

Pentecost - Reflection for the Week 23rd – 30th May, 2021

Read Acts 2: 1-21

On the Day of Pentecost Joel's prophecy is dramatically fulfilled. He predicts that one day all God's people as opposed to specific anointed individuals, will receive God's Spirit.

This prophecy shapes the church's mission throughout the New Testament and today. God's Spirit has been poured out to inaugurate 'the last days' or the 'new age' of salvation history - days that look forward to universal restoration. These are not days of waiting but days set apart for mission. God's Spirit is poured out on the whole community in order to prophesy, see visions, and dream dreams; to build up the mission and ministry of the church, to clarify and direct the Church's vocation to witness to the Risen Jesus.

The shape of this witness is twofold:

1. It mediates the signs of God's power and love to the world
2. It proclaims God's word – preaches the Good News of God – and issues an invitation: that 'everyone who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved', (Acts 2: 21).

Without the Spirit's prophetic awareness, without this witness, the ministry of the Church is corrupted by self-interest and maintaining the institution becomes the paramount aim. If we offer what is offered elsewhere – if we become solely a source of therapeutic wellbeing or an organisation of social workers, if we neglect our witness to the Risen Jesus - people will seek to find meaning for their lives in other places. We become irrelevant.

One of the hallmarks of the gift of the Spirit is boldness. Pray that we may speak and act boldly as we witness to the Risen Christ. We live in the new age; the Spirit is available to everyone.

To reflect: Perhaps you have been using the Thy Kingdom Come prayer literature this week or using the TKC app? Has it been a helpful experience? Do you recognise the importance of prayer in your life? We pray in the knowledge that God always acts according to his will in prayer, and always acts in love. Because God acts in mysterious ways our answers to prayers can come as a shock, be misinterpreted or not even recognised. Think of any answers to prayer you might have received and give thanks to God for them.