



Vox Populi

20 May 2026

Pentecost, which we celebrate this Sunday, marks the conclusion of the Easter season and the birth of the Church.

It commemorates the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the followers of Christ, when “tongues as of fire” came to rest on each of them. The apostles then began speaking in various languages, proclaiming the gospel to Jews of every nation, who gathered in Jerusalem for the feast.

The Apostles also began their public ministry following this event, with 3,000 people baptised that very day. In this way, it marks the first missionary and evangelical act of the Church, and when the Church went from formation to proclamation.

It is one of the oldest celebrations in the Church, with Saint Paul noting the importance of the day in the Acts of the Apostles and his Letter to the Corinthians.

In his Pentecost Homily in 2025, Pope Leo XIV drew on the knowledge of both his predecessors. He said, in the words of Pope Benedict XVI, that Pentecost was a reminder that the “Church must always become anew what she already is”.

He also echoed the words of Pope Francis who said the Spirit was a uniting force in a world where “there is so much discord, such great division”.

In his own words, Pope Leo XIV said: “Pentecost renews the Church and the world! May the strong wind of the Spirit come upon us and within us, open the borders of our hearts, grant us the grace of encounter with God, enlarge the horizons of our love and sustain our efforts to build a world in which peace reigns.”