

MANY VOICES – ONE FAITH

Two Cathedrals’ Pentecost Celebrations

On the Feast of Pentecost

Sunday 24 May 2026
at 3.00pm



Liverpool
Cathedral



SCAN ME

HYMN *all join in singing*



- 1** O God beyond all praising,
We worship you today,
And sing the love amazing
That songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder
At ev'ry gift you send,
At blessings without number
And mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you
And wait upon your word,
We honour and adore you,
Our great and mighty Lord.
- 2** Then hear, O gracious Saviour,
Accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favour
May serve you as our king;
And whether our tomorrows
Be filled with good or ill,
We'll triumph through our sorrows
And rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty
And glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty
Our sacrifice of praise.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION *Archbishop John Sherrington*

OPENING PRAYER *the Archbishop says*

Let us pray.
Father of light, from whom every good gift comes,
send your Spirit into our lives
with the power of a mighty wind,
and by the flame of your wisdom
open the horizons of our minds.

Loosen our tongues to sing your praise
in words beyond the power of speech,
for without your Spirit
we could never raise our voice in words of peace
or announce the truth that Jesus is Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians *12:3b-7,12-13*

Brothers and sisters: No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this Day - Our celebration of Pentecost we come together in a spirit of Joy and Celebration. We have much to give thanks for but at this time there are many needs within our communities and wider society. We pray to God's Spirit to hear our prayers and renew us with hope and the fire of his love.

Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit Dove of Peace and Flame of Truth. By words and action may communities and nations work to eradicate division, hatred, and prejudice. Inspire all people to work for peace throughout the world. May nations show greater compassion and extend a more welcoming hand to victims of war and persecution.

Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit source of unity and divine love, strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation amongst us. May our churches give common witness to Christ and work ever more closely in promoting justice, reconciliation and equality of opportunity within our communities.

Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit light in our darkness and breath of new life. Renew each of us in service of one another. At this time of greater need and increased poverty may we live more simply and generously respond to others needs. Be with those who are troubled in mind or spirit and bring light to the darkness of people's lives.

Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**

Let us pray together in the words Christ has taught us
Our Father, who art in heaven...

MOTET *the Choir sings 'Hallelujah Chorus'*

Hallelujah; for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth, hallelujah. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, hallelujah.

George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

We have gathered together this afternoon as many voices sharing one faith. We represent many different cultures and faith backgrounds yet we walk as one in friendship and companionship, filled with joy in the Holy Spirit. As we are about to set out on our march along the road to Liverpool Cathedral let us show our unity in Christ through the fellowship we share along the way.

Please follow the direction of the Stewards as we line up for the march together.

AT LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL

MOTET *when the congregation are in their places, the Cathedral Choirs sing*

Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon King. And all the people rejoic'd, and said: God save the King! Long live the King! God save the King! Amen, hallelujah. May the King live for ever. Amen, hallelujah.

George Frederick Handel

WELCOME *Dean Sue*

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 20:19-23

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

All sit.

The Reverend Phil Jump reflects on the Manifesto for Hope in our City Region.

PRAYER *we sit for a time of silent prayer and reflection, which ends with this prayer led by*

Bishop Ruth

Reconciling Spirit,
our world is broken and divided,
and we can all too easily become defined
by the differences that prevail.
But you have called us to be one,
to overcome division,
standing together in unity.
We thank you for those whose courage and grace
has broken down barriers,
and enabled us to embrace those
we might once have called strangers.
May your love empower and inspire
us to continue the task they have begun.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

If you are able, please stand as we share the Peace with one another.

Bishop Ruth says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
R. And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of peace.

HYMN *all join in singing*

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

- 2 Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish then thy new creation:
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Tune: Blaenwern; William Rowlands (1860-1937)*

THE BLESSING *the Reverend Geoff Felton says*

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into you the gift of life.
R. Amen.

Archbishop John says

May the Spirit,
who overshadowed the Virgin when the eternal Son came among us,
make you joyful in the service of the Lord.
R. Amen.

Bishop Ruth says

May the Spirit,
who set the Church on fire on the Day of Pentecost,
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ.
R. Amen.

The Church Leaders say together

The blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down upon you and remain with you always.
R. Amen.

Dean Sue says

Filled with the Spirit's power, go in the light and peace of Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia.
R. Thanks be to God.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Churches Together in Merseyside along with the two Cathedrals would like to express our heartfelt thanks to a number of people including all those who participated in and organised today's celebration. We would also like to express our thanks to all those who have attended today making the celebration a vibrant and inclusive event that witnesses to our unity in Christ.

If you are concerned about the safety of a child or vulnerable adult and feel they are in immediate danger, please call the police. If you wish to report any non-urgent concerns, please contact your local social services or our safeguarding team direct at



or Mark Robson 0151 522 1013 / 07585761965 Claire Newton 0151 522 1043 / 07384643237 or safeguarding@rcaol.org.uk

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PLEASE TAKE THIS WITH YOU OR HAND IT TO A STEWARD