

Derry Diocese

Vocations Week 2020



Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Sunday 16th - Saturday 22nd February

Sunday 16th February 2020

WISDOM

*I pleaded and the spirit of Wisdom came to me,
I preferred her to sceptre and throne,...
Yet all good things together came to me with her,
and countless riches at her hands; (Wisdom 7:7;11).*

If we listen to the Holy Spirit, he teaches us this way of wisdom, he endows us with wisdom, which is seeing with God's eyes, hearing with God's ears, loving with God's heart, directing things with God's judgement. This is the wisdom the Holy Spirit endows us with, and we can all have it. We only have to ask it of the Holy Spirit.

Intercessions

That God, who is rich in mercy, will bless those called by Jesus to serve Him and His Church as priests, with faithfulness to their vocations, Lord hear us.

That in union with Mary, the Mother of God, we who have received Spirit of her Son into our hearts, will pray with zeal for holy vocations to the priesthood, Lord hear us.

Heavenly Father,
you remind us that through our Baptism
we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.
Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to be courageous and zealous
in bearing witness to the Gospel,
so that the mission entrusted to the Church,
which is still very far from completion,
may find new expressions
that bring life and light to the world. Through
Christ our Lord. Amen
Pope Francis; October 2019.

Monday 17th February 2020

UNDERSTANDING

*“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him,
God has revealed to us through the Spirit”
(1 Cor 2:9-10).*

And Jesus desired to send us the Holy Spirit so that we might have this gift, so that all of us might understand things as God understands them, with the mind of God. What a beautiful gift the Lord has given us. It is the gift with which the Holy Spirit introduces us into intimacy with God and makes us sharers in the plan of love which he has for us.

Intercessions

That all those living out their vocations in Christ will take heart that Lord our God calls them by name to follow along the path of discipleship, Lord hear us.

For all called to be single men and women, that they will have confidence in Jesus Christ, who calls them each to reveal God’s love for the world through their words and actions, Lord hear us.

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Tuesday 18th February 2020

KNOWLEDGE

*'I will pour out my Spirit on all mankind.
Their sons and daughters shall prophesy,
your young men shall see visions,
your old men shall dream dreams.
Even on my slaves men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.'
(Acts 2,17-18).*

The knowledge that comes from the Holy Spirit, is a special gift, which leads us to grasp, through creation, the greatness and love of God and his profound relationship with every creature. When our eyes are illumined by the Spirit, they open to contemplate God, in the beauty of nature and in the grandeur of the cosmos, and they lead us to discover how everything speaks to us about Him and His love.

Intercessions

For all those now discerning their vocations in Christ, that they may be filled with the Holy Spirit and nourished by the bread of life, Lord hear us.

For all men and women now considering their vocation, that they will take heart in Jesus' call to serve Him Lord hear us.

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Wednesday 19th February 2020

COUNSEL

*“I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved”
(Psalm 16[15]. 7-8).*

Now, through the gift of counsel, it is God himself, through his spirit, who enlightens our heart so as to make us understand the right way to speak and to behave and the way to follow. But how does this gift work in us? When we receive and welcome him into our heart, the Holy Spirit immediately begins to make us sensitive to his voice and to guide our thoughts, our feelings and our intentions according to the heart of God.

Intercessions

That like Samuel, all baptized Catholics will be faithful to their call to follow Christ, especially those chosen for the unique consecration of priesthood or consecrated life, Lord hear us.

For a deeper dedication among Catholic families to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life among their children, believing that Christ opens ears to hear His call and hearts to answer Him, life, will glory in the cross of Jesus Christ, Lord hear us.

Heavenly Father,
you remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in the mission of the Church. Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel, so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion, may find new expressions that bring life and light to the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thursday 20th February 2020

FORTITUDE

*“I can do all things in him who strengthens me”
(Phil 4:13).*

How many men and women there are — we do not know their names — who honour our people, who honour our Church, because they are strong: strong in carrying forward their lives, their family, their work, their faith. These brothers and sisters of ours are saints, everyday saints, hidden saints among us: the gift of fortitude is what enables them to carry on with their duties as individuals, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, citizens.

Intercessions

For those who work with youth, that they will encourage them to listen carefully for God’s call, Lord hear us.

That the knowledge of our unity, one body and one spirit in Christ, will heighten each person’s faithfulness to their vocation and encourage those He is calling to build up the people of God, Lord hear us.

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Friday 21st February 2020

PIETY

*“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship”, from which, “we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”
(Rm 8:14-15).*

It is a relationship lived with the heart: it is our friendship with God, granted to us by Jesus, a friendship that changes our life and fills us with passion, with joy. Thus, the gift of piety stirs in us above all gratitude and praise.. The gift of piety means to be truly capable of rejoicing with those who rejoice, of weeping with those who weep, of being close to those who are lonely or in anguish, of correcting those in error, of consoling the afflicted, of welcoming and helping those in need.

Intercessions

That marriages be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and parents be renewed in their vocation in helping their children encounter the Lord Jesus Christ, Lord hear us.

That during our Diocesan Vocation Week, every parishioner will devote themselves and their families to praying for an openness to God’s call, Lord hear us.

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Saturday 22nd February 2020

FEAR of THE LORD

*“This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them”
(Psalm 34: 6-7).*

This is fear of the Lord: abandonment in the goodness of our Father who loves us so much. This is what the Holy Spirit does in our hearts: he makes us feel like children in the arms of our father. It is precisely in experiencing our own limitations and our poverty, however, that the Holy Spirit comforts us and lets us perceive that the only important thing is to allow ourselves to be led by Jesus into the Father’s arms.

Intercessions

For those who are having difficulty discerning their vocations, that the Holy Spirit give them wisdom and peace. Lord hear us.

For an increased awareness among our young people of the closeness of the Lord in their vocation discernment and their responsibility to recognize and follow Him, Lord hear us.

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Reflections taken from Pope Francis Catechesis on The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: April 9,–June 11, 2014.

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