



# Renewing Our Faith

## **Holy Spirit**

# I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, equal with the Father (God) and the Son (Jesus). The Holy Spirit is almighty, eternal and love. The love that God the Father and God the Son have for one another. A love that is so perfect that it is a living love.



## What are the other names for the Holy Spirit?

When Jesus proclaims and promises the coming of the Holy Spirit, he names it the **'Paraclete'** and the **'Spirit of Truth'**. The word Paraclete is a Greek word that means counsellor, someone who helps or guides others. St Paul and St Peter also give other names for the Holy Spirit. They include the **"the Spirit of the Promise, the Spirit of Adoption, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Glory.** The Holy Spirit is also known as **Sanctifier** (Holy), life-giver and the spirit of love. All these names remind us that the Holy Spirit is God's special gift to us.

**Sanctifier:** a name given to the Holy Spirit

**Sanctify:** to make holy

## **What does the Holy Spirit look like?**

The Holy Spirit is shown through symbols. This help us to understand what the Holy Spirit looks like. The Holy Spirit is represented as water, fire, wind, cloud and light and a dove. Other signs connected with the Holy Spirt include anointing, a seal, a hand and a finger.

**Water** signifies birth and life. It represents the cleansing and life-giving action of the Holy Spirit at Baptism. **Fire** represents the strength and the force of the Holy Spirit.

**Wind** represents the breathing life of the Holy Spirit into the Church. **Cloud and light** symbolise the God who is hidden and mysterious but also revealing (showing) love and truth and full of light. The **Dove** represents the Spirit coming into our soul with its grace, joy and peace.



## **Has the Holy Spirit been around since the beginning?**

Yes, the Holy Spirit has always existed. It was the Holy Spirit that spoke through the writers of the Old Testament and the Prophets. The Prophets were God's messengers who were chosen to prepare God's people for the coming of the Messiah (Jesus). Some of the well-known prophets include Elijah, Isaiah and John the Baptist.

## What role does the Holy Spirit play in the life of Jesus?

The Holy Spirit affirmed Jesus as God's beloved Son at His Baptism. The Holy Spirit guided him and strengthened Him throughout his public ministry. On the Cross, Jesus gave up His Spirit to His Father. When He rose from the dead, Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit on the disciples. Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus told the Apostles that he would send the Holy Spirit to guide them in all truth and to fill their hearts with joy.



## What is Pentecost?

Pentecost is the coming down of the Holy Spirit upon the

Apostles. This event is the birthday of the Church.



**Pentecost: 50 days**

This feast happened fifty day after Jesus rose from the dead

## What happened at Pentecost?

A mighty wind filled the house and tongues of fire appeared over each person in the house. Everyone was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. From that moment the Apostles began preaching to all the people gathered in Jerusalem.

## **What happened to the Apostles when they received the Holy Spirit?**

When the Apostles received the Holy Spirit, they also received the light to understand everything that Jesus had taught them and the zeal to preach it with love and courage.

In the Bible, Peter stood up and explained to the people that this was the work of the Holy Spirit. He proclaimed that Jesus had risen from the dead and was truly the promised Messiah. When Peter had finished preaching to the people, three thousand people received Baptism that day.





## What is the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church?

The role of the Holy Spirit is to build up the **Church**. The Spirit chooses people to serve in the Church and to provide them with the necessary gifts. It is through the Holy Spirit that the Church maintains the truth, teaches it without error (no mistake) and lead us into a deeper relationship with God. It is the Holy Spirit who works in the **Sacraments** that we receive and brings the Bible to life for us.

**Church:** the community of true Christians: baptised persons who profess the faith and teachings of Jesus Christ.

**Sacrament:** a visible sign or ceremony given to us by Jesus in order to give us holy grace.

# What happens when a person receives the Holy Spirit?

When a person receives the Holy Spirit, it will make their soul holy through the gift of **grace**.



**Grace:** a gift from God that gives the soul new life, and a sharing in the life and love of God.

## **How do we grow in this holy life of grace?**

Receiving the Sacraments on a regular basis

Praying daily

Reading the Word of God (the Bible)

Serving others

## **What are some ways in which we can bring Christ to others?**

Pray for other people

Be a good example through words and actions

Accept your sufferings with courage

Do Works of kindness

Volunteer our services in our local parish (Church)



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