

A nun/religious sister was driving to a care home to visit the sick. She ran out of petrol. Fortunately, there was a petrol station down the street. She walked to the station to borrow and fill a petrol can.

Unfortunately, they had run out of petrol cans. Since the nun/religious sister was in a rush to visit the sick, she decided not to go back to her car and look for something to carry to the petrol in. She spotted a bedpan she was taking to one of the patients. She carried the bedpan to the station, filled it with petrol, and carried it carefully back to her car.

She was pouring the petrol carefully into the tank of her car and two men walked by. One of them saw what she was doing, nudged his friend, and said: "Now that is what I call faith!"

Liturgically, we are between the resurrection and Pentecost. The disciples and we are waiting to receive the Holy Spirit. This preaching series is called "Expecting to receive the Holy Spirit."

The subtitle of this 2nd week is **Filled with the Holy Spirit.**

People can feel flat, empty, mediocre, frazzled. Parents can feel empty of patience. Couples can feel like they have no love left for the other. Children can feel low on self-control. Workers can feel underappreciated.

Unemployed can feel little worth. Political leaders can be low on ideas and hope. We can all feel like we are running out of fuel!

Followers of Jesus can feel this way too. St Peter did. He was low on faith when he denied Jesus 3 times. However, the Acts of the Apostles says St. Peter was "filled with the Holy Spirit." Filled with the Holy Spirit, he didn't cower away from Jesus, like he did with a servant girl. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he spoke up against "rulers" and "elders" (Acts 4:8).

The Holy Spirit **fills** us to become bold followers of Jesus: 1. doing acts of kindness; 2. bring healing; 3. witness to being saved in Jesus.

1. Kindness (v. 9): Filled with the Holy Spirit, St. Peter said, "If we are being called to account today for an act of **kindness**..." Being filled with the Holy Spirit does not make us other worldly and uninterested. The Holy Spirit inspires practical acts of kindness!

Imagine the possibilities! A friendly smile to a stranger, volunteering at church, offering to help a neighbour, showing kindness to an enemy. Do small acts of with great kindness. How can you show even more kindness to someone this week?

2. Healing (v. 9): Filled with the Holy Spirit, St. Peter said, "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth... that this man stands before you **healed**." The Holy Spirit doesn't just inspire kind acts; the Holy inspires us to pray and work for healing. We don't heal. Jesus heals. Followers of Jesus pray for Jesus to touch people through the power of the Holy Spirit. If we don't pray, people do not get healed. If we do, some people are healed.

How do we pray for healing? It can be for believers/non-believers, sick in the parish, your family, strangers. Ask to lay your hand on people's shoulders/wounded area, as a sign of Jesus' touch. Pray "come Holy Spirit, heal x, in Jesus' name, amen." Believe the Holy Spirit will bring some physical, spiritual, emotional, and/or mental healing.

3. Saved in Jesus (v. 10): Filled with the Holy Spirit, St. Peter said, "There is **salvation** in no one else, for there is no other **name** under heaven given to people by which we must be **saved**" (v. 10). Jesus alone saves! Jesus reveals the saving love of God.

How do we tell others that Jesus saves? Look for opportunities to share how Jesus has saved you/changed you/made a difference in your life. Invite friends to alpha to explore Jesus. Invite people to Mass. Use social media to share uplifting bible verses about Jesus. Say it boldly but with love.

How do we become filled with the Holy Spirit? Ask. Pray “Come, Holy Spirit, fill me.” Trust that He will come. Immerse yourself in Scripture each day (listen to the Bible in One Year, Hallow app). Seek fellowship with other Christians (church events). Serve (get into a church team). Try alpha. Pray daily and worship weekly. Learn more about Jesus (listen to the catechism in one year by Fr Mike Schmitz).

As this parish becomes more filled with the Holy Spirit, we'll naturally do more acts of kindness, pray for healing, and joyfully share the Good News that Jesus saves. We will help transform families, work, friends, school, this city, nation, and generation to be more like Jesus, amen!

Prayer

Father, thank you that I can be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill me... with your kindness ... your healing power ... with the conviction and joy of being saved in the name of Jesus!

Help me share your kindness, healing power, and the saving name of Jesus to all people, with my deeds and words, for the salvation of the world, in Jesus' name, amen!