

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

WIND

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

The Holy Spirit (John 20:19-23)

It is Luke who provides the foundation account for the Day of Pentecost through his narrative in the Acts of the Apostles. The Holy Spirit came to the apostles with a sound like a mighty rushing wind. John has a somewhat different account of Jesus breathing on the disciples and saying to them 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' The three ideas of wind, breath and Spirit were all very closely linked in Hebrew thought.

The image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *wind*.

Core extract from the Gospel (John 20:21-22; for reflection throughout the week)

Jesus said to them again,
'Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'
When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
'Receive the Holy Spirit.'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord God,
you gave the Holy Spirit to your people,
like a mighty rushing wind.
Inspire our hearts with the same Spirit,
that we may love and serve you
all the days of our lives;
we make our prayer in Jesus' name.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

John 20: 19-23

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (John 20: 19-23)

Begin to explore John's account of Jesus coming to his disciples on the evening of Easter Day when they were meeting behind locked doors by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Why were the disciples meeting behind locked doors?
- What do you make of Jesus' greeting, said twice, 'Peace be with you'?
- How do you understand Jesus breathing on the disciples?
- What is the significance of forgiving and retaining sins?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore further in the New Testament the theme of Pentecost.

- Luke 24: 44-50
- Acts 2: 1-13

Explore the idea of breath and wind in the Old Testament

- Ezekiel 37: 1-10
- Joel 2: 28-29
- Psalm 104: 29-32

PENTECOST (YEAR A) Sunday 24 May 2026

Exploring online

Widen your exploration of the theme of Pentecost by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- The Hebrew word *ruach* (breath, wind, spirit)
- Images of wind farms
- Famous Pentecost paintings

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Pentecost is *wind*. Draw on your experience of a windy day. For example:

- What is your experience of being out on a windy day?
- What is your experience of the life-giving and life-threatening power of the wind?
- What is your experience of the Holy Spirit blowing in your life?

What have you learned about the wind?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by the theme of Pentecost or by the image of the wind.

- Make a windmill (or other wind toy) to place prominently in your church.
- Make a poster displaying many images of wind with the title 'We celebrate the Feast of Pentecost'
- Draw together images of sailing ships to celebrate the power of the wind
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of Pentecost or on the image of wind.



Liverpool Cathedral

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Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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