

Daily Prayer

Pentecost Sunday, Year A

The Year of Matthew

Special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis



Readings: Acts 2: 1–11; Psalm 103: 1, 24, 29–31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12: 3–7, 12–13; John 20: 19–23.

The Year of Matthew and Jubilee Year of Saint Francis

On January 10, 2026, Pope Leo XIV inaugurated the special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis. This special Jubilee Year commemorates the 800th anniversary of Saint Francis of Assisi's death. (Refer to the [Vatican News](#) link for further details.)

You may like to share Sister Rita's, first [MacKa Moment video](#) for 2026 on The Year of Saint Francis Assisi with your teachers, leaders, students and families.

Sister Rita is a [Sister of Saint Joseph](#), who supports our schools and parishes with the [Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre](#) in East Melbourne.

Further, locally, the theme for Catholic Education Week 2026 is **Christ beside me: Walking in the footsteps of Saint Patrick**. For further details about the theme, please refer to page 2 of our [Liturgical Calendar](#).

The Gospel readings for this Year A are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, and the Church is currently celebrating the Season of Easter.

Every day of the week, Daily Prayer will invite those gathered to participate in prayer rituals and respond respectfully in a prayerful context. This week is about setting up for success in a way that those gathered will become comfortable with the structure, the responses, the gestures, the prayers and the symbols. Daily Prayer will be a time when all feel welcomed and valued.

Preparations for Daily Prayer

The following daily prayers can be used in their entirety or adapted to meet the needs of the audience. The prayers draw on the Sunday readings, so you may use any of the prayers on any day, although special focus will be given to Feast days, Solemnities and days of special cultural significance. Feel free to adapt the prayers for special occasions or specific intentions of your own class and school.

The prayers will introduce students to traditional prayer and liturgical practices and responses, as well as a variety of Christian spiritual experiences. Take the opportunity to create a Sacred Space for prayer as you might do in creating a protected garden. This may include a prayer cloth or placemat, a bible, a candle and flowers.

Additional resources (apps, websites, music, videos) will be suggested for those wanting to enrich the prayers or to understand the readings at a deeper level.



Overview of the Week

The Gospel readings for this Year A are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, and the Church is currently celebrating the Season of Easter.

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – <i>Red</i>	Come, Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of your faithful.	Praying with the First Reading Sequence
Tuesday – <i>Red</i>	Peace be with you.	Praying with the Gospel Sign of Peace
Wednesday – <i>Red</i>	Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you	Praying with the Gospel Praying a Litany Blessing
Thursday – <i>Red</i>	Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.	Praying with the Responsorial Psalm
Friday – <i>Red</i>	There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.	Praying with the Second Reading

Note that Scripture quotations are from the Lectionary (*Jerusalem Bible*) or the NRSV.

Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

Liturgy Help: [Commentaries and Homilies & Reflections](#)

Sunday Connection: [Loyola Press](#)

The Emmaus Series: [Sunday Reflections](#)

*To access Liturgy Help, please ensure you are logged into the CEVN website <https://cevn.cecv.catholic.edu.au/>



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Readings: Acts 2: 1–11; Psalm 103: 1, 24, 29–31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12: 3–7, 12–13; John 20: 19–23.

Today's Daily Prayer – Come, Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of your faithful.

Today's prayer focuses on the First Reading for Pentecost Sunday.

This is the account of the apostles receiving the Holy Spirit.

Preparation: Choose readers, provide participants with a copy of the response and sequence and someone to light the candle.

Monday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, calling to our minds and hearts the presence of our merciful and forgiving God.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of your faithful,

All: And kindle in them the fire of your love, alleluia.

Listen

Background to the First Reading

The word Pentecost means 'fifty' and refers to the ancient feast of Grain Harvest, which occurred fifty days after Passover. It was also a pilgrimage feast, which explained why there were so many people in Jerusalem at this time from other parts of the world. There is much imagery in the wind and the fire. Many ancient people believed that the winds were God's breath, and by breathing God gave everything life. When the wind appeared at Pentecost, God was breathing his life into the apostles. Fire also speaks of the presence of God, as seen often in the Old Testament. The fire was in the form of tongues, implying that the apostles were being given the power and the gift to speak in the name of God and proclaim Jesus' message.



Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

Pause for silence.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Leader: Let us pray together part of the Sequence from the Mass of Pentecost Sunday.
Let us pray slowly and mindfully calling for the Spirit to be with us and within us.

All: **Come, Holy Spirit, come!**
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.
You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul's most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below.
In our labour, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.



Go Forth

Leader: With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.
Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.

All: **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Acts 2: 1–11; Psalm 103: 1, 24, 29–31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12: 3–7, 12–13; John 20: 19–23.

Today's Daily Prayer – 'Peace be with you'.

The focus of today's prayer is the Gospel of John when Jesus appears to his apostles and says, 'Peace be with you'.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Tuesday

Gather

Leader: We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, calling to our minds and hearts the presence of our God.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Listen

Background to the Gospel

In John's Gospel we have another account of the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is Easter Sunday and the apostles are gathered together in fear and dread of the Jewish authorities lest they too be arrested for collaborating with Jesus. Jesus appears among them and says, 'Peace be with you'. Their anxiety and worry disappear. The presence of Jesus always brings peace.

If possible, the Scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a Bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Respond

The Sign of Peace

Leader: Let us turn to each other with the sign of peace using the words, 'May the peace of Jesus Christ fill your heart and mind today and always'.

Go Forth

Leader: As we go forth, may we be work to build the Kingdom of God here on earth.
With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.
Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.

All: **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Acts 2: 1–11; Psalm 103: 1, 24, 29–31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12: 3–7, 12–13; John 20: 19–23.

Today's Daily Prayer - Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you.

Today we focus on the Gospel of Pentecost Sunday and we respond with the Litany of the Holy Spirit.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Wednesday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

All: Amen.

Listen

Background to the Gospel

Ancient people believed that breath was one's life force and when Jesus breathed on his apostles, he gave them God's power and life. With the receiving of the Spirit, they had the authority to speak and act in the name of Jesus. In this gospel, Jesus commissions his apostles and breathes on them, filling them with the Holy Spirit. His mission, their mission and our mission are one and the same.

If possible, the Scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a Bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'



(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Litany of the Holy Spirit

Leader: Let us pray a Litany to the Holy Spirit.
Spirit of Love

All: Pray for us. (Pause)

Leader: Spirit of Courage

All: Pray for us. (Pause)

Leader: Spirit of Life

All: Pray for us. (Pause)

Leader: Spirit of Strength

All: Pray for us. (Pause)

Leader: Spirit of Truth

All: Pray for us. (Pause)

Leader: Spirit of Justice

All: Pray for us. (Pause)

Leader: Spirit of Healing

All: Pray for us. (Pause)

Leader: Spirit of Comfort

All: Pray for us. (Pause)

Leader: Spirit of Unity

All: Pray for us. (Pause)

Go Forth

Leader: May God, the creator of all life,
Jesus, the everlasting Word,
and the Spirit, whose fire cannot be quenched,
bless us now and forever.

With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.
Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Today's Daily Prayer - Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth

Today we focus on the Gospel of Pentecost Sunday and we respond with the Psalm.

Preparation: Choose readers and a person to light the candle.

Thursday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, calling to our minds and hearts the presence of our merciful and forgiving God.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**
Light candle and pause.

Listen

Leader: Let us prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of the Gospel.

If possible, the Scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a Bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader:

Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Respond

Leader: Let us respond by praying the sacred words of the Psalm.

All: **Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord, my God, you are great indeed!

How manifold are your works, O Lord!

the earth is full of your creatures.

All: **Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reader: May the glory of the Lord endure forever;

may the Lord be glad in his works!

Pleasing to him be my theme;

I will be glad in the Lord.

All: **Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

Reader: If you take away their breath, they perish

and return to their dust.

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,

and you renew the face of the earth.

All: **Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.**

(Pause)

Go Forth

Leader: Spirit of fire, enflame us and inspire us to promote the Kingdom of God here on earth.

With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.

Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: **Pray for us.**

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.

All: **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.



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Readings: Acts 2: 1–11; Psalm 103: 1, 24, 29–31, 34; 1 Corinthians 12: 3–7, 12–13; John 20: 19–23.

Today's Daily Prayer – There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

Preparation: Choose readers and a person to light the candle.

Friday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: We begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross, calling to our minds and hearts the presence of our merciful and forgiving God.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Let us pray together the Entrance Antiphon for Pentecost Sunday.

All: The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

Listen

Background to the Second Reading

In the Second Reading the author is addressing the Christians at Corinth. In the community there were many class and ethnic differences and many disagreements. While Paul wants them to be unified in Christ, he also encourages them to see their differences as a gift to the community. Each person has something to offer and each gift, which comes from the Spirit, is for the benefit of everyone. It is through these gifts that we serve and build up the community.

Leader: Let us prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture

If possible, the Scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a Bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Second Reading

Leader: Let us prepare to listen attentively to the sacred words of Scripture

Reader: A reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.



There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Leader: In this community, there are many different gifts.

Each person, because of their uniqueness, brings something special.

Let's now take a few moments to reflect on some of the different gifts of members of our community.

(Pause for reflection.)

I invite each person to give thanks for the gift/s of someone else in our community.

(e.g. I give thanks for Tom and his gift of listening)

Go Forth

Leader: Let us go forth from here valuing and appreciating the gifts that each person brings to our community.

May we go forth from here as living witnesses to the presence of Jesus in the world.

With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love.
Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne.

All: Pray for us.

Leader: In this special Jubilee Year of Saint Francis, Saint Francis of Assisi.

All: Pray for us.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Extinguish candle and pause.

