

Building Hope



Pentecost window by Evie Hone at Manresa, Dollymount, Dublin

Novena to the Holy Spirit

21st – 29th May, 2023

*A period of Prayer, Reflection and Planning
for the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin*

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This resource is for use in the nine days beginning with the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord (Sunday 21st May), through Pentecost (Sunday 28th May) and continuing to the Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church (Monday 29th May). You are warmly invited to join together in this Novena to the Holy Spirit – a period of prayer, reflection and planning for the renewal of the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin.

The Novena Prayer to the Holy Spirit for daily use, is available on the next page and on the Novena Prayer Card. Other resources include intercessions, reflections and images which can be used as slides to assist the congregation or to focus group reflection. The music suggested may also be incorporated into your prayer moments. These resources, one page per day, will be your companion for this period of prayer. Please feel free to use the material as you wish; during the Mass – perhaps to create a period of reflection after Holy Communion, or in your parish ministry groups or together in your parish partnership.

Let us, as a diocese, join together in praying the Novena Prayer during this dedicated period. May this time of prayer, reflection and planning for every parish in the Archdiocese of Dublin be blessed and build hope for a new future in partnership and a new way of being Church.

All resources and images are available at www.dublindiocese.ie under the *Building Hope* tab

Building Hope

Novena Prayer to the Holy Spirit

*for the renewal of the Church
in the Archdiocese of Dublin*

May 21 to 29, 2023

Come, Holy Spirit, revive and renew us
Come, Holy Spirit, inspire and enthuse us
Come, Holy Spirit, unbind and release us

Open our eyes to see God's grace around us
Open our ears to hear God's voice within us
Open our hearts to welcome God among us

Send us out with joy to live the Gospel
Send us out with peace to act as one
Send us out with love to build up hope

Archdiocese of Dublin

*Building Hope through
Prayer, Reflection and Planning*

Ascension Sunday – 21 May 2023

Scripture (Matthew 28:20)

“I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Introduction

We celebrate today Christ’s continuing presence in the life of the Christian community and in our own lives according to his promise. Christian Art depicted the Ascension from as early as the 5th century and in this image we see the organic link between Resurrection and Ascension. The hand of God reaches down to help Jesus on his journey while confusion and fear look on.

Perhaps there is something in the image
which connects to *Building Hope*?



Reidershe Tafel

Reflections after the Gospel

1. As one chapter of the Jesus story ends, another one begins. Jesus promised his continued presence in the life and mission of his followers. When learning to ride a bike, a child depends on stabilisers. In a similar way, Jesus encouraged his first mission apprentices with his physical presence, his teaching and his life-giving example. After his Ascension, he sent them the Holy Spirit as their inspiration. At Confirmation, our young people are sealed with the same Spirit that the first disciples received on Pentecost Day.
2. Archbishop Dermot Farrell offered us an image and example of the church of accompaniment and togetherness in his Chrism Mass Homily (6 April 2023) when referring to the *Building Hope* initiative.

“There are many members in the one body; the living Church is more like a choir than an assembly of soloists”.

The real choir director is the one who promised to be with us forever and is found in hearts that are open whether we are young or older.

Intercession ... followed by the Novena Prayer

May the Holy Spirit inspire our young people today to offer with generosity and joy their essential contribution to the unfolding mission of Jesus.

Music Suggestions

Let the Earth Rejoice and Sing (Melvin Le Farrell/LLANFAIR)

The Potter’s Hand (Darlene Zschech)

Monday of the 6th Week of Easter – 22 May 2023

Scripture

“I have told you this so that you might have peace in me.” (John 16:33)



Reflection after Communion

Come light of my heart and dispel any darkness.
Open in me a warm place to receive and offer love.
Let your compassion flow from my words and actions.
Change me into an instrument of your mercy and peace.

Reflection on Synod

“Meetings in the spirit of the synodal method, in which all members of the congregation or community can openly and honestly express their opinion, as well as meetings with various groups outside the Church, should continue. This kind of cooperation should become one of the ‘unwritten laws’ of the Church culture, so as to foster rapprochement between Church members and groups in society, thus creating a readiness of people for deeper dialogue” (Latvian Synod Report).



Is there a word that comes to you from these two images or that unites them?

Intercession ... *followed by the Novena Prayer*

May the Holy Spirit bring peace to our Church: that respectful dialogue and sincere consultation will be the hallmarks of the way forward for our parish partnerships.

Music Suggestions

Make me a channel of your peace (Sebastian Temple)

Dona Nobis Pacem

Give us your peace (Michael Mahler)

Tuesday of the 6th Week of Easter – 23 May 2023

Scripture (Acts 20:24)

“Yet I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to bear witness to the Gospel of God’s grace.”

Reflection One From a letter of Blessed Columba Marmion (d.1923) to the Poor Clare Colettines in Cork

‘We should have expected that God would have come into this world in great power and majesty, and surrounded by a group of learned men, convert the world. But no. He came as a poor, weak little infant; He lives in obscurity and labours for years; then he is murdered by men who seem to have conquered Him. His whole work is ruined; and his reputation blasted. And it is then that He conquers. This is God’s way. And on Easter Sunday I saw that it was the divine triumph of God’s weakness.’

Small is good?

Reflection Two Your Holiness (Pope Francis)

‘Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God’s presence. We might call them “the middle class of holiness”. Certainly, the most decisive turning points in world history are substantially co-determined by souls whom no history book ever mentions. I think too of all those unknown or forgotten women who, each in her own way, sustained and transformed families and communities by the power of their witness.’



Intercession ... followed by the Novena Prayer

May the Holy Spirit grant the gift of patience and perseverance to all who bear witness to the Gospel especially those who feel excluded from exercising their baptismal gifts.

Music Suggestions

Christ be our Light (Bernadette Farrell)

Christ in me Arise (Trevor Thomson)

You have put on Christ (Ian Callanan)

Wednesday of the 6th Week of Easter – 24 May 2023

Scripture (John 17:18)

“As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world.”

Reflection Concern for the Poor (Psalm 41)

Leader 1: Blessed are those whose thoughts of concern
Are with the poor and the marginalized.
They are the happy ones in your kingdom.

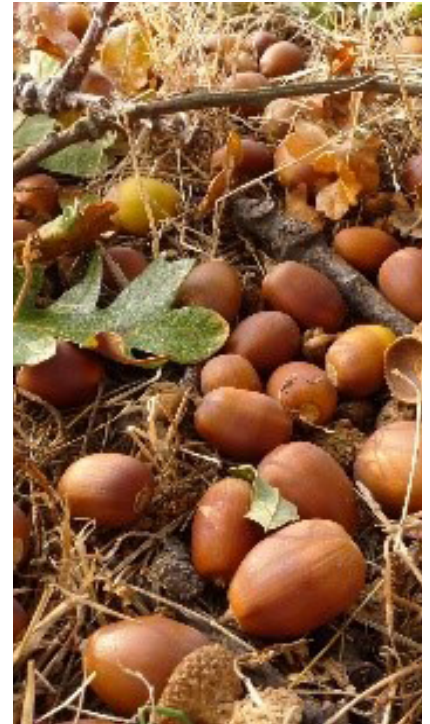
Leader 2: Thank you Lord, for the gift of awareness
of injustice and oppression,
To the awakening to liberation,
In the structures of society;
To denounce poverty and to oppose tyranny.

Leader 1: You have moved our thinkers to think, and
Our people of action to act.
You have opened our eyes to see in the poor
Our suffering brothers and sisters.

Leader 2: They are our members in pain,
Together with us,
Of the one body,
Of which you are the Head.

Leader 1: As all are equal in the love you bestow,
So, may all be equal in the use of the goods
You have freely made available,
To all your children.

Leader 2: ‘Happy those who help the poor and the lowly’
God will help them when they are in trouble’.



From tiny acorns?

Reflection Cry of the earth, Cry of the poor (Archbishop Dermot Farrell)

‘Around the world, women and children spend an estimated 200 million hours every single day collecting water. In addition to danger and susceptibility to injury, children responsible for supplying water to their families are unable to attend school’.

Intercession ... followed by the Novena Prayer

May the Holy Spirit keep us aware of the need for action and words on the care of the earth and the cry of the poor as we practice self-control in our use of limited resources

Music Suggestions

God has given us the Earth (Bernard Sexton)

Do It now (Bella Ciao)

Thursday of the 6th Week of Easter – 25 May 2023

Scripture (John 17:26)

“I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”



Prayer

Holy Spirit of renewal and refreshment, help us to look after your fruits so generously given.

May we water them with gratitude and nourish them with care, that they will truly blossom in our lives and in the lives of all we touch.

Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Amen.

Reflection Saint John Henry Newman

“God knows me and calls me by name ...

God has created me to do him some definite service.

He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another.

I have my mission”.

Loving communities are built on ...?



Intercession *[followed by the Novena Prayer]*

May the Holy Spirit inspire the active participation of all members of the Christian family as a sign of the unity and love that Jesus made known.

Music Suggestions

We are one in the Spirit

If Ye Love Me (Thomas Tallis)

Friday of the 6th Week of Easter – 26 May 2023

Scripture (John 21:17)

“Jesus said ... the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’”

Reflections

1. Many called to serve the community in various ways, simply give themselves totally to their tasks, often without counting the cost to themselves or their own family relationships. The dialogue between Jesus and Simon Peter is tender and caring even if the headstrong apostle resists his friend’s call for him to express his love for him again. Out of their loving relationship comes the invitation to nourish the community.
2. Spiritual nourishment is an essential ingredient for those called to service in our partnerships. Some people prefer gatherings where the ‘what’, ‘where’ and ‘how’ are the only topics on the agenda. It is clear from this dialogue that Jesus is looking for spiritual nourishment for his followers – a task that is not always appreciated.
3. ‘Prayer is an invitation to let go and let God lead, and can give rise to resistance. Prayer implies some openness to change, but blocks can be present in practice. For instance, certain fears can emerge – such as the fear of losing God or losing self, of losing control, of losing security, or the fear of failure or of making unwanted discovery. Resistance to learning something new can show up in prayer.’
(The late Mike Drennan S.J. in ‘See God Act’ 2021.)



Who cares for the carers?

Each ministry group should have definite occasions for gathering in prayer and reflection in addition to an annual or seasonal coming together for all ministries.

Intercession ... followed by the Novena Prayer

May the Holy Spirit invite reflection on the needs of volunteers and ministers in our diocese: that they will be cared for with the kindness that Jesus expressed to Peter.

Music Suggestions

Ubi Caritas (Taizé)

Sheep May Safely Graze (J.S. Bach)

Saturday of the 6th Week of Easter – 27 May 2023

Scripture (Acts 28:31)

“Paul ...with complete assurance and without hindrance proclaimed the Kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Reflection Fear (Khalil Gibran)

It is said that before entering the sea
a river trembles with fear.
She looks back at the path she has travelled,
from the peaks of the mountains,
the long winding road crossing forests and villages.
And in front of her,
she sees an ocean so vast,
that to enter there seems nothing more
than to disappear forever.



But there is no other way.
The river cannot go back.
Nobody can go back.
To go back is impossible in existence.
The river needs to take the risk
of entering the ocean
because only then will fear disappear,
because that's where the river will know
it's not about disappearing into the ocean,
but of becoming the ocean.

Does this picture speak to you?

Intercession ... followed by the Novena Prayer

May the Holy Spirit encourage all the baptised to share their faith in Jesus Christ, the foundation and centre of our calling, by following, without fear, the faithful example of St. Paul.

Music Suggestions

Be not afraid (Bob Dufford)

Nada te turbe (Taizé)

Pentecost Sunday – 28 May 2023

Scripture (Psalm 103)

“Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth”

Reflection *When was the last time?* © John Birch, 2022

When was the last time that we heard the wind of your Spirit roar through this place?
When was the last time your fire lit up this room?
When was the last time we took you at your word and met together in expectation of your Spirit filling this place, and these lives with your Glory and Power?

Lord, you challenge us with Pentecost. Do we believe that this was a once in eternity experience, never to be repeated? That the Holy Spirit was poured out on your followers for a single purpose, and ended His work at that instant? If so, then maybe that is why the Church seems so powerless in this age, helpless when faced with the needs both spiritual and physical, that we see in the world.

Lord, as we meet together, and celebrate once again the memory of that first Pentecost, may it be for us as it was then a moment of empowerment, an awareness of your Glory in this dark world, a life changing experience.



Pentecost Window by Evie Hone at Manresa Jesuit Centre of Spirituality, Dollymount.

Our Christian Community Spirit – accompanying each other in shaping change and building hope

Intercession ... followed by the Novena Prayer

May the Holy Spirit help us to renew the Church in the Archdiocese of Dublin by shaping change that includes, embraces and accompanies with gentleness and compassion.

Music Suggestions

Veni Sancte Spiritus (Taizé)

Tar anuas a Spioraid Naoimh (Ite O'Donovan)

Veni Creator Spiritus (Plainchant)

Spirit of the Living God (Daniel Iverson/Lowell Alexander)

Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church – 29 May 2023

Scripture (John 19:26-27)

“Woman, behold, your son. . . behold, your mother.”

Reflection

‘Mother of sure hope
In all our moments of doubt and trial
Gain for us the grace
ever to serve your Son as you did,
With deep faith and calm courage.
Amen.’

‘Such an idea could not be cut at random from a block of granite. The design had to be carefully thought out and planned as a series of ordered shapes.’

*Sculptor: Domhnall Ó Murchadha
(June 1985)*

**Does this image speak to us
as we build hope together?**

Mary prays with us and for us

We pray that the image may help us
to see Mary as the first Christian,
protecting us and
leading us all to Christ.
Amen



*Carving of Our Lady, Mother of the Church,
a gift from the Carmelite Community, Gort Mhuire,
to the Church of the Ascension of the Lord, Balally.*

Intercession . . . followed by the Novena Prayer

May the Holy Spirit, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, encourage a generosity of spirit in the exchange of gifts and talents in our partnerships.

Music

Holy Mary Full of Grace (Paul Décha)
Mary’s Magnificat (Marie Dunne CHF)