

Mission Together

Pentecost Liturgical Prayer: Encouraged by the Spirit



INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS / CHAPLAINS

The Christian feast of Pentecost occurs on the seventh Sunday after Christ's resurrection and concludes the great season of Easter. In scripture, the period of 50 days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost is punctuated with Christ's appearances to the Apostles. These appearances affirmed the reality of Christ's resurrection and helped the Apostles understand more clearly Christ's message of mercy and love. But despite the appearances, the Apostles remained clouded with anxiety and doubt. Without Christ's constant presence they were uncertain of their purpose and mission. That was until God's Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles at Pentecost, enabling them to go out and spread the Good News of Christ with all. Because of this, Pentecost is regarded as the birth of the Church and its mission to the world.

LITURGY PLAN

Setting the scene

Please refer to our guide: *How to Pray with Children* missiontogether.org.uk/prayer-resources/

Opening hymn or recorded music

Our suggestions: *Walk in the Light*.

Sign of the cross and opening prayer

Print the opening prayer on page 2 and ask a pupil to read.

Introduction

Print the introduction on page 2 and ask pupils to read.

Bible reading *adapted for children from NJB*

Print the Bible reading on page 3 and ask a pupil to read.

For an interactive interpretation with multiple pupils see Appendix 1.

Bible reflection

See page 3. We suggest this is delivered by a teacher / chaplain.

Prayers of intercession

Print the prayers of intercession on page 4 and ask pupils to read.

Mission Together prayer

See to the right.

Sign of the cross

Closing hymn or recorded music

Our suggestions: *We are One in the Spirit*.

Mission Together Prayer

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. **Amen.**

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.

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Opening Prayer

Reader: God our Father, today we celebrate the feast of Pentecost,
when you sent your Holy Spirit to guide and inspire the Apostles.
May the same Holy Spirit guide us too,
So that we can share your love and mercy with everyone we meet.
We make this prayer through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Introduction

- Reader 1:** Today we are remembering the feast of Pentecost, when people from different countries began to hear the message of Jesus and gather together as a Church family. This is why Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. The feast of Pentecost reminds us that the Church is not just a building made of bricks, but a worldwide community made up of people who all want to follow Jesus.
- Reader 2:** The first people who wanted to follow Jesus were called Disciples. Jesus taught his Disciples how to grow in faith, mercy and love. He also encouraged his Disciples when they were unsure or afraid. With Jesus as their guide, the Disciples grew in confidence.
- Reader 3:** But after Jesus died on the cross, the Disciples became anxious. Although they had met Jesus since he had risen from the tomb, they couldn't see him all the time. They began to worry about how they would cope without Jesus guiding the way. To help, Jesus promised the Disciples that once he had reached heaven he would send God's Holy Spirit to be with them for ever.
- Reader 4:** The Holy Spirit came down on the Disciples at Pentecost. It is then that the Disciples became Apostles. An Apostle is someone sent out to share the message of Jesus with everyone. The Bible reading we will hear now tells us about that special Pentecost day. Listen carefully and try to imagine how you might have felt if you were in the room when the Holy Spirit arrived.



Bible reading: From the Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4 (adapted from Jerusalem Bible)

For an interactive interpretation of this scripture see Appendix 1.

Reader: When Pentecost day came round, the Apostles all met in one room. Suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were staying. Something appeared to them that seemed like flames of fire; these flames came to rest above the head of each of them. The Apostles were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

The Word of the Lord **R/ Thanks be to God.**

Bible Reflection: We suggest this is delivered by a teacher / chaplain. Questions in Italics follow the interactive Bible reading.

At the start of today's reading, we heard that the Disciples had gathered together in one room. Just a few days earlier Jesus, their friend and teacher, had been taken up to heaven. With Jesus now in heaven the Disciples knew they faced some big changes.

Q. How do you think the Disciples were feeling? *Can you remember how the Disciples felt?*

It is normal to feel sad, worried, uncertain when the people we love are no longer around, or when we are facing a big change. Jesus knows this and so before he rose to heaven, he promised to send the Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide the Disciples. This is the same Holy Spirit that we can ask to strengthen and guide us when we are sad or facing big changes too.

The Bible reading goes on to tell us that after the Disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they had the confidence to go out as Apostles; facing the future with hope and courage. The Apostles knew that God would always be with them. They could rely on the Holy Spirit to guide them as they went into the world.

Q. Can you remember the gift that enabled the Apostles to share the message of Jesus with the world?

The Apostles were given the ability to speak in different languages. This means that after Pentecost, the Apostles were able to fulfil the mission Jesus had set them – to share the message of God's love and mercy with people around the world. This is how the Church began to grow into a worldwide family, full of people all trying to share love as Jesus instructed.

Q. How might we share God's love through the messages and words we share?

Suggested responses: By speaking kindly. Telling our family we love them. Saying sorry if we have upset someone or forgiving someone if they upset us. By chatting to people who are lonely. Through our prayers.

Let's share God's love now as we say our bidding prayers together.



Prayers of Intercession

Reader: The response to our prayer is: **Lord, hear us.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, at Pentecost you sent the Holy Spirit to guide the Apostles, we pray that the same Spirit might guide us too, so that we too can share the message of your Son, Jesus, with everyone, everywhere. We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, we pray for your Church around the world. No matter where we live, help us work together as brothers and sisters, building your world of mercy and love. We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, we pray for our Priest and the people of our parish. We pray also for the children, families and staff in our school. May we all follow the example of Jesus, and speak words that welcome, respect, encourage and appreciate others. We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, we pray for all those who are anxious about change. May they always remember that your Holy Spirit is there to support and guide them as they take their next steps. We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: We pray for children overseas whom Mission Together helps: those who are scared, sad or lonely; those who are homeless, sick, or who are refugees. May they find hope in your love and may we always be ready to help them. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: We end our prayers by saying together the ***Mission Together Prayer.***

May all children
in the world
share love
share friendship and live
in the peace
of God's love,
now and forever. Amen.

Closing hymn or recorded music



Appendix 1: The day of Pentecost (adapted from Acts 2: 1-4)

This re-telling is designed to involve as many children as possible. Select up to five readers and invite twelve pupils to represent the Apostles. The Apostles stand together and face their fellow pupils.

Provide each Apostle with a cut out flame (Appendix 2) attached to a straw. On the back of each flame is written an international greeting (Appendix 3)

For this retelling you will need:

- Reading parts for pupils
- Cut out card flames (see Appendix 2)
- A marker pen
- Paper straws
- Sticky tape

Reader 1:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. When Pentecost day came round, the Apostles all gathered in one room. They were feeling sad and worried about how they would manage, because Jesus had now returned to God the Father in heaven.

Invite the Apostles to look sad and worried.

Reader 2:

Suddenly the Apostles heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were gathered.

Invite all pupils to make a wooshing wind sound. Remind the pupils that the sound of the Holy Spirit filled the entire room, so their sound needs to be loud enough to fill the entire hall / classroom.

Reader 3:

After the wind, something appeared to the Apostles that seemed like flames of fire. These flames hovered above the head of each of them.

At this point the Apostles should lift their flame above their head.

Reader 4:

The Apostles were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Ask the Apostles to turn their flames around. On the back of each is a greeting from a different language. Invite the Apostles to read out their greeting. They will need help with the pronunciation.

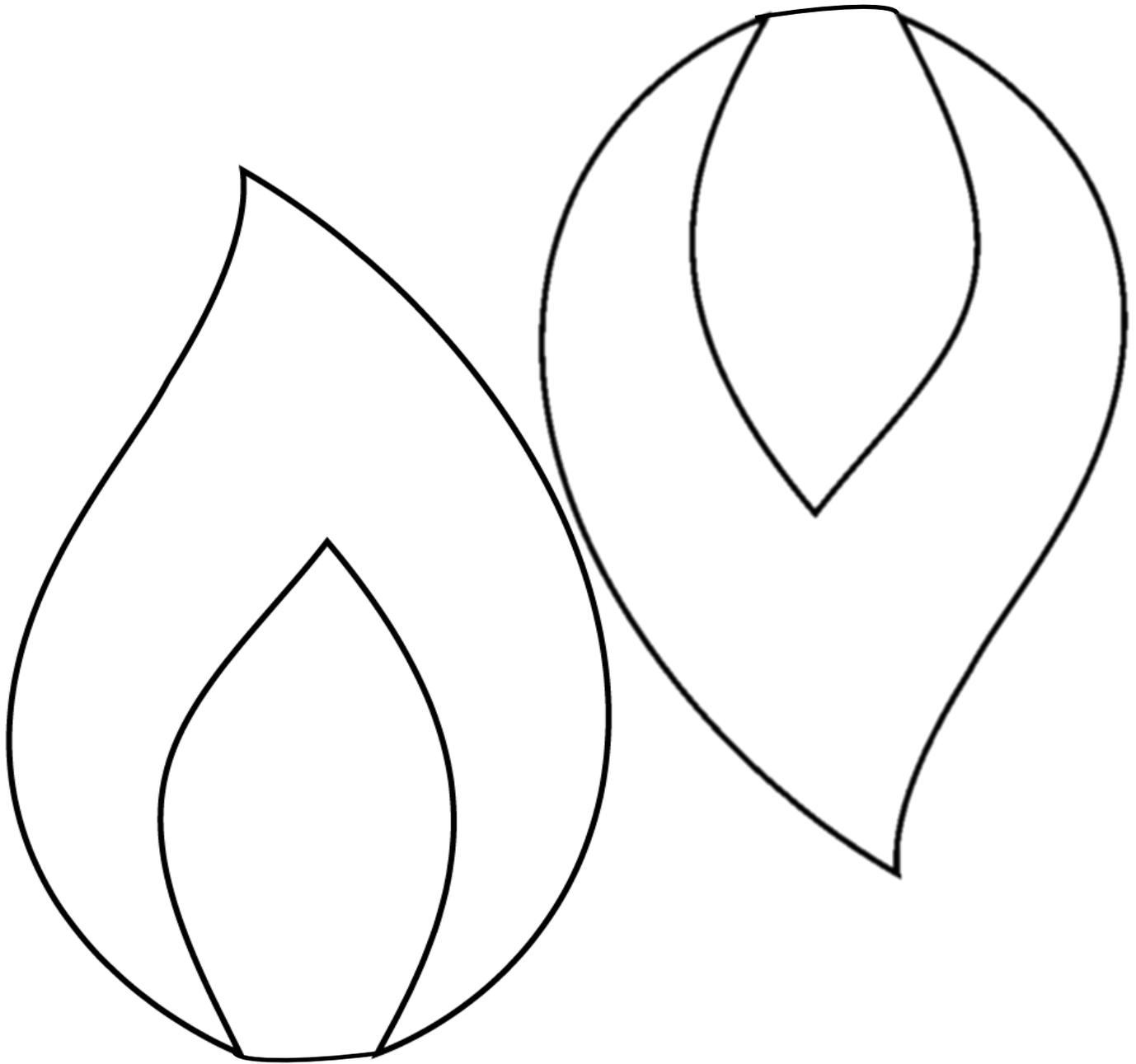
Reader 5:

God sent the Holy Spirit to be with the Apostles at all times and to help them share his love with the world. Let us remember that, like the Apostles, we too can ask the Holy Spirit to help us do the same. God's Holy Spirit is always there to encourage us, especially when we feel worried or afraid.

Appendix 2: Pentecost flame

This prop is used in the interactive re-telling 'The day of Pentecost'.

- Photocopy the flame template below on thin card (preferably yellow or red). You will need one flame for each Apostle in your re-telling.
- Cut out your flame shapes.
- On the back of each flame, write an international greeting (Appendix 3).
- Use sticky-tape to attach each flame to a paper straw.





Appendix 3: International greetings

Below is a list of greetings from different countries. Select those applicable to the age and ability of your pupils and copy the selected greetings and translation on a whiteboard. Allocate or ask pupils to write one greeting on the flame shape provided on Appendix 2.

ASIA

CHINESE MANDARIN: *Nǐ hǎo ma* – Hello, how are you?

FILIPINO: *Magandang araw* – Good / Beautiful day!

HINDI: *Namaste* – Hello (literal translation is ‘I bow to the divine in you’).

EUROPE

CZECH: *Dobrý den* – Good day

GERMAN: *Guten Tag!* – I wish you a good day!

ITALIAN: *Ciao!* – Hello (also goodbye)!

AFRICA

ARABIC: *As-salamu alaykum* – Peace be upon you.

SOMALI: *Soo dhowow* – Welcome

SWAHILI: *Jambo!* – hello!

THE AMERICAS

NATIVE SOUTH AMERICAN (QUECHUA): *Rimaykullayki* – Hello

EL SALVADOR : *Buenos dias* – Good day

CREOLE (Haiti): *Alo* – Hello

OCEANIA

YABEM (Papua New Guinea): *Bibic ngayam* – Good day!

YUGARA (Aborigini): *Gurumba bigi* – Good day

TONGAN: *Mālō e lelei* – Hello

Fundraising ideas



Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. Thanks to children in England and Wales, we can provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be a new school, feeding programme, or a generator for a children's home. Mission Together helps all children, regardless of background or beliefs. That's how we show the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. Below are a few Lenten ideas but you can find other ways to get involved throughout the year by visiting our webpage <https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/>

Please **share your** fundraising events with us @missioUK, adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Ideas for Summer term

Weeding Week: while the days are sunny and warm, why not raise money by weeding gardens? Ask for suggested donation, or sponsorship per bag of weeds. Children can work alone, with friends, or siblings. Maybe green fingered children could also offer to plant and prune too. Who knows if your Weeding Week might inspire the next Monty Don!

Open air cinema: a big sheet, a projector and some fairy lights and you can host a magical movie night under the stars! Charge people entry to come and see movies on your outdoor screen. Invite whole families and make a big picnic of it.

Sports day fun: host a football tournament, sports day or outdoor activity day. Charge people to attend and sell refreshments. Prize for the tournament winners!

Sponsored swim, walk or cycle: get everyone involved in some outdoor fun once the weather's better. Could you get sponsored to walk a certain distance, or hold a sponsored swim?

Scavenger hunt: this is a great team activity! Print off some sheets with things to spot on them. You can tailor the items to be outdoors, indoors or whatever suits your space and environment. Either get teams to tick the items off or take pictures to prove they've found them! Charge teams to enter and give prizes for the fastest finishers.

Big summer BBQ: hold a family barbecue, street party or big picnic at your school. Serve up food and treats, hold stalls with tombolas and raffle prizes, even set up some games like hook a duck or skittles and quoits. The great thing about these events is that they can be as simple or involved as you like. Sell tickets to attend.

Ideas that work all year round

Bake Sale: you know what to do :)

Mufti-day: charge pupils to wear their own clothes or come in themed costumes. You could make this themed around the colours of the mission rosary.

Helping angels: encourage children to take on extra chores at home, for a donation to Mission Together or contribution to the Red Box.

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