

CHAPTER 5:

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	
Holy Spirit	The third person of the Trinity, true God, who Christians believe inspires people.
Pentecost	A Christian festival celebrating the time when the Holy Spirit came down to the apostles; also a Jewish festival known as Shavuot, celebrating the harvest and the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.
ruah	A Hebrew word meaning wind or breath; God’s Spirit that was breathed in Adam to bring him to full life.
People of God	One of the names of the Church, emphasising the whole community of believers, united by their belief in God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Body of Christ	One of the names of the Church, emphasising the community of all those who are members of Christ’s body through Baptism, with Jesus as their head, working together like one body.
Temple of the Holy Spirit	One of the names of the Church, emphasising the community of all those who are led by God’s spirit in their lives, given to them through the sacraments.
Confirmation	The Sacrament of Initiation that completes Baptism and strengthens a person’s faith by being sealed with the Holy Spirit as a mature member of the Church.
fruits of the Spirit	The behaviours and attitudes that are shown by a person who is filled with the Holy Spirit, such as love, joy and kindness.


OPTIONS	
Ethical	Christians believe they are guided by the Holy Spirit to show the fruits of the Spirit (such as patience and kindness) in the way they live. Although it is sometimes difficult to ignore the works of the flesh (temptations or weaknesses such as anger or jealousy), Christians aim to follow Jesus’ example.
Artistic expression	Life of Jesus Mafa: Pentecost shows the apostles as Black Africans, as a way of making Bible stories more meaningful for Black African communities. The painting shows the apostles and Mary joyfully receiving the Holy Spirit in wind and fire. The descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles and Mary at Pentecost by Elizabeth Wang shows Mary and the apostles, with the light of the Holy Spirit coming from heaven and flames on each person’s head. This shows the holiness of the Holy Spirit.
Lived religion	Pentecost is celebrated in different ways around the world, reflecting Christian beliefs and local cultures. For example, red rose petals are scattered to symbolise tongues of fire in Italy, and greenery is used to decorate homes in Poland.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- The Holy Spirit is the **third person of the Trinity**.
- In the Nicene Creed, the Holy Spirit is described as ‘the Lord, the giver of life’.
- **Symbols** are used to communicate beliefs about the Holy Spirit. These symbols are often based on **biblical accounts** of the Holy Spirit (e.g. the dove, fire and wind). Some symbols link to **Christian worship and rituals** (e.g. anointing, the hand and water).
- The Holy Spirit gives Christians **seven gifts**, which are freely given through love: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.
- A person shows the impact of the Holy Spirit in their life by displaying the **twelve fruits**: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, goodness, modesty and chastity.
- **St Luke** is believed to have written Luke’s Gospel and Acts of the Apostles. He described the importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus and in establishing the Church community.
- **Pentecost** is when the Holy Spirit came to the apostles, filling them with confidence and the ability to speak different languages to spread the Good News. This event is considered to be the birthday of the Church.



The Holy Spirit and Jesus




The Bible shows that the Holy Spirit played an **important role** in Jesus’ life and mission:

- Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- When Jesus was baptised, the Holy Spirit appeared as a dove.
- In Luke 4:18, Jesus said that God’s Spirit had anointed him to do God’s work.
- Jesus promised that he would send God’s Spirit to the apostles, who had been given the task of spreading the Good News.

The Holy Spirit in the life of the Church

The Holy Spirit has **guided the Church** from its earliest moments:

- The Holy Spirit helped the apostles to carry out the mission given to them by Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit remained with the earliest Church communities to give them strength in the face of persecution.
- The Holy Spirit helped to bring more people into the Church community.
- The Church community is described as a community of God’s people (the People of God); a community like a body, with Jesus as the head (the Body of Christ); and a community filled with the Holy Spirit (the Temple of the Holy Spirit).



The Holy Spirit in the life of individual Christians

Individual Christians can feel the Holy Spirit at work in their lives:

- The Holy Spirit guides people in their **vocation**: their call from God to live a particular life.
- Catholics believe that a person is anointed in the Holy Spirit at Baptism, and sealed in the Holy Spirit at Confirmation.
- At Confirmation, a person celebrates receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which help them to live a Christian life and follow God.