



*Light and  
Love in the  
darkness*

## CELEBRATING AT HOME PENTECOST SUNDAY

*Sent to be  
God's love  
in the world (Jn 20:19-23)*

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when we cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.

# CELEBRATING AT HOME PENTECOST SUNDAY

## Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
**Enkindle in us the fire of your love.**

Send forth your spirit and we shall be created.  
**You shall renew the face of the earth.**

May your light within us burn.  
**We will be your gift of peace and love.**

## Preparing to hear the Word

Spirit of love, with us always,  
**you bind us in love to yourself.**

Spirit of the body of Christ, with us always,  
**you unite us in the Church with your grace and hope.**

Spirit in our world, with us always,  
**you draw us together in love and help us to recognise you in each other.**

## Scripture Reading (John 20:19-23)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and, after saying this, he showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained.'

## Reflection - *Sent to be God's love in the world*

At Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first group of Christian believers - the disciples. This gift of the Holy Spirit is the culmination of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

It would be wrong to think that this gift happened only once, in one moment of history. In fact, the gifting of the Holy Spirit is a continuing event in the life of every believing person and, therefore, in every age of human history. The Holy Spirit is the presence of *God with us* - the enduring way in which Jesus remains present in the Church and in the life of each person.

Today we do not pray to receive the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit in us has been affirmed and proclaimed in the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Instead, we pray to grow more aware of the Spirit's presence in our lives and to allow that Spirit to grow within us, gradually re-shaping our minds and hearts in the image of Jesus.

Pentecost brings to a close the fifty days of the Church's Easter celebrations. Soon we will begin Ordinary Time again. So, our feast today helps us understand that we take the Holy Spirit with us into the ordinary events and tasks of each day. That is how we allow the sacred to touch, heal and transform us and the world around us.

The spiritual search is for the heart of God within our own. When we enter into relationship with Christ through the Spirit, the gifts begin to flow more abundantly. The Spirit is the source of reconciliation with ourselves and with each other. Reconciliation is essential if we are to 'hold and guard' each other in the midst of all that life throws at us, especially at the moment.

The Spirit brings gifts of wisdom, courage, understanding, right judgement, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe in God's presence. May we be graced by them all as we discern and decide how we can best work together to build up each other and to let God's love be seen at work in each of us.

## A Pentecost Commitment

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit of God, we commit ourselves to take up more fully the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ entrusted to us at baptism.**

**We reject everything to do with self-indulgence and narrow self-interest.**

**We commit ourselves to the destruction of poverty, injustice, fear, suffering and isolation.**

**We commit ourselves to witness Christ in every moment and every aspect of our lives by living in hope, trust, confidence, gentleness and self-control.**

**This way the Spirit will be our life, and we will fulfil our mission of service in our world.**

**Filled with the Holy Spirit we will grow in love for each other, in wisdom, courage, knowledge, perseverance, understanding, perception and in wonder at God's presence and action in the world.**

May God, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to fulfilment through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

## Closing Prayer

Gracious God,  
through the gift of the Spirit  
you share with us the life of the Risen Jesus.  
Transform our darkness, fear and isolation  
with your strength and comforting presence  
so that we can be your calm, loving,  
healing presence to each other.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Blessing

May your blessing be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.

Continue to bring your Spirit to life within us,  
**set us on fire with your love.**