



PENTECOST

Homily of the Right Reverend Dom Jean PATEAU
Abbot of Our Lady of Fontgombault
(Fontgombault, May 24th, 2026)

Seditque supra singulos eorum.
It sat upon every one of them.
(Acts 2:3)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
My dearly beloved Sons,

AFTER NONE on Saturday in the Octave of Pentecost, the Easter time will come to an end. This beautiful liturgical season, which began during the Easter Vigil, stems from the Lord's Passover, which had just ended. It had begun during the third Passover meal shared with His disciples on the evening of Holy Thursday. There, Jesus had offered His body and blood. There, He had invited His disciples to receive communion:

Take ye and eat. This is My body. [...] Drink ye all of this.
For this is My blood of the New Testament, which shall be
shed for many unto remission of sins.^a

a. Mt 26:26–28.

His offering was consummated with His death on the Cross. Then the sacrifice was fully accomplished, the gift of His life total: “Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit.”^b

b. Lk 23:46.

Finally, through His resurrection, Christ, the true Paschal Lamb, triumphs over death. The Lord's Passover is then

complete. The tomb could not retain its prey. Life has conquered death.

c. *1 Cor 5:7.* But the great mystery of salvation does not end with the Lord's Passover. He Himself has no need of a saviour. It is for us that He offers His life and dies. St. Paul affirms that Christ is our Passover.^c Let us therefore ponder this morning on our own passover from darkness to light, from death to life.

d. *Lk 24:21.* On Easter morning, the empty tomb was revealed to us, testing our faith. "But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. And now, besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened."^d These words of the disciples on the road to Emmaus to the Lord they had not yet recognized aptly summarize the apostles' feelings: sadness, despair. Perhaps they also summarize our state of mind faced with the world and our own lives.

e. *Jn 20:28.* It will take several apparitions. It will take the doubts of Thomas for us to hear, on Low Sunday, from the mouth of the doubting apostle a twofold profession of faith, both in the resurrection of the Lord and in His divinity: "My Lord and my God."^e

f. *Jn 20:30.* We must make our own this profession of faith: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."^f Believing opens the door to love, and love to life.

The gospel for this morning's Mass is taken from chapter 14 of the Gospel of John, which is part of the discourse after the Last Supper. At the beginning of this chapter, Jesus announced:

g. *Jn 14:3-7.* "And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where Thou art going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by Me. If you had known Me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know Him and have seen Him."^g

A little further, Jesus continues, and this is what we have just heard:

If any one love Me, he will keep My word. And my Father will love him and We will come to him and will make our abode with him. He that loveth me not, keepeth not my words.^h

h. Jn 14:23-24.

On the path of faith, a Paschal journey, Jesus guides His flock like the Good Shepherd, the one who knows His sheep and Whom His sheep know. But what will happen after his departure? Jesus continues:

But the Paraclete, the Holy Ghost, Whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring all things to your mind, whatsoever I shall have said to you.ⁱ

i. v. 26.

This promise was fulfilled in the Upper Room fifty days after Easter. The Book of Acts preserves the account of this event:

And when the days of the Pentecost were accomplished, they were all together in one place.^j

j. Acts 2:1.

Let us note that the gift of the Spirit is given to each disciple individually, but when all are together. Unity bears witness to charity, and charity attracts the Spirit. Let us receive this message, especially now that the Church is shaken by the prospect of a schism, whereas each human community can only survive through the struggle of each of its members against individualism.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty wind coming: and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.^k

k. v. 3.

Every theophany reveals the power of God. This power, recognized through the unleashing of perceptible phenomena, inevitably inspires fear. But this fear should not make us forget that God is most powerful when He shows mercy. There He works in the heart, and in this heart He desires to dwell, this heart He desires to possess.

And there appeared to them parted tongues, as it were of fire: and it sat upon every one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost: and they began to speak with divers tongues, according as the Holy Ghost gave them to speak.¹

l. vv. 3-4.

This gift bestowed upon each person testifies to God's special love for each of His disciples. God, one might say, tailors His gifts to each individual. This is how He manifests His love. St. Carlo Acutis expressed it simply: "All are born as originals, but many die as photocopies." If they die as photocopies, it is not because of God, but because man, far from valuing the gifts God has given him, at best aspires to those of others, and at worst copies their failings.

Carlo also said: "Sanctification is not a process of addition, but of subtraction: less of me to make room for God."

On this feast of Pentecost, let us offer our hearts to the Lord so that God may set them ablaze with the fire of His Spirit and pour out upon them the abundance of His gifts. Let us advance without tardiness on our Paschal journey, from the empty tomb to a heart burning with love, a journey that will only end with a face-to-face encounter in eternity.

May Our Lady, Mother of good counsel, Seat of wisdom, Temple of the Holy Spirit, intercede for us.

Veni Sancte Spiritus. Amen, Alleluia.

