



Wednesday 7th May 2008

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to this week's *Wednesday Word*.

This coming Sunday your parish church will be celebrating a great and joyful feast, Pentecost Sunday. It is the feast of the gift of the Holy Spirit. This was the day that God sent the Holy Spirit to be with us always, so that we would never be alone. It is also popularly known as the birthday of the Church because this was the day when the mission of the Church began.

At this Sunday's celebration we will hear about the events of Pentecost, which happened almost 2000 years ago. Pentecost is not just a historical event. The Holy Spirit is alive and active today and is ready to fill us with the same peace, joy and courage that filled the followers of Jesus all those years ago.

You may find it helpful to glance at the '60 Second Section' below before your *Family Time* begins. We sincerely hope that you enjoy exploring this Wednesday's suggested word for your time together, which is PEACE.

"Peace begins
with a smile."
Mother Teresa



Short on Time? A Rapid Read for Busy Parents

In the Gospel overleaf we read that the apostles were initially filled with fear for their lives and hid from those who had killed Jesus. But on the day of Pentecost an amazing transformation took place. The Holy Spirit (whom Jesus had promised to send) descended on them, filling them with joy, certainty, courage and peace. They left their hiding place and went out to preach the good news of Jesus to all they met. Even threats of prison, torture or death did not frighten them.

Maybe there are times when you are anxious or worried. Maybe you feel unsure or discouraged about the future or you feel distant from God. Be assured that

God is very close to you. God is even present in your *Wednesday Word Family Time* together. In the days that follow your time together this week you may want to try sitting alone for 10 minutes, slowly re-reading the Gospel, asking the Holy Spirit to help you to know God and to feel the true inner peace which only God can give.

We warmly invite you and your children to celebrate with us at Church this Pentecost Sunday, to be spiritually strengthened, refreshed and open to Christ's peace and the many priceless gifts which the Holy Spirit brings.

**TEN
MINUTES**

Wednesday Word Family Time

'Where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them' Matt 18.20

**STARTS
HERE**

In the evening, the disciples were gathered in a room. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the people who had crucified Jesus. Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said to them. He showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord. "Peace be with you," Jesus said to them again. "As the Father has sent me, so I now send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said to them. "If you forgive the sins of anyone, then they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

(cf John 20:19-23)

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 11th May 2008 - Pentecost

**READING
&
ASKING**

After reading this coming Sunday's Gospel with your children, ask them how it makes them feel or what it makes them think about.

**SHARING
1**

Ask your child when they feel most at peace, or when they feel most safe and not worried about anything.

To enrich your Family Time together, explore this Wednesday's word for your family:

PEACE

**LIVING
2**

How can we be peacemakers in the coming week

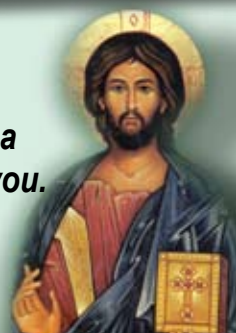
(e.g. by making friends with anyone at school that we've fallen out with, or by helping to make our home a happy place, etc.)?

Supporting School Ethos *It may help to support your family and your school further by reading this final section together:*

Jesus says this about peace:

"Peace I give to you, my own peace I give you; a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

John 14:27



† Dear Lord,
Thank you for this special time together. Help us to experience the perfect peace that you offer to us, and to share it with those around us. Amen.

The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families