

Sunday 31st May

Feast of Pentecost Gospel and questions to discuss

Gospel: John 20:19-23

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

The disciples were alone and afraid, because their friend Jesus, who they knew was the Son of God, had been put to death.

Suddenly Jesus appeared to them.

What did Jesus say to the disciples? *(Peace be with you)*

And how did the disciples feel when they saw Jesus again?

The disciples were filled with joy.

Jesus repeated the words "Peace be with you."

What happened next?

Jesus breathed on the disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit. He told the disciples he was sending them out to spread his word.

The disciples had been sad, lonely and frightened.

How do you think they felt after Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit onto them?

The disciples were filled with joy, hope and courage to go out and spread the word of God. God's special message of peace for all people.

The Holy Spirit gives the disciples the courage to see that they can do what Jesus asks of them.

What does Jesus ask us to do? How does Jesus want us to behave and to treat other people?

Jesus asks us to do the same as the disciples – to spread his message of peace to all people through what we do.

Can you think how you might do this? And how does the Holy Spirit help us?

The Holy Spirit gives us the courage to answer Jesus' call, to do what God asks of us even when it is difficult. We each answer that call in a different way, but the Holy Spirit helps and guides us along the way.