



Symbols of the Holy Spirit

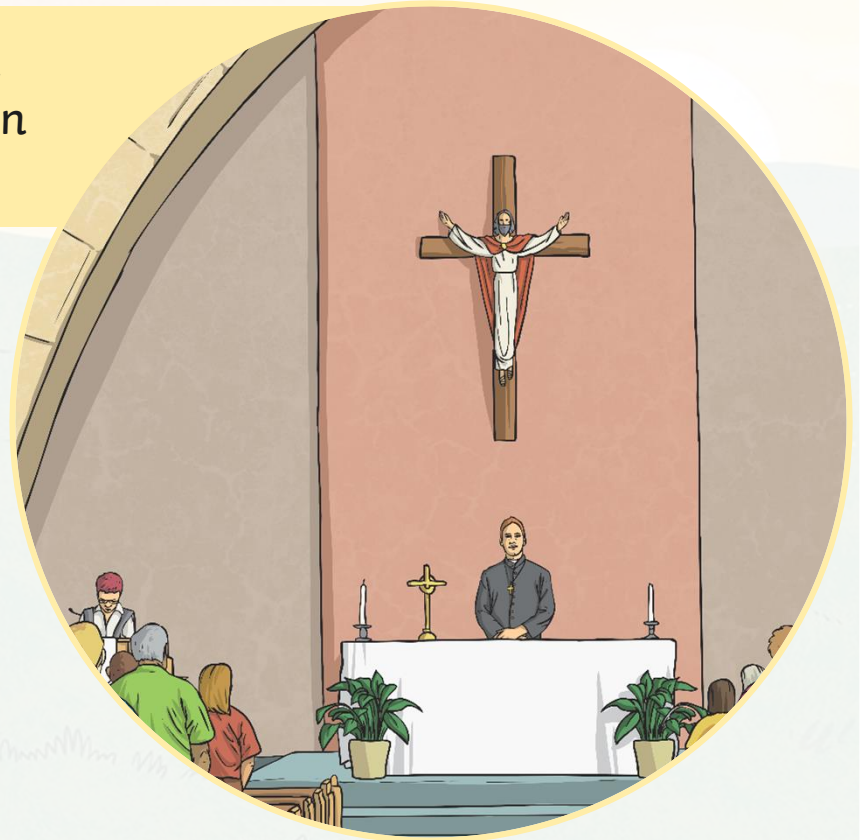
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The Holy Spirit

Holy Week is the period of time from Palm Sunday until Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

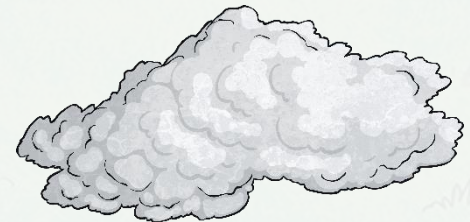
Jesus appeared to his disciples a number of times before he ascended into heaven.

The Holy Spirit was sent to the disciples to help them to continue Jesus' work and spread His message around the world.



Symbols of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is represented in the Christian Church through different symbols.



A Dove

When Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan, a dove appeared. The dove was a physical sign of God's presence.

The dove also represents God bringing peace to mankind through Jesus and his sacrifice.



Fire



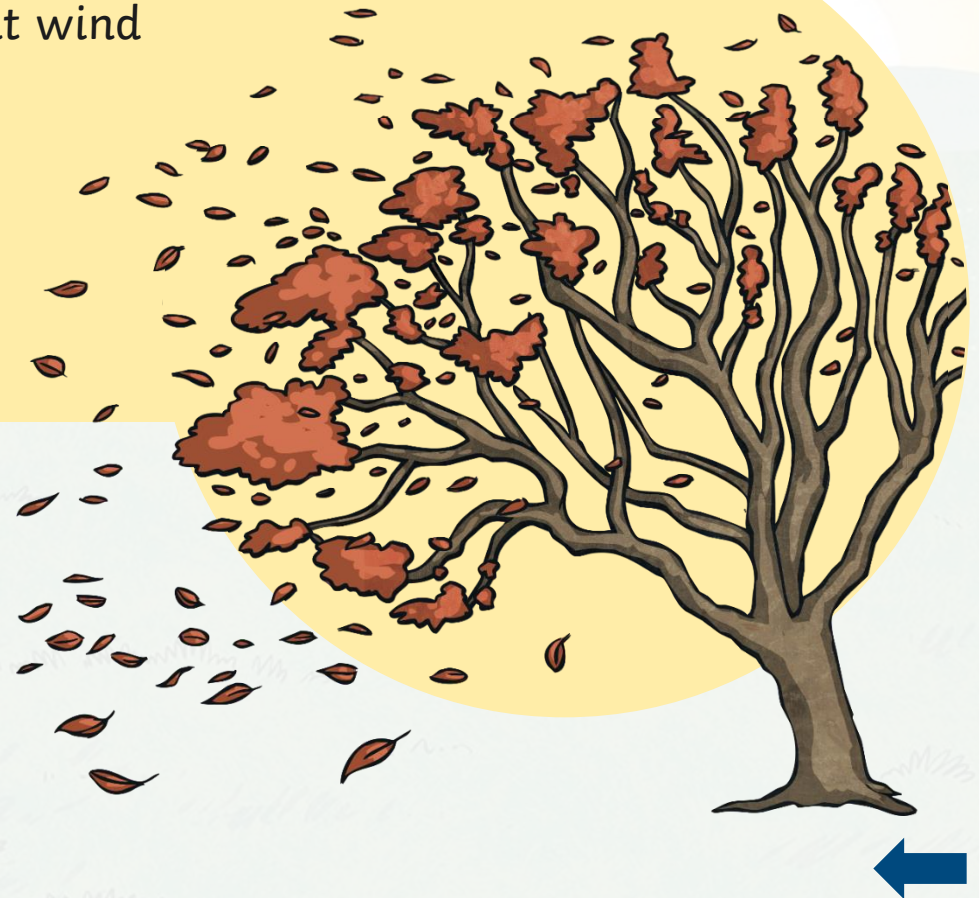
When the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit, flames appeared on their head as a sign they were filled with the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit. This energy would help them in the work ahead, teaching others about Jesus and encouraging more followers.



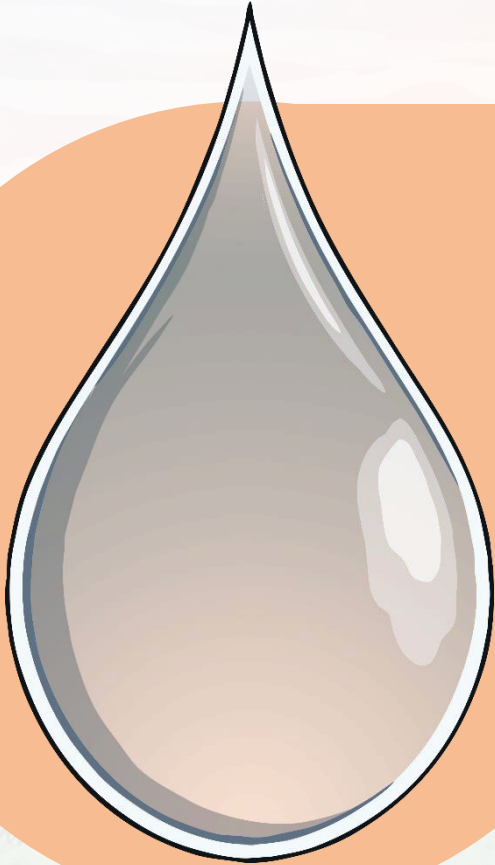
Wind

When the Holy Spirit was sent to the disciples, it arrived with a great wind rushing through the room.

The symbol of the wind also represents the breath of God breathing new life into the Church.



Water



Water is used as a symbol of cleansing and as a source of power.

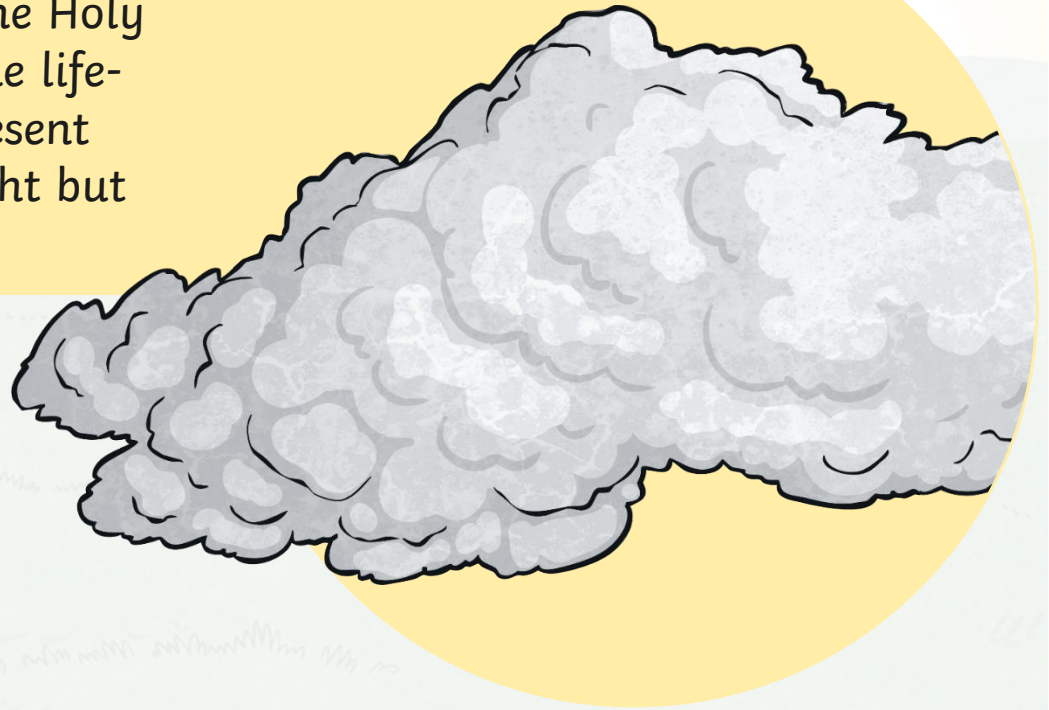
Water is used for many practical purposes like washing and bathing. It is also very powerful and is very strong when used in force.

Water is used in baptism and is vital for all life. In the same way, it is believed by some Christians that water used in baptism represents the receiving of the Holy Spirit and that it has a life-giving quality.



Cloud

A cloud combined with light is often used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit because clouds provide life-giving water and they represent God who is hidden from sight but is always there.



Anointing Oil



In the Bible, oil is used to anoint people rather like a blessing. It represents Jesus being given the Holy Spirit to perform certain actions in God's name, like healing people and doing good deeds.

Oil is also a sign of the power of the Holy Spirit.



