

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## Today's Readings:

Outpouring of the Spirit. Acts 2:1-11  
Unity and diversity in the Spirit. 1 Cor 12:3-7,12-13  
Peace be with you. Jn 20:19-23

## Next Week:

Trinity Sunday  
Ex 34:4-6,8-9; 2 Cor 13:11-13;  
Jn 3:16-18

## In a nutshell

The Christian feast of Pentecost has its origins in a Jewish feast that celebrated the first fruits of the harvest and the gift of the law at Sinai. With the outpouring of the Spirit in the wake of Jesus' resurrection, the early Christians celebrated Pentecost as a feast of the 'new law' of Christ's love and the gathering of all peoples in Christ.



## Many gifts, one Spirit

*In your own family, parish and neighbourhood, in what ways have you witnessed the unity and diversity of the Holy Spirit's presence?*

## Many children, one family

*A single woman reflects:*

I marvel at the uniqueness of each of my seven nieces and nephews. Certainly they are all characterised and bonded by similar family features and parenting methods. Yet each one is unmistakably an individual: in looks, in temperament, in likes and dislikes, skills and talents. Like an array of precious gems (but with immeasurable value), at different times each child is cause for me to stop and wonder, look and listen, puzzle and worry, reflect on and marvel at God's amazing creativity.

## Many cultures, one faith

*A priest says:*

Over the last few years I have had the opportunity to celebrate home Masses with Australian families who came to this country as migrants or refugees, some recent arrivals, others of long-standing. They had come from so many different lands and such a variety of cultures: China, Uruguay, Tonga, Italy, Fiji, the Philippines, South Africa, India.

The ambiance was so varied from one house to another; without exception the devotion was warm and social; and the extension of the Eucharist—morning or afternoon tea, lunch or dinner—was both different and delicious.

## Gift of song, gift of life

Catherine fell into the habit of singing as she went about her household chores each day. She had a good voice, which she delighted in, and an extensive repertoire to match.

Next door there lived a woman who spent her days at home caring for her housebound father. She told Catherine that her father always wanted his bedroom window open so that he could hear the beautiful singing coming from next door. It was like being at a special concert every day, he said.

This affirmation thrilled Catherine who never tired of using and developing her God-given gift. (PK)



church below the rooftops

## Two things to mull over at Pentecost

- The Holy Spirit that came down upon the early Church is the same Spirit at work in my own life today.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation I received as a youth is not just a past event. I can draw upon the grace of this Sacrament in my present life.
- This week, open yourself to the grace and gifts of the Holy Spirit in your life.

## Peace be with you...

Today, invite God's Spirit of peace to pervade your heart, healing any wounds and hurts which separate you from Christ, from your family, from your parish community. Is there someone you need to forgive? Forgive and move on.



**RealPeople** offers faith reflections from the saints and prophets of everyday life.

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