

Come, Holy Spirit!

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4



Our parish church is one of the famous Rosary of churches which circled Cork city in the 1950s and 60s, each named after one of the Glorious mysteries. The third Glorious mystery, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, is vividly portrayed in the striking mosaic in the sanctuary. Not surprisingly Mary is there in the centre: Acts 1:14 tells us, "All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus". In the wings of the scene, as depicted in the mosaic, are some of those praying women, together with several men and children. The Catechism used to list the third mystery as "The Descent of the Holy Ghost on the Apostles", but the mosaic reveals the truth: "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit", not just the original twelve, but everyone, men, women and children. We are all called equally to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and to use them on behalf of God and our neighbour.

A question: The original meaning of the word "apostle" is "send forth". What is the Holy Spirit sending you forth to do today?