

Pentecost Sunday 31st May 2020

To make the invisible God visible – this is one of the works of The Holy Spirit.

It is interesting to note that it is the coming down of the Holy Spirit upon Mary at the Annunciation that allows the invisible God to become visible in the womb of Mary and that The Word becomes Flesh – that God appears in the world as Jesus – the visible God. It is also interesting to note that it is Mary's 'Yes' that allows the invisible God to become the visible God in the world.

In our First Reading from Acts, once again we see The Holy Spirit come down into the world - this time upon Mary and the Apostles. This Presence of The Holy Spirit allows the invisible God to become visible through the proclamation of the Good News – The Holy Spirit empowers the Apostles to make God so real to others through their words that many are amazed and then converted to this Real God: for the Apostles, 'are filled with The Holy Spirit, and so began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.' Again, as with Mary at the Annunciation, the Apostles have opened their lips and spoke and so allowed the Holy Spirit to make the Word become flesh, not so much in the appearance of Jesus in the flesh, but rather His Presence being made real in a new powerful and spiritual way – through preaching The Word and eventually through Sacrament - The Risen Lord Jesus is real for the Apostles, and now this invisible God is poured into the world through the words and actions of the Apostles, for the world to discover and meet.

In the Gospel we see Jesus giving the Apostles The Holy Spirit so that they can once again make the invisible God visible through the forgiveness of sins - a most wonderful and beautiful showing of the invisible God to the world through the action of the priest in confession – the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Again, it is The Holy Spirit that the priest calls down from Heaven at Mass to transform the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus, making once again the invisible God visible in the world – God's Real Presence on the altar through the words and actions of the priest and The Holy Spirit.

At Confirmation we are given seven Gifts of The Holy Spirit. These Gifts are meant for the upbuilding of the individual, so that they in turn can go out into the world to make the invisible God visible, through their words and actions. We know we are making God visible in the world when the Fruits of The Holy Spirit are manifesting themselves in our lives – if we are people showing Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control then we are making the invisible God visible to the world. Then it is Pentecost every-day for us and the Church and the world.

A good number of us have been on a virtual pilgrimage to Medjugorje this past week, we have walked in and around the hills of Medjugorje in prayer and in silence, we have prayed for the coming of The Holy Spirit this Pentecost to transform our hearts, minds and bodies so that we, having been guided by the Mother of God, our Mother and the Queen of Peace, become more intimate with her Son; we may as if for the first time come to see the invisible God in a real and visible way – to know God within ourselves more perfectly, so that as we leave Medjugorje we are more able to share this visible and real God with those whom we will meet over the coming days, weeks, months and years. Just like the Apostles meeting in the one room preparing themselves for the coming of The Holy Spirit, so in this one village called Medjugorje we have been preparing our hearts for the coming of The Holy Spirit, as I'm sure you all have in your own ways this last week, in your own rooms – the rooms of our hearts - and so now we too are called to make the Lord Jesus real through our words and actions. Let us as one Church in Christ be courageous in the power of The Holy Spirit and encouraged by Mary the Queen of Peace to use our lips and bodies to share The Lord today and everyday –so that we are living Pentecost everyday.