

Motivation for John 20: 19-23

On the Feast of Pentecost, we think of the disciples gathered in Jerusalem 50 days after Jesus' Passover and Resurrection. Then the wind and fire of the Holy Spirit broke into the upper room and flames descended upon the heads of the Apostles, Jesus' mother Mary, His brethren and the faithful women. But our Gospel this year takes us back to the evening of the day of Jesus' Resurrection. The Church invites us to join His followers there, where fear has made them close the doors.

As you listen to the words of this Gospel, open your eyes and recognise that Jesus has simply stepped through the closed doors, that He is now standing here, in our midst. Open your heart to receive the peace He is bringing and to the joy of seeing your Risen Lord, who shows you His wounded hands and side. He is going to impart to you His breath, His life, His Holy Spirit. Allow His Spirit to enter deeply into you, to act in you in the days ahead, to take away your fears, and to carry forward the mission that Jesus is now handing on to you from God, His Father and ours.