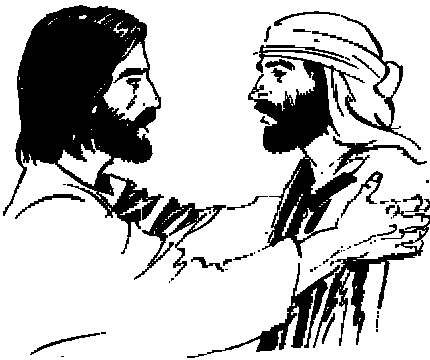


## Nicodemus reflects on Jesus' words about the Holy Spirit

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.  
His words still ring in my ears.  
To think that I, a Pharisee, a teacher of Israel,  
should be so moved by this simple carpenter's son -  
should find such wisdom and truth and mystery in what He  
says.

I'd watched Him purge the Temple at the Passover,  
and had sought Him out that evening  
among the olive trees in Gethsemane.  
His friends were asleep, but Jesus was sitting there,  
as if He was waiting for me, expecting me.



We talked about the Kingdom - the Kingdom I  
longed for - the Kingdom of God.  
But - said Jesus - there was only one way of  
seeing it:  
To be born again.  
'What?' I asked Him. 'You mean I must go back  
into my mother's womb and go through childbirth  
again?'

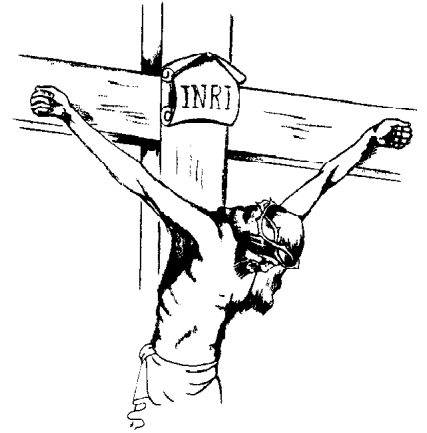
Jesus smiled. 'No - that is physical birth, flesh  
producing flesh. I'm talking about birth through the Spirit,  
rebirth through the Spirit and Water.'

A gentle breeze rustled the leaves that surrounded us  
and Jesus looked up. 'Look' he said  
'where is the wind? Can you see it?  
Do you know where it's coming from or where it's going?'  
'Of course not' I answered.  
'Well, so it is with the Spirit.  
But it's there - as real and as powerful as the wind,  
Sweeping away the dead leaves of decay,  
Bringing a breath of fresh air into stagnant lives,



disturbing complacency and apathy,  
as the wind is disturbing the olive branches now....'

I watched Him closely for three years.  
And when He returned to Jerusalem for His third Passover,  
His words that night came frighteningly true:  
'As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,  
So must the Son of Man be lifted up,  
that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.'  
Yes - God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.....



### Tasks:

1. Jesus told Nicodemus that he would have to be born again if he wanted to enter the Kingdom of God. What do you think he meant by this?

*[Clue: Think of what you studied about the Sacraments]*



2. Do these words of Jesus apply to us too?  
If so, what must we do?
3. What does the following quotation from this poem mean?  
*'God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...'*