, we receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Well isn't this all wonderful! There is only one little problem... The first disciples of Jesus, despite their betrayal and weakness, were open to what God was doing. As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost this year, let us pray that this will be our experience too. *Come Holy Spirit!*

God bless you all,

✠ David

Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley  
Bishop of Northampton



**Set aside some time in your day  
to gather together for prayer  
Make sure you are all sitting comfortably  
Light a candle**



**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Pentecost**

**Day**



**Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning 50**

**Pentecost Sunday is 50 days after Easter Sunday.**

**The friends of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit and were sent out to tell everyone the good news of Jesus**



**Pentecost is sometimes called  
the birthday of the Church  
because the disciples, on that day,  
started the Church that we now belong to.**





# A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles



**When Pentecost day came round,  
the friends of Jesus had all met together,  
when suddenly there came from heaven  
a sound of a strong wind which filled the entire house  
in which they were sitting;  
and there appeared to them tongues as of fire;  
these separated and came to rest  
on the head of each of them.**



**They were all filled with the Holy Spirit  
and began to speak different languages  
as the Spirit gave them power to.**

**Now there were holy men living in Jerusalem  
from every nation under heaven,  
and at this sound they all assembled,  
and each one was bewildered  
to hear these men speaking his own language.**



**They were amazed and astonished.  
They said: 'Surely, all these men are from Galilee?  
How is it that each one of us hears them speaking in our own  
language about the marvels of God?'**

**Everyone was amazed and puzzled; they asked one another  
what it all meant. Some, however, laughed it off and said:  
'They have been drinking too much wine.'**



**Then Peter stood up and said to them in a loud voice:  
'Men of Judaea, and all you who live in Jerusalem,  
make no mistake about this,  
these men are not drunk, as you think;  
why, it is 9'o'clock in the morning!**

**This is what the the prophet Joel said:  
'In the last days, the Lord declares,  
I shall pour out my Spirit on the whole of humanity.'**

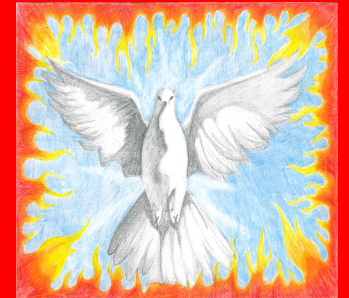
**The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God**



**In a moment of quiet  
just listen to the sound of your breathing.....  
in..... and..... out.....**

**When we breathe we know we are alive.**

**The Holy Spirit is God's breath  
and God's breath gives us life.  
The Holy Spirit is as close to us  
as our own breathing.**



Let us pray:

Loving God  
send us your Holy Spirit  
to transform our lives with your love  
and help us continue the work of your son Jesus  
in our world.

**Amen**



**With your Spirit we can make friends**  
**Send us your Spirit**

**With your Spirit we can work hard**  
**Send us your Spirit**

**With your Spirit we have the courage to do what is right**  
**Send us your Spirit**



**With your Spirit we can make peace**  
**Send us your Spirit**

**With your Spirit we can use our gifts for your glory**  
**Send us your Spirit**

**With your Spirit we can tell others about your love**  
**Send us your Spirit**



**Come Holy Spirit  
fill the hearts  
of your faithful  
and light up in us  
the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit  
and we shall  
be created  
and you will renew  
the face of the earth.**





**The friends of Jesus  
had gathered together because they were afraid.  
But the Holy Spirit gave them strength and courage  
to go out into the streets  
where there were people from all over the world.  
The friends of Jesus proclaimed:  
Jesus is Risen!**





**We too have received the Holy Spirit  
and the Holy Spirit  
gives us the strength and courage  
to tell everyone about Jesus;  
to spread the good news  
to work for justice  
to make God's kingdom a reality in our world.**

What can I do to tell everyone  
the good news of Jesus?

