

## **Children's liturgy – Pentecost (Year A)**

### **Preparation of the worship space**

Colour: Red

**Song suggestions:** Shine Jesus shine (388, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)  
Spirit of the Living God (666, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

**Welcome:** Today we hear how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with the disciples, to help them see that they could do anything and to give them the courage to try. Let's think a bit about what the Holy Spirit does in our lives today.

**Opening prayer:** God of all, you sent your Spirit to be with the disciples, filling them with joy, peace and courage. May we also be filled with your Spirit and have the courage to share your peace in our world. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Acts 2:1-11

**Psalm:** Psalm 103:1, 24, 29-31, 34. R. Cf. v.30

**Gospel acclamation:** everyone stands and sings the acclamation together. Suggestions include: 'Halle, halle, halle' (Caribbean) from 'Sing With the World', Alison Adam & John Bell; 'Alleluia' (Zimbabwe), Abraham Maraire Publications, WCC & GIA; 'Celtic Alleluia' (traditional); 'Alleluia! Raise the Gospel' from 'Go Before Us', Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications.

**Gospel:** John 20:19-23

**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. And 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 on to them?

The disciples were filled with joy, peace and courage to go out and spread the word of God.

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.

*If you have time you could share [Maria's story](#) with the children. See the Activity suggestions below for more details.*

This week let's try to feel the Holy Spirit in our lives, giving us courage and helping us to spread Jesus' message of peace in our world.

What will you do this week to try and spread peace in our world?

**Intercessions** *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We pray to God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

We pray for all those who work for peace in our world: that they may have the courage and strength to carry on, even in the most difficult times. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people and especially those who have lived through war and conflict: that, filled by the power of the Holy Spirit, they may find it in their hearts to move forwards in peace and forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be inspired by the Holy Spirit to spread Christ's message of peace in all that we do. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** God of mercy, fill us with your Spirit and guide us as we try to share your peace in our world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying optional illustration and on the back to write or draw how they will spread Jesus' message of peace with others in the coming week.

Ask the children to write a prayer for peace in our world.

Share [Maria's story](http://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-schools/Peace-Conflict) with the children (available on this page: <http://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-schools/Peace-Conflict>). Maria is 10 and lives in El Salvador. CAFOD's partners, the Sisters of St Clare are working with Maria and the other children to offer them sport and dance opportunities so that the children can learn to live together in peace.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. If they have written a prayer for peace, ask them to say it together at home during the week. Ask them to try to do at least one thing in the coming week to spread Jesus' message of peace in our world.