



# THE LORD'S DAY

## PENTECOST SUNDAY (Year C)

The Watermead Apostolate offers this weekly page as a helpful guide and background to the readings used at the Catholic Mass for each Sunday of the Year.

The reading guides were written by Fr John Daley (RIP) who served as a Catholic priest in various parishes around the UK and world for 53 years.

Fr John co-founded Watermead in 1992 as a voice for people who wished to share understanding of living their faith through their God-given gifts and talents.

'The Lord's Day' incorporates some of those voices in this presentation and also through its many publications ~ books, resources, cards, music, etc.

Further information on what we produce, our story and the mission of our Christian apostolate can be found by visiting [www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk](http://www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk)

### First Reading

Acts 2 : 1-11

The disciples, either the 120 who chose Matthias or Joseph to take the place of Judas (Acts 1:15-26) or those who witnessed the Ascension (Acts 1:13-14), are meeting. It is fifty days after the Passover and is the feast of Pentecost, the feast of Weeks, commemorating the giving of the Law to Israel (Lev. 23:15-21).

There is miracle of wind and fire, of Spirit and tongues, and each one of them (12 or 120) is individually blessed. They babble in an emotional outburst, overwhelmed by the coming of the Holy Spirit. All present would speak either Aramaic or Greek - there was no need for foreign languages, there was already a universal language: but the story is symbolic of the apostolic Church being called to preach to every nation.

That image develops through the devout Jews from around the world who are present for the Feast. They symbolise a waiting world, ready to welcome God's word.

*"There are different gifts  
but the same Spirit;  
there are different ministries  
but the same Lord;  
there are different works  
but the same God who accomplishes  
all of them in everyone."*

1 Corinthians 12.4-6

### Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12 : 3-7, 12-13

Paul is disturbed by the breaking up of the community at Corinth. There has been immorality, compromise with their former idolatrous ways of living, unworthy reception of the Lord's Supper and jealousy about spiritual gifts - the making of false comparisons, the grading of God's gifts.

Paul wants to show that all gifts are from God but reflect differently in different people - just as the life of the human body reflects in various ways through the different parts of the body.

It is a wonderful doctrine - that we manifest God's love in many different ways. We transform God's gifts into service of one another. There is no need to be jealous: we are all blessed for each other's sake - and the gifts from God are to be given away, shared, and not to be possessed.

### Wisdom from the Saints



*"One God, one Christ, one Spirit  
shed upon us"*

Pope St. Clement (1st Century)

### Gospel Reading

John 20 : 19-23

It is the day of Resurrection. The apostles know that Jesus is risen, but are still afraid of the Jewish religious authorities. They have not grasped that Jesus' resurrection is the promise of their own, so they are still afraid to die.

They are filled with joy as he appears and blesses them with peace. Now they are ready to receive the first gift of the Resurrection: *forgiveness*. They themselves need to be forgiven, weak cowards who ran away from the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus was arrested: then, forgiven, they will know how to forgive others.

As Jesus did in his ministry so they may speak the forgiveness of God! Divine love and forgiveness expressed in human words.

Why is such a gift the first gift of the Resurrection? Isn't divine spiritual forgiveness sufficient? Do we need it in human words? Wonderfully, we have it.

### Questions of Faith

**What was the miracle of the languages on the day of Pentecost?**

- (a) The apostles spoke various languages in different parts of the city and people came to hear their own language at the various venues?
- (b) The apostles spoke in Aramaic (the language of the Holy Land) or Greek (the language of the Empire) ~ and thus people heard their own language?
- (c) The fervour and faith of the apostles spoke through their own language to the understanding hearts of their listeners ~ as music does ~ and thus were understood?
- (e) The story is simply a symbol of the Church's message being spoken throughout the world?

### People of God

This newsletter is prepared by the Watermead Apostolate and there are many **People of God** who make up the apostolate. We offer what we have been given ~ gifts, talents, understanding, expertise, time ~ to further the work of sharing God's universal message of love. We began in 1992 with the first gift - a hymn written by a father and a daughter. The hymn was accepted for publication and thus began the adventure. A small group, with the encouragement of their parish, saw that they had something small but beautiful to offer to God. As more people became involved, so the apostolate broadened to include many more ideas and involve more and more people.

Today, we are an apostolate which accepts whatever people would like to offer ~ sharing their expressions of faith through books, cards, music and recordings, paintings and designs. Our roots are Catholic, but our branches are varied and united by the vocation to bring and share the blessings that have been given. As developments came so did a regular income ~ and we realised we could also support charities and good works. Thousands of pounds have been given, and we hope that such giving will always be part of our apostolate. But our first inspiration is to encourage everyone that their giving ~ time and many varied talents ~ has a place in the Mission of the Church: then we give to the missions of the Church. Pray with us.

If you would like to know more, write to us or visit [www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk](http://www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk)

*This week I shall . . .  
... ponder on the gifts that  
God has given me to speak the  
universal message of love.*