

Pentecost Sunday

Homily: Fr. Shijo George

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The Readings today invite us into the mystery of Pentecost not merely as an event from the past, but as a living reality in our lives. In the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the disciples are gathered behind closed doors, burdened by fear and uncertainty. Then the Holy Spirit descends like a mighty wind, and tongues of fire rest upon them. In that moment, frightened disciples become courageous witnesses.

This is foreshadowed in the Gospel of John, when Jesus enters the locked room and proclaims: “Peace be with you.” Then He breathes on the disciples, saying: “Receive the Holy Spirit.” With this, their mission begins not on their own strength but with the life of Christ, the Holy Spirit within them; the same Spirit that has been given to us.

Today, many people live in some kind of darkness: fear, loneliness, confusion, disappointment, and division. God calls us to carry His light into those places through simple acts of love and faithfulness. Many of us may feel small, weak, and insignificant. We may think: “What difference can my life make in the world?” Pentecost reminds us that God delights in using small flames.

This leads us to a beautiful image of fireflies: we are called to become like fireflies in the darkness. A firefly is small and easily overlooked, yet in the darkness its light becomes visible and meaningful. It does not overpower the night nor illuminate the whole forest; it simply shines where it is. That is enough. In the same way, the apostles were ordinary people with weaknesses and doubts, but the Holy Spirit transformed them into lights for the world.

Likewise, we become a source of God’s light:



Through a word of kindness.

Through patience with someone difficult.

Through forgiving when it is painful.

Through praying for another person.

Through speaking truth gently.

Through carrying hope into places of despair.

All these bring peace, hope, joy and light to our world.

In the Second Reading, from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians, Paul reminds us that there are many different gifts open to us but the same Spirit. Not everyone serves in the same way, yet each person has been entrusted with a unique light to share.

At Baptism, the personal Pentecost in our lives, the Holy Spirit came to dwell within us. Through this, we became children of God and began our journey as a disciple of Christ. Pentecost, therefore, is not only something we remember; it is something we continue to live each day.

So we pray: “Come, Holy Spirit.”

In weakness, give us strength; in confusion, give us wisdom; in fear, give us courage; and in dryness, renew the fire within us. May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts anew, so that we will go forth as humble lights in the darkness bringing peace, hope, and the love of Christ wherever we are.