



YEAR LEVEL	Year 1 & 2
TITLE	Pentecost
STRAND	TRINITY
SUGGESTED DURATION	4 - 5 weeks
ENDURING QUESTIONS	Who is God? Is God Alive in me? How does the Holy Spirit lead me in my life?

Unit Focus

In this unit students will explore the role of the Spirit in the mission of the Church. They will reflect upon the Pentecost event as a time to celebrate the Church's beginning. Students will learn how Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to the disciples, just as he had promised to do.

Achievement Standards

By the end of **Year Two**:

Students Identify the role of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They articulate the ways in which the Holy Spirit can guide them today.

Unit Outcomes

By the end of this unit the students should be able to:

1. Retell the Pentecost Story.
2. Discuss how the Holy Spirit is with us today.
3. Recognise that Pentecost celebrates the beginning of the Church.

Key Understandings for Students

- Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit to give us special gifts.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to live like Jesus.

Student Context

Year 1 and 2 students are learning to separate fantasy and reality and to understand the language of symbols.

Students are led by natural curiosity to explore their world, expressing themselves through talking, drawing, creating, moving and above all, playing.

Students display varying degrees of language competence in different contexts and for different purposes. They learn through play, imitation, exploration, interaction with others and the manipulation of objects.

The concept of '*spirit*' and '*Holy Spirit*' is difficult for students of this age. Many students associate *spirit* with ghosts. Through participation in school events (eg. swimming carnivals), students are developing their concepts of team and school *spirit*.

Theological Background for Teachers

- The Holy Spirit draws people together so that they become the Church. They find themselves thinking, speaking and behaving in ways that are shared. Their unity develops as each individual comes to think, speak and behave more like Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit stirs people to seek and fulfill their vocations within Jesus' Church as it continues His mission in the contemporary world.
- The presence of the Holy Spirit was experienced in the Old and the New Testaments. The Hebrew people used the word '*Ruah*' to describe the Spirit, a word that means spirit and breath. They identified the Spirit as the life-giving breath of God.
- 'On the day of Pentecost when the seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ's Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, manifested, given and communicated as a divine person; of his fullness, Christ, the Lord, pours out the Spirit in abundance.' (CCCn731)
- The experience of the coming of the Holy Spirit is described as being *like the mighty wind* and *as of fire, distributed and resting on each of them*. (Acts 2)
- The word 'Pentecost' means the fiftieth day from the Passover, counting the Sundays at each end of seven weeks; it is the fiftieth day from Easter.
- The fruits of the Holy Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit are reverence, courage, wonder and awe, wisdom, understanding, knowledge and right judgement.

Scripture

Acts 2:2-4

Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on

each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak.

Godly Play - Sydney Script Pentecost

Major Assessment Task

Assessment tasks for this unit may include:

- Write and draw about the story of Pentecost. Students choose to do so using one of the following:
 - retell the story eg as a comic, narrative / recount
 - use drawings with at least two frames to tell the story
 - make a poster to advertise Pentecost is here

The finished piece of work should explain why Pentecost is important for the Catholic Church.

- Write and draw about a time that the Holy Spirit was present in your life. This may be a time when you felt the gifts of the Holy Spirit were with you (eg. A time when you needed to be courageous; A time when you were able to teach someone something with your gift of knowledge).

Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

Focusing Activity

- Read *Stella Luna* or *Owl Babies* to the class. List things that make us feel frightened or afraid. What are some of the things that used to make you scared but do not know that you are older? What or who helped you not to feel frightened? Is it good to be with someone else when you are scared?
- Tell the story of Pentecost. Use [To Know, Worship and Love Book 1 Chapter 9 The Spirit Comes](#) to explore the effect the Spirit had on the disciples. Discuss with students that the Church began after Pentecost, when the Apostles began spreading Jesus teachings. The Holy Spirit was sent to the Apostles to help them in their work.
- Make a chart of the things we know about wind and fire. Place a few drops of coloured ink or paint onto a sheet of card. Invite the children to blow the ink gently through a straw to create patterns. Cut a flame from this shape.
- Explain to the students that Pentecost is a special celebration, when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. Read Acts 2:2-4 using Godly Play (**Appendix 1**). Allow students to engage in their individual wonderings.
- Have the students illustrate who was present in the room at Pentecost.
- Allow the students the opportunity to role play the story of Pentecost. They may like to do this in small groups.
- Share with the students a time where you were frightened or worried but then experienced strength or solutions through the actions of others or the Spirit. Have children recall a time when they have felt this themselves. Share in small groups. Identify these as times when the Spirit is at work.
- Use the 'Hot Potato strategy' in small groups to make charts showing ways that the Holy Spirit is at work in our community, at home, and at school.

- Make a 'Pentecost People Mural' (explain the concept of Pentecost People, by referring to people who help others using the gift or strength of the holy spirit). Under each person write a special quality that these people demonstrate. Encourage the students to use members from their own family or people they know personally.
- Discuss with students the liturgical colour associated with Pentecost. Include reference to this colour in your class prayer time. Use a piece of red fabric to decorate the prayer table. Decorate this 'space' with the Holy Spirit 'Thank You' cards.
- Invite the children to write simple prayers asking the Holy Spirit to help them to be Pentecost People.
- Prayer celebration thanking God for the Holy Spirit. Include Scripture reading of the Pentecost story and children presenting pictures of people who are Pentecost people to them and how.

Prayer Ritual

Set up a prayer space with the ink flames and Holy Spirit 'Thank You' cards that students have made.

Invite students to gather in a circle around the prayer space with their prayers.

Each student makes the Sign of the cross. Read Acts 2: 2-4 and ask each student to read the prayer they wrote for the class prayer book. Students place their prayers around the prayer space, taking time in silence to think about their action.

Together students sing Andrew Chinn's [Hearts on fire](#)

Concluding prayer for the Prayer Ritual:

Dear Lord,

We pray today that your spirit rests within us, just as it did with your Apostles on the day of Pentecost.

Amen

Appendices

Appendix 1- Godly Play Pentecost - Sydney Script