

Preparing for Pentecost 2013

Northampton Diocesan Evangelisation Team

Information and Guidelines for Leaders

The order of service below is given as a template in order to help parishes or prayer groups organise a prayer service as part of a Pentecost novena. On each of the nine days of the novena there will be at least one group praying somewhere in the Diocese of Northampton.

Leaders are free to be creative and adapt the prayer service to best suit the needs of their groups however in order to maintain unity with the other groups praying the novena leaders are asked follow the following guidance when preparing their service:

- The Novena begins on Friday of the 6th Week of Easter, (even though the Solemnity of the Ascension is transferred to the 7th Sunday). *This year therefore the Novena will take place between Friday 10th May and Saturday 18^h May 2013 inclusive.*
- Leaders must arrange prayer services in full co-operation with their parish priests. It is important to keep our priests informed and to follow any guidance they give e.g. If you would like to use a Church/ Church hall as a venue or include a time of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament as part of your prayer service this needs to be with the full knowledge and support of your parish priest and arranged in advance. In planning and organising your service you must follow the relevant parish and Diocesan policies (e.g. safeguarding/ health and safety).
- When planning your prayer service please retain the overall structure and themes given in the template below. Feel free to change or adapt the hymns and intercessions and to organise the last section (adoration) as best suits your group. If you don't have any musicians feel free to sing unaccompanied or to use recorded music.
- The prayer service should be as inclusive as possible. It is a very simple service. It includes some basic teaching from Scripture about the Holy Spirit, some well-known hymns and some prayers that everyone can join in with. Make sure that everyone has a copy of the prayer responses and hymns so that everyone can join in. The prayer service should be inclusive in its approach and spirituality. Try to organise your service so that it is 'seeker friendly' i.e. in such a way that anyone new who comes along will be able to fully participate and feel included.
- The basic service should be up to an hour long. You may wish to extend the service and include more time for adoration, if so you can arrange it so that everyone can join in with the core service and then feel free to leave or stay on for longer if they are able to.

- Practical Issues: If possible try to put together a small team to help organise the event. That way you can pray and plan together and share out the jobs that need to be done. In your planning give some thought to the welcome and hospitality you will offer, also be creative with your advertising of the event and try to extend the invitation as widely as possible using different means of communication e.g. flyers that can be used with a personal invitation, as well as the more usual forms of communication (posters, newsletters). Make use of modern means of communication too if you can.
- You may wish to organise a follow up event to celebrate Pentecost.
- Once you have organised a date for your service please send details of the venue, date and time and the main leaders' contact details to the Diocesan Evangelisation Team as we will be co-ordinating information about where and when the novena is being prayed around the Diocese.

Please send information about your service (date & time/ venue) and the contact details of your event organiser to:

Alex Heath
Diocesan Evangelisation Team
NORES, HOLY GHOST RC PARISH CENTRE,
WESTBOURNE ROAD, LUTON, LU4 8JD
Tel: 01582 723312

- Once we have confirmed with you the date, time and venue of your service and have the contact details of the person leading your service we can then send you any other resources that may developed or shared by other groups as they become available.

NORTHAMPTON DIOCESAN EVANGELISATION TEAM
Evangelising, Forming Evangelisers, Forming Formers



NORES- Religious Education, Evangelisation, Catechesis & Schools

Novena Prayer Service

Welcome

Opening Hymn: Come Holy Ghost Creator come

Introduction

After his resurrection from the dead and before ascending into heaven Jesus Christ commanded his disciples to stay in the city until they had been “clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49). Faithful to the Lord’s command the disciples returned to the Upper Room in Jerusalem where ‘they all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus’ (Acts 1:14). When the day of Pentecost came the promise of the Father was completely fulfilled and “all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:4).

Like those early disciples we too in our day need to be clothed with power from on high, we too need to be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit. For this reason the Church presents us with an opportunity in preparation for Pentecost to ‘return to the Upper Room’ in order to pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our own lives, upon the Church and the whole world.

In our own Diocese of Northampton the Diocesan Evangelisation Team in partnership with others are seeking to encourage simple prayer services around the Diocese during the nine days leading up to Pentecost. Just as Pope John XXIII and the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council did we ask that the Lord would “renew his wonders in this our day as by a new Pentecost”.

Opening Prayer

Reader:

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

All:

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Reader:

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

All:

And you will renew the face of the earth.

Reader: Let us pray:

All:

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of your faithful, grant that by that same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise, and ever rejoice in your consolation.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Presentation

If you have access to audio visual equipment (e.g. a projector, computer with access to the internet, speaker) you may wish to show a section of the video 'You will receive a power' which has been produced by Net for God TV. To view this video log on to:

www.netforgod.tv/VOD/index_en.html#

On the webpage look under previous movies and select the video 'You will receive a power (Acts 1:8) a film with Mary Healy'. The video is about 30 minutes in length so we suggest you show a shorter section that you decide is most suitable for your gathering. The opening section, from the beginning of the video up to approximately 12 min 10 seconds works well as an introductory section.

Themed Readings from Scripture & Prayer Responses

Theme 1: The Holy Spirit pours God's love into our hearts

Reader 1- *Romans 5:5*

Reader 2

The Holy Spirit is the love of God poured into our hearts. Let us open ourselves anew to the Holy Spirit, and so come to know the love of God more deeply and ourselves as beloved sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father.

A short time for silent reflection

All:

Abba Father we believe that through the grace of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, you have made us your beloved sons and daughters. In the name of Jesus we ask that you would pour out your love anew into our hearts and renew us in your love. Amen.

Hymn: Abba Father send your Spirit

Theme 2: The Holy Spirit convinces the world of sin

Reader 1- *John 16:7-8,13*

Reader 2

The Holy Spirit comes to lead us into all truth. The Holy Spirit searches our hearts and will show us any areas of our lives that are not what they should be. The Holy Spirit does not condemn but convinces us, by gently and lovingly leading us along the path of honesty, truth, repentance and conversion. If we are open the Spirit of God will purify us like a holy fire so that we become more like Jesus every day.

A short time for silent reflection

All

Holy Spirit, I acknowledge that you are the Spirit of Truth. Help me to be honest with you, with others and myself. I ask your forgiveness for the times that I have grieved you by choosing to live in a selfish way. Please come and purify my heart in the fire of your divine love and help me to always choose to live in your truth and love.

Theme 3: The Holy Spirit is the gift of life poured out from the cross of Jesus

Reader 1- *John 19:34-35*

Reader 2

Jesus has saved us and given us life through his death on the cross. Jesus Christ truly is the saviour of the world for he has conquered sin, death and all evil. By dying for us and rising again Jesus has given us the gift of eternal life. The Holy Spirit is the Lord the giver of life who renews in us the free gift of salvation that Jesus Christ has won for us.

A short time of silent reflection

All

Lord Jesus we proclaim you as the only Saviour of the world. We thank you for giving your life for us on the cross to set us free from sin and death. Through the gift of your Spirit may we experience the fullness of life that you have won for us. May we know ever more deeply in our lives your forgiveness, freedom and joy.

Hymn: O Lord my God (How great thou art)

Theme 4: The Holy Spirit enables us to believe in Jesus and proclaim Him as Lord

Reader - 1 Corinthians 12:3

Reader 2

Day to day life has many demands and we can often be tempted to live for ourselves and follow the way of the world. The Holy Spirit enables us to believe in Jesus who has risen from the dead for us and is alive. The Holy Spirit leads us to entrust the whole of our life to God by making Jesus the only Lord of our lives.

A short time of silent reflection

All: Lord Jesus, I believe that you are risen from the dead and that you are alive. I give you my life. By the power of your Holy Spirit draw me deeper into you and help me to live for you in every aspect of my life. I renounce everything that would separate me from you and I proclaim you as the only Lord of my life.

Hymn: Majesty

Theme 5: The Holy Spirit is given to those who are thirsty

Reader 1- *John 7:37-38*

Reader 2- Acts 2: 33,39, Luke 11:9-13

A short time of silent reflection

All

Lord Jesus we believe that God has anointed you with the fullness of the Holy Spirit and that you are the Messiah, the anointed one. We come to you now, with expectant faith. We thirst for the living water of your Spirit. We ask you Lord to fill your people afresh with the gift of your Holy Spirit.

Intercessions

For the prayers of intercession you may wish to compose your own, praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church and the world. Make sure to include particular intentions e.g. for the Universal Church, our Bishop and our own Diocese, for a New Evangelisation and any other intentions. For ideas for themes for prayer you can visit the following website: www.burningbushinitiative.com/english/pentecostnovena.htm

You also may wish to use the intercessions given in the Prayer of the Church (Divine Office) for the day you are gathering to pray.

Adoration

Hymn: Spirit of the living God

After singing the hymn we will enter into a time of quiet prayer and adoration. During this time you may wish to include some or all of the following:

- A time for being still before the Lord and silent prayer. This can help us to have a sense of waiting on the Lord with expectant faith just as the early disciples waited in the Upper Room for the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- You may wish to sing some hymns of adoration e.g. Be still for the presence of the Lord, As the Deer etc.
- You may wish to pray the prayer of the Church e.g. if you are gathering in the evening you may wish to pray evening prayer of the Church for the day that you are praying.
- You may wish to recite psalms of praise and adoration (you can choose suitable psalms from the Bible or select psalms from the Prayer of the Church/ Liturgy of the day)
- With the permission and support of your parish priest you may wish to include a time of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament

Concluding Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit by Pope John XXIII

All:

Renew your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost. Grant to Your Church that, being of one mind and steadfast in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace.

Come, Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth. Amen.