

Come Holy Spirit!
Fill our hearts with the fire of your love!

SPRINGLINE PARISH / **PENTECOST SUNDAY** / 20.5.18

Readings: Acts 2: 1-21, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

*Heavenly King, Advocate, Spirit of Truth,
You are everywhere and fill all things,
The treasure-store of all good things, and giver of life.
Come and make your home in us,
Cleanse us from every stain of sin,
And in your goodness save us.*

(A hymn from Orthodox Vespers for the feast of Pentecost.)

The Spirit of God fills the universe, Genesis 1. 1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.

God's Spirit was filling the whole universe, this is something that we must understand even as we celebrate the feast of Pentecost today.

How do we understand this truth?

Take energy for example – apart from fuel and coal, we speak of all sorts of energy production these days, especially alternative energies – the windmill power, solar power, earth power, hydro-electric power etc. We are exploiting energy that is already there. We are not creating it. We don't see it, but it is there.

The Spirit of God that fills the universe is like that. Divine energy is everywhere. It is up to us to connect to and have our lives empowered, transformed and changed.

The prophets and saints

We have several examples of people who have tapped into God's energy that transformed not just themselves but the world around them. *In the whole of the Old Testament which is the history of our salvation, we have examples of men and women who were filled with the Holy Spirit.* They were the prophets and holy men and women who spoke God's word for the people.

Pentacost Day

Is the greatest event after the resurrection of Jesus. It was an event of unimaginable dimensions. What happened, as we see in the first reading of today's lectionary is something incredibly divine and spiritual, something that catapulted the first

Christians into passionate followers of Jesus. The apostles received the Holy Spirit and from being fragile, weak human beings they were empowered by the Holy Spirit and became great witnesses of Christ.

In comparison to what we see in Genesis 1.2 and Acts of the apostles 2. 1-11, our world is quite different from the Spirit of God which is the Spirit of Love. The spirit of the world, often, unfortunately, is the spirit of hatred, lack of forgiveness, greed, lust as opposed to love, anger, injustice, exploitation of the poor and weak, exorbitant profit making, in short, often the spirit of the world is the spirit of evil.

We have several things going on in our parish wherein a person can open his/her heart to receive God's Spirit. Apart from our regular services we have other services, prayer and meetings which are special times to reflect on our life and to prepare for heaven. We have also begun healing services to take place regularly in the Parish. The Holy Communion that we are celebrating now is a moment when a person can open one's heart with faith to the Spirit of God.

(A half empty glass, a water jar with water, an upturned glass in a plate)

The secret of receiving the Spirit of God is submission to God, surrender to God and inviting God to enter your heart. *As we heard in the Gospel this morning, the fruit of our submission to God is peace of God and the gift of the Holy Spirit and forgiveness of our sins (John 20. 19-23)*

Life becomes a great deal more meaningful and fulfilling when we let God in into our lives. We haven't arrived but the journey of following Jesus is exciting and spiritually empowering in our souls.

The crux of the message that God is giving us today on this Pentecost Sunday is this :

Listen to God.

Obey him in your heart.

Give your life to God.

Make God the absolute and only centre of your life.

Your life will be transformed for ever!

[ST Mattapally]