

Jesus goes back to be with his Father

For 40 days after he rose from the dead, Jesus visited his friends and then one day he returned to heaven to his Father. We call this the 'Ascension' – a word which just means 'going up'. You can see in the picture here that as Jesus was returning to God, he stretched out his arms to bless his friends and followers who were watching him go. Jesus always has his arms out to us in blessing and in love.



Do you think the disciples were sad to see Jesus go, knowing that they wouldn't see him again on earth? Well, the Bible tells us that they went back to Jerusalem in great joy and happiness! This was because just before Jesus left, he promised his friends & followers that he would always be with them but just in a new way. He also said that he would send them a helper and guide. And of course he did just that! A short time later when the disciples were gathered together in prayer, that helper came. Do you know who that helper is? **It is the Holy Spirit.**

When the Holy Spirit of God came upon them it filled them with very many gifts so that immediately they left the room they were in and went out and started to tell everyone about Jesus and about God and to do all sorts of miracles in Jesus' name! If you have a Bible you can read about some of the things they did in a book called 'The Acts of the Apostles'.

The **wonderful news** is that Jesus is always with us too and that we receive that very same Spirit in Baptism and again at Confirmation! The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of love and life who comes to us with all sorts of wonderful gifts such as wisdom, knowledge and courage. The Spirit helps us to do the right thing and to be loving and caring towards other people.

For you to do: Next Sunday, the Feast of Pentecost, is the day we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first followers of Jesus. A very simple prayer for us to say while we wait for next Sunday's Feast is: 'Come Holy Spirit'.