



BEING SENT FORTH INTO THE NEW WORLD

Douglas Sousa, STL

That first Pentecost Sunday found the apostles in the upper room gathered in prayer.

In many ways, we find ourselves in a similar situation as the apostles did on that first Pentecost Sunday.

Many of us are still under stay-at-home orders or are working under restrictions to wear masks and keep our distance from each other. We have not been able to attend Mass since the first weeks of Lent.

In the meantime, our homes have become places of more intense prayer. Not able to gather with our parish community, we watch the Mass on television or broadcast through social media. All the while, our longing to receive Jesus in the Eucharist is growing. We long for the day when we will receive Holy Communion alongside our brothers and sisters in faith.

Just so, the apostles experienced a longing for the Lord. Only ten days earlier, Jesus had ascended into heaven. He was taken from their sight and their only consolation was his promise, "You will receive power from on high." With longing for their Lord, they prayed fervently until the promise was fulfilled on that first Pentecost Sunday.

Saint Luke tells us in the Acts of the Apostles that, on that day, when the apostles preached the good news of Jesus' resurrection, three thousand were baptized and added to the faith.

Under normal circumstances, those who are preparing to enter the Catholic Church are baptized during the Easter Vigil. However, under the circumstances of this pandemic, many parishes planned to baptize and confirm new Catholics on Pentecost Sunday. We pray that restrictions have been lifted enough that they can finally receive what their hearts have longed for during this long season of preparation — to be united with Jesus in His Church through the sacraments of initiation.

Baptism on Easter is fitting because, through baptism, Jesus' victory over sin and death is applied to us. But it is also fitting to baptize on Pentecost, because baptism makes us members of Jesus' mystical body, the Church, and empowers us to participate in the mission of making Christ known throughout the world. Perhaps the grace of this Pentecost Sunday is that we can discover our calling to spread the gospel wherever we find ourselves.

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus gave his apostles the great commission to go out to all the world. On this Pentecost Sunday, "going out into the world" will look a lot different than it has in the past. We will have to use technology and social media even more than we have to this point. Hopefully, our increased involvement will make Facebook, Twitter, and the other social media platforms more civil and less divisive. What a witness it would be if people sat up and noticed that our content on social media was more loving and positive. What a great thing it would be if they could say, "See how they love one another," after reading our posts.

We have good news for a world that is growing weary of division, hatred, and negativity. It is the saving message of a God who is with us, who brings good out of all situations, and who loves us unconditionally. It is the good news of a God whose Spirit empowers us to bring light to the dark places of this world and hope to those who despair. He leads us out of confinement, out of fear, to embrace new possibilities.

**St Mary's
Parish**

**Serving
the
Community**

**Serving
the
Family**

**Serving
the
City**

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Streaming and Website www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie email: info@stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie

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PRAYER

Holy Spirit

Come like a mighty rushing wind
And awaken us out of our complacency
Our apathy, our indifference.

Disturb us

For we are too content

To let things go on as they are,
And to let people go on not knowing you.
Penetrate the closed gates of our hearts
And make us live again.

O Holy Spirit, create among us
A mighty Christian revolution
And cast the fear of the unknown
Out of our lives.

Amen.

(Michael Hollings & Etta Gullick)

Pentecost

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and
plays

Today the church draws breath at last
and sings

As every flame becomes a Tongue of
praise.

This is the feast of fire, air, and water
Poured out and breathed and kindled into
earth.

The earth herself awakens to her maker
And is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right
order

And every word spells freedom and re-
lease

Today the gospel crosses every border
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of
Peace

Today the lost are found in His transla-
tion.


Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every
nation.



Assuring the Upkeep of Our Parish

Like any, family, body, or institution, the Church in its ministry and mission has always needed an income in order to allow the local community to live and to maintain an

Since collection are not possible in the present situation, the Parish Pastoral Council finance section has been working on a system for our webpage to allow donations to be made to all of the usual collections in this way. This is to be found on the top right hand corner of the website where you will find the access button to the page. From there, please follow the instructions. We know we can continue to count on your generosity.

Next week our Finance Committee will be  sending out a letter to parishioners regarding the one going financing of our parish.

We apologise for apparent glitches in the Easypay system which we became a ware of this week. WE are working to rectify these problems and to try to make the system function more efficiently and easily.

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY

Archbishop's Advice on Opening of Churches:

At the moment the Government Road-map indicates that the opening of Churches and places of worship is foreseen for mid-July. Like all other measures, it is possible that if the public health situation permits it, these dates could be brought forward. It is important for the Church to give the message that we are enthusiastically preparing for the opening of all our Churches and the resumption of public Masses.

Many Churches remain open for private prayer where strict precautions are in operation. Churches are also open for funerals, baptisms and weddings in very limited numbers. Attendance at funerals is currently strictly limited to 10 people.

I suggest that Churches begin already preparing a detailed plan for full re-opening of Churches. Markers could be laid on benches and on floors to facilitate social distancing, remembering that the two metre distance applies not just to those beside you, but also those in front and behind you. A written plan should be developed regarding hand hygiene for larger numbers and for adequate cleansing of Churches.

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