

Reflection for Saturday 22 May

You might remember that I wrote about the Church's liturgical year from Advent to Pentecost as being a training period in our Christian understanding of the kind of people God wants us to be. That period is now coming to an end with the Feast of Pentecost. I pray that we have all been richly blessed by our Lord during this time.

Now it all culminates tomorrow as we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost when our Lord promised that the apostles would be clothed from on high by the Holy Spirit. After he had ascended into heaven they spent the time in Jerusalem in praising God for all he had done in raising his Son Jesus from the dead. It was as they were praying together, as it happened on the Jewish feast of Pentecost, that they experienced the Holy Spirit coming down upon them. They became changed men and went out full of joy ready to share and proclaim the saving message of Jesus Christ. The readings from the Acts of the Apostles, that we have heard at Mass throughout this Eastertide, have showed us how the power of the Holy Spirit affected the lives of the apostles and how their witness brought many people into the Church. It was not always easy there were disagreements among them as to the way forward in the work of preaching the Gospel. Some of the apostles were arrested by the authorities and thrown into prison for teaching and preaching in the name of Jesus. But they were not deterred by all this; they even rejoiced that they had suffered for their witness to Jesus.

It is now over to us, let us pray that tomorrow there might be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church and that we might all be clothed from on high by the Holy Spirit who will send us out to live and proclaim the Gospel. We should also pray that we may become full of love, joy and peace. With the Spirit working in us may we bring reconciliation and hope into the lives of others so that they too can experience that love and joy of Jesus Christ.

“Come Holy Spirit and enkindle in the lives of all your faithful people the fire of your love.”

Roger Watson