

**The Holy Spirit Who gives Life to the World**  
**Lent Station Mass, Trinity Cluster Parishes, Saint James' Renfrew**  
**Tuesday 29 March**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is such a joy to be able to gather again with you for our Lent Station Masses which, you may remember, were cut short abruptly in Lent 2020 when the pandemic first took hold, and during which we were all confined to our upper rooms, as it were. We thank GOD for bringing us through these times thus far, even as we remember all those who suffered or went home to the LORD in its wake. Looking back, I think we can still see how the LORD and His Holy Spirit came down upon us in our fear and uncertainty, and how Our Blessed Mother was with us more than ever, accompanying us in prayer and sustaining our hopes.

Now we thank GOD that the same Holy Spirit is leading us out from behind our doors and back into the world to bear witness to our faith in the LORD Jesus and His power to save.

In our Station Masses this Lent we are reflecting on the Creed, and the Profession of Faith we make every time we gather at Sunday Mass, that gives us a simple summary of our Catholic Faith. It is good for us to take time to reflect a little on the words we profess so that we can understand them more deeply and proclaim them from the heart and with renewed conviction.

This evening we are reflecting on The Holy Spirit, Who gives Life to the *World* and where we profess: *I believe in the Holy Spirit, the LORD and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, and Who has spoken through the prophets.*

To believe in the Holy Spirit is to profess our faith in Him as truly GOD, and carrying in Himself all the fullness of GOD that He shares equally with the Father and Son as the Third Person of the Most Holy Trinity. To profess our faith in the Holy Spirit is to accept Him as the GOD *sent into our hearts* so that we might receive a share in His own life by His adopted sons and daughter. Though we cannot see the Spirit, we can know Him through His action in our lives and our Church. So, when we hear and then finally understand the Word of GOD in faith, it is the Holy Spirit revealing it to us. When we see the admirable work of the Church across the world, feeding the poor and tending the sick, bringing

peace and reconciliation among peoples, it is the Holy Spirit acting in it. When in sadness we found consolation in our faith it was the Holy Spirit Who was our Consoler. When in our deepest need we prayed and then found help from GOD, it was the Holy Spirit acting as our Advocate with the Father. When we found new light in a period of darkness it was the Spirit Who made us a promise of new beginnings.

The Holy Spirit is the *living water* Who springs from the wounded Heart of Jesus to quench our thirsty souls. He is our *anointing* with oil in Confirmation. He is the *fire* Who lightens our eye and warms our hearts with consolation in our night of faith. He is the *cloud* of GOD's glory Who watches over us us all our days. He is the *dove* Who comes down on us, priests and people, with GOD's strength, and the *hands* that bless us for our mission in life. He is the One Whose Word, spoken deep in our hearts, turns us into *prophets* to speak in the name of GOD.

It was the Holy Spirit Who consecrated the Messiah to inaugurate the new Kingdom through His anointing at the River Jordon and, throughout His teaching, Jesus revealed the Holy Spirit to His disciples as the One Who would lead them into the fullness of the truth. In the evening of Easter Sunday, the Risen LORD breathed the Holy Spirit onto the Apostles with the words: *Receive my Holy Spirit*, bestowed the Holy Spirit to the Church at its birth and so fulfilled the Father's promise. At Pentecost He poured out the same Holy Spirit abundantly on us so that His mission would become our mission as His Church, sent out to proclaim the Good News to all of Creation.

In a most special way we bless the Holy Spirit for the wonderful work He accomplished in the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Church and our Mother. It was in Her that the Holy Spirit answered the long expectation of the People of GOD for their Messiah. He filled Her with grace and made Her fruitful in body and faith so that She could give birth to the Son of GOD. He ensured She would be there with the Church in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost when He conferred on the Church its mission to take GOD's salvation to the whole of humanity.

And to this day, the Holy Spirit is still building up and giving life to the Church and making Her holy. As the Spirit of Love and Mercy, He is always restoring to the Church the divine likeness that is darkened by our sin as Her members, and shows us the way to live again

in the light of Christ and the grace of the Holy Trinity. Healing, renewing and strengthening our Church by His presence and action in the Sacraments, the Holy Spirit never ceases to organize us into a rich array of gifts so that we can all bear *fruit*, each in our own way, and is ever present in the daily life of our Church.

That is why we begin our whole Christian life in the Holy Spirit, as we are baptised *in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*. It is why we profess our faith in Him our Creed as our LORD and giver of life. And it is why we begin and end every prayer in Him in the Sign of the Cross and *in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*.

This evening we thank GOD for blessing us, our Church and our world with the Holy Spirit, the blessed *stream* Who *flows* out upon our world *from* the inner *sanctuary* of GOD and comes to us from the very *threshold* of Heaven itself, *flowing* ever *eastwards* and leading all human history towards the glory of the Resurrection and the coming of Christ again in glory. We bless GOD for this Spiritual *river* of GOD's grace, *impossible to cross* and *flowing into the sea* of humanity to make us *wholesome* again. We praise the LORD for the life these torrents of the Spirit bring to the whole of Creation so that *all living creatures teeming in it will live, be very plentiful and healthy*, and all who are caught up in its torrent *grow* in bearing *every kind of fruit with leaves that never wither and fruit that never fails*. We bless GOD for the food He causes to blossom from this River, not least the Most Holy Eucharist, that is *good to eat and medicinal*.

In a world where a multitude of humanity is sick and *waiting for the undercurrents* of our times *to move*, as if some *disturbance* in the pool of worldly affairs will magically usher in new hope, we commend our world to the Holy Spirit, the stream flowing from the words and works of the LORD, to heal us, get us back up on our feet and be *well again* so that we can tell the whole world it is GOD Himself *Who cures* us on the Day of the LORD and in the strength of the Holy Spirit.