

# St Mary & St John Fisher Parish, Denton

## Confirmation: Learning about the Holy Spirit in the New Testament

### I. Before Easter

St John records for us in his Gospel some of the teaching of Jesus at the Last Supper. This was on the night before he died. He spoke to his friends again about the Holy Spirit, to prepare them to receive his special gift to them.....

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Paraclete comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness.

You will also be witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning.

I still have a lot to say to you but it would be too much for you now.

But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking of his own accord, but he will say only what he has been told. He will glorify me, since all he reveals to you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: all he reveals to you will be taken from what is mine.”

This Wordsearch may help you to remember some of the details....

E	T	E	L	P	M	O	C	E	G	ADVOCATE	SPIRIT	WITNESS
V	T	G	R	L	W	H	J	N	N	GLORIFY	FATHER	JESUS
G	N	A	L	E	I	M	I	I	I	MINE	COMPLETE	TELL
L	T	E	C	M	H	K	W	M	H	EVERYTHING	WHY	HIMSELF
O	T	I	S	O	A	T	J	H	T			
R	T	E	R	E	V	L	A	G	Y			
I	L	A	P	I	M	D	L	F	R			
F	F	S	K	J	P	O	A	G	E			
Y	S	U	S	E	J	S	C	T	V			
C	O	S	S	E	N	T	I	W	E			

### II. At Easter

On Easter Day, after being raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit of the Father, the Risen Jesus appeared to his followers to pass on to them the same Holy Spirit. We can read about this in the Gospel written by St John....

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the disciples were in the room with doors closed, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them.

He said to them: “Peace be with you” and showed them his hands and his side.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again,

“Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.”

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

“Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.”

Here is another Wordsearch which may help you to remember more details....

R	E	H	T	A	F	D	E	I	S	EVENING	FIRST	DAY
D	D	G	N	I	N	E	V	E	R	DOORS	CLOSED	DISCIPLES
Y	I	E	F	I	T	R	Y	J	O	PEACE	SIDE	FATHER
O	S	E	H	I	N	I	S	A	O	BREATHED	FORGIVE	RETAIN
J	C	V	R	T	I	E	T	A	D			
D	I	I	P	E	A	C	E	Y	E			
I	P	G	E	Y	T	E	O	D	S			
S	L	R	J	O	E	R	R	O	O			
C	E	O	T	S	R	I	F	B	L			
E	S	F	O	J	Y	O	D	A	C			

### III. After Easter: Pentecost

Jesus ascended into heaven to take his place at the right hand of his Father. He told his Apostles to wait in Jerusalem with his mother Mary, for his gift of the Holy Spirit. St Luke tells us the story of the Feast of Pentecost in his second work, the Acts of the Apostles, when the Holy Spirit appeared on the Birthday of the Church....

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.

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 many good people from many nations living in Jerusalem, and at this sound they all assembled.

Each one could hear these men speaking in their own language.

They were all amazed and astonished.

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice:

“People of Israel, listen to what I am going to say:

Jesus the Nazarene was a man you took and had crucified outside the Law.

But God raised Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses to that.

Three important signs helped the people to understand that it was the Holy Spirit:  
The sound of the wind  
The appearance of tongues of fire  
The Apostles speaking about Jesus, heard in many different languages

Colour in the picture of the Eleven Apostles with Mary as they receive the Holy Spirit. They are no longer afraid, but are joyful at being close to Jesus again....



The Holy Spirit helped the Apostles remember all that Jesus had taught them. They remembered when Jesus was first baptised at the River Jordan. There the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a Dove. So this is another symbol or sign of the Holy Spirit.

On 18 May we will be confirmed and we will receive again the Gift of the Holy Spirit which we first received at Baptism. Like the Apostles at the Feast of Pentecost, we will be joyful at the presence of Risen Jesus.

The signs and symbols at Confirmation will be the Oil of Chrism as well as the Laying-on of Hands (called "Epiklesis").

As we wait and prepare like the Apostles, we pray: Come, Holy Spirit

