

The Living Word

Pentecost Sunday, Year A

31 May 2020

First Reading Acts 2:1-11

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak different languages.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30

**(R.) Lord, send out your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.
or
(R.) Alleluia.**

1. Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches. (R.)
2. You take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they
came.
You send forth your spirit, they are
created;
and you renew the face of the earth. (R.)
3. May the glory of the Lord last for ever!
May the Lord rejoice in his works!
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Come, Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of your
faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Jn 20:19-23

As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

In the evening of 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 showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw 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.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

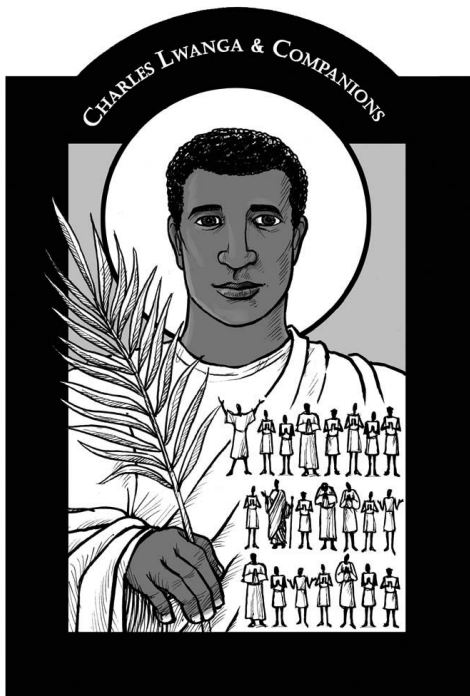
As summer progresses in Australia, invariably great bushfires break out. Those who report the infernos speak not only of the flames, but often of a mighty roar like a great windstorm heralding the approaching fire.

The earth had quaked at the death of Jesus, but death had been conquered and the earth was supercharged with divine energy and vitality. Into all this the Risen Lord sent his Holy Spirit like a lightning strike. Divine energy was unleashed and St Luke portrays this particular event in our bushfire terms. The Holy Spirit, he says, was 'like tongues of fire' and 'like the sound of a mighty wind' accompanying the descent of the Holy Spirit on a gathering of a fearful group of followers of Our Lord.

The tangled undergrowth of fear, anxiety and timidity was cleared away. The new life of the church was germinated, took root and has been growing ever since, listening to the core message preached by St Peter: Jesus of Nazareth had conquered death and Peter and others were witnesses to the Risen Lord.

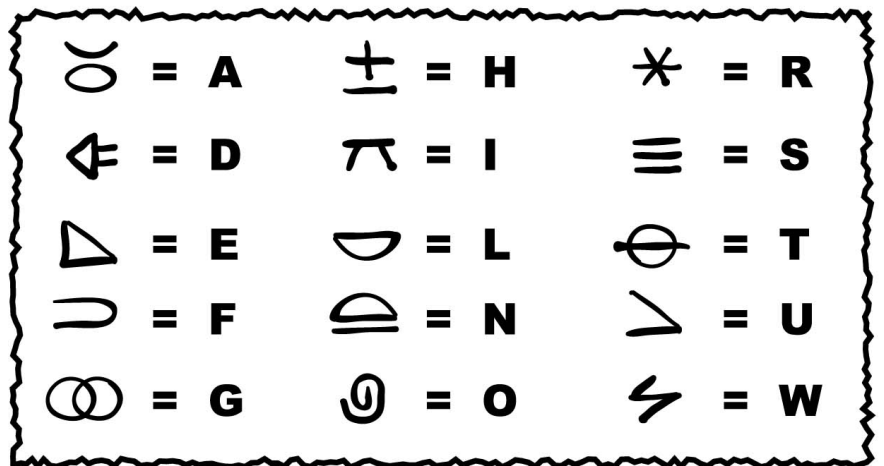
We could pause for a moment to pray for the successor of St Peter that he may preach the resurrection in a way which is understandable by people of every culture, every ethnicity, every language group around the world.

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Charles Lwanga and his companions were African Catholics who died for their faith in Uganda in the 1880s. At the time Uganda was ruled by King Mwanga who persecuted Christians for their primary allegiance to God rather than their king. Charles Lwanga was the head of the royal page boys, some of whom he had baptised. One day all the pages were assembled and the Christians were separated from the group and arrested. Charles and his companions, many only boys, were martyred for their belief. The example of these passionate young Africans inspired many people who then became converts to Christianity.

Each person was able to hear the message of the Gospel in their own language. See if you can decipher the language below to read the special message.



⊙ ⊙ ⚡ ± ☪ ≡ ⚡ ⊙ ⊂ △

⚡ ⊙ ⊂ ⚡ △ * ∩ > ∪ ⊖ ± π ⊂ ⊙ ≡ !

Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



afraid
appeared
evening
forgive
hand
happy
Holy Spirit
leader
middle
receive
sins
Sunday

R	E	I	G	S	G	D	D	J	U	C	Z	R	C	I	X
T	V	V	G	S	A	I	M	S	V	Y	V	E	Z	P	L
U	E	C	A	I	A	N	W	O	J	X	Q	V	U	S	E
O	N	Q	I	R	Y	S	N	R	I	S	N	I	S	O	A
S	I	Z	F	U	Y	P	L	M	C	J	K	E	P	Q	D
C	N	A	B	T	X	K	P	D	N	P	C	C	S	V	E
F	G	L	X	Q	F	V	N	A	L	C	G	E	U	O	R
K	T	W	J	H	C	V	M	Z	H	O	D	R	N	C	K
V	T	I	R	I	P	S	Y	L	O	H	E	R	D	L	C
L	B	X	S	J	Q	L	Z	A	H	A	R	M	A	E	V
G	G	R	A	E	V	I	G	R	O	F	A	D	Y	H	P
R	P	H	W	T	Z	G	E	N	K	I	E	Y	Z	S	R
G	E	V	A	T	P	R	Y	L	E	Q	P	A	C	R	J
X	R	Q	B	N	Y	Q	E	T	D	W	P	S	Q	D	U
T	G	T	S	P	D	I	H	J	U	D	A	F	F	K	R
N	Q	V	G	O	S	A	Z	H	V	G	I	T	H	B	K
R	R	C	U	J	H	F	Z	D	C	I	Y	M	Z	F	C