

**9th June 2019 Pentecost**  
**Acts 2:1-21 Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-17**

Include in the prayer words to bring LIFE

**Intro**

Recap the detail but want is to focus on the big picture

- We have celebrated

Christmas	birth of Jesus	as He left heaven and came to earth lived, worked, taught, ministered
Good Friday	death of Jesus	day that destroyed the expectations of who Jesus was
Easter	resurrection	put expectations back together but in a different way
	Ascension	Jesus' homecoming He returned to where He had come from left a space that needed His disciples to act
	pentecost	Holy Spirit gave the disciples the ability to act

- The account that we read in Acts is familiar to many of us

We have this reading every year on Pentecost Sunday

- We thought, last year, about how Pentecost was, in the Jewish calendar, the celebration of one of their harvests and it was one of the 3 times in the year that Jews were expected to come to Jerusalem hence the LARGE number of people from many different lands.

- The Holy Spirit, promised by Jesus, called the Advocate in our reading from John, was heard in the sound like a violent wind, seen in the tongues of fire, and spoken in the many languages.

- When I read the verse that says 'each one heard them speaking in their native language' it takes me back to times when I was living in Community at Lee Abbey. There were about 100 living together in community, a community that consisted of people from about 20 different countries. Sometimes in prayers, when we prayed the Lords Prayer, we would all pray the same prayer but in our own preferred language. It was a beautiful sound hearing all the different languages being spoken in prayer.

That is the nearest I can come to imagining what it might have sounded like that first Pentecost.

- There was amazement and bafflement amongst all the crowds at what was happening, there was even some rejection of the possibility that it was God's Spirit at work.

And there was undoubtedly power poured out amongst the disciples. These familiar inhabitants of Galilee took on a new purpose, a new assurance

- Peter raised his voice and addressed the multi-national crowd and addressed them with a new confidence, with new passion, with a new perception of who and what Jesus was.

**ALL**

I would like us to notice how often the word 'all' or each or every is used in the first half of our Acts reading

tongue rested on EACH of them

ALL of them were filled

Jews from EVERY nation



I have, on occasions, likened this to a 4 wheel drive. Some vehicles are built with 4 wheel drive. I am NO expert on this but I do understand that in certain situations and on certain terrains there is a button you can use to enable the vehicle to use 4 instead of 2 wheels to grip and direct the vehicle. And in those bumpy or slippery terrains why would you not use the full power and potential that the vehicle has available

Why as Christians, would we not choose to invite the Holy Spirit to grow and work within us in order to be able to encounter and navigate the challenges of life with all the power that is available to us?

### **Concl**

The Holy Spirit came upon all the people there in Jerusalem, not just Peter, James and John. Any man made boundaries were done away with and everyone experienced the power and joy of the Spirit.

Welcoming the Holy Spirit within each of us brings  
assurance and confidence to our faith  
comfort and strength and joy to our worship  
vibrancy and intimacy to our relationship with God  
life and power to the church

Jesus be the centre  
Be my source be my light  
Be my hope be my song

Be the fire in my heart  
Be the wind in these sails  
Be the reason that I live

Be my vision, path, guide