

Monday 7th week of Easter

Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33

During these nine days between the Ascension and Pentecost, the Church prepares for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Although the Holy Spirit comes to us in Baptism and Confirmation, as with Advent, when we prepare to welcome the infant Christ into our hearts at Christmas, this week we prepare to welcome the Holy Spirit once more.

The work of the Holy Spirit is three-fold; He *prepares* us to encounter Christ, He *reveals* Christ to us, and He *brings us into communion* with Christ. Let's briefly look at each of these:

Prepares:

Without us being aware, the Holy Spirit will arrange "coincidences" or "God-incidences" in our lives. He will give us the words to say when asked (Lk.12:12) and might ping a thought into our minds which is later noted for its relevance.

Reveals Christ to us:

The Holy Spirit helps us encounter Christ in the Scriptures, through our prayers, at Mass and also in our encounters with other people. We grow in understanding, as the Holy Spirit reveals the Truth to us (Jn. 16:14) because Jesus Christ is the way the Truth and the Life (Jn. 14:6). He also leads us to encounter Christ in our fellow Christians.

Brings us into communion with Christ

During the Eucharistic Prayer the priest asks the Father to send His Holy Spirit to:

"Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Eucharistic Prayer 2)

When we receive Holy Communion, the Holy Spirit effects in us a real and personal communion with Jesus, filling us with the graces we need to live our lives as Christians. The Holy Spirit makes Christ really and truly present and He comes to each one of us totally and fully, enabling us to grow closer to Jesus and relate to Him personally.

We see this process in today's first reading. The disciples at Ephesus had probably only been baptised by John the Baptist's disciples as they seemed not to have heard of Jesus or of the

Holy Spirit. Although they had not received Christian Baptism the Holy Spirit had already begun to work in their souls, *preparing* them to encounter Christ. On receiving the fulness of the Holy Spirit, Christ was *revealed* to them, and they were *brought into communion* with Christ, praising and giving Him glory.

So let us *prepare* for Pentecost; let us anticipate *meeting Christ anew* and allow the Holy Spirit to bring us into a deeper *communion with Jesus Christ*, Our Lord and Saviour.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.