

# The Holy Spirit

## Praying together

### Come Holy Spirit

Today we say together once again the prayer to the Holy Spirit. (If you do not know this prayer by heart, you should learn it now.) We pray that the Holy spirit will fill us with his sevenfold gift

### Listening to the Word

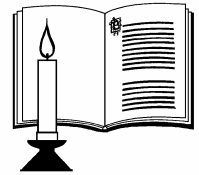
We listen to the passage from the prophet Isaiah which speaks of the “shoot from the stump of Jesse” on whom the Spirit of the Lord rests. We are also to receive that same Spirit who was present in the life and work of Jesus

### Asking God’s blessing

We look forward to the day of the Confirmation Mass and ask that we may be filled with the sevenfold gift of the Spirit and enabled to bear fruit in our lives. We pray for a renewal in the faith and spiritual life of our families and our parish.

*Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.*

James 3.13



## The gifts of the Holy Spirit

### The Bishop’s prayer

At the Mass of confirmation, the Bishop says the following prayer:

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit, you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide.

Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

He prays solemnly that the Holy Spirit will come down upon those who are confirmed and fill them with his seven gifts.

### Using our minds to the glory of God

Wisdom, understanding, right judgement and knowledge are gifts that enlighten our minds. As human people, we have both a body and a soul. Our soul means that we are able to think and to know the truth. God’s Holy Spirit guides us to know the truth, to understand it, to assist others to know it and to use it in the best way possible.

### Courage, be not afraid

There are many ways in which we can be undermined by fear or embarrassment. The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to stand up for our faith.

### Profound reverence

We are not to be “frightened” of God but to have a spirit of wonder and awe in his presence. Our careful reverence and respect can provide the right conditions for us to experience this wonder and awe.

## Traditional prayer

Prayer of Saint Ignatius

Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me

to serve you as you deserve,

to give and not to count the cost

to fight and not to heed the wounds

to toil and not to seek for rest

to labour and to seek for no reward

save that of knowing

that I do your holy will. Amen.

# His hidden action in us strengthening us with gifts to bear fruit

## Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The list below gives the 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit, the results of being filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Choose three and write a sentence that shows how each of those three "fruits" could be shown in your own daily life.

- ➔ Love
- ➔ Joy
- ➔ Peace
- ➔ Patience
- ➔ Goodness
- ➔ Kindness
- ➔ Long-suffering
- ➔ Mildness
- ➔ Faith
- ➔ Modesty
- ➔ Self control
- ➔ Chastity

### Scripture

In your bible, look up St Paul's letter to the Galatians, chapter 5, verses 16-25.

St Paul talks about the works of the flesh and the fruits of the spirit. Can you think of different songs, films or television programmes that show these two ways of living?

Do you think that sometimes the 'fruit of the Spirit' is made out to be 'boring' and the works of the flesh fun or exciting?

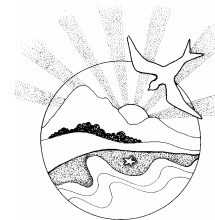
## At Sunday Mass

Listen carefully today to the priest's sermon but in a different way perhaps from the way you usually listen.

Imagine that the Holy Spirit is speaking to you and using the priest as his instrument. It does not matter whether the priest is old or young, whether you like him or not, whether the sermon is interesting or 'boring', you can imagine the Holy Spirit using this priest to speak to you.

Try to pick one sentence or phrase that you understand well and accept this from the Holy Spirit as your gift for the day. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom that you need to put it into practice in your life.

If you get used to listening to the sermon in this way, you be able to use every Mass as a way of learning from the Holy Spirit.



## Follow up

Look through your Confirmation folder at the activities we have completed so far and the various handouts you have collected.

Make sure everything is neat and read through some of the answers that you have given. Ask yourself if there is anything you would now add.