

Reflection Monday Easter week 2 - 2021

Acts reminds us of the importance of the Holy Spirit in the early days of the Church. Promised by Jesus to his followers and to us, the Holy Spirit is seen to be giving the apostles confidence to continue preaching the good news despite the threat of death. Acts show us that, although Peter and the apostles had already received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, they still needed to be reminded of the Spirit's presence and willingness to help them. All those who are baptised and/or confirmed have received the Holy Spirit. The readings remind us that the Holy Spirit is present and willing to continue to help us live the good news.

Pope Francis: The Holy Spirit provokes change and gives us a "powerful 'jolt'" when we are in need of real change. The Spirit is "the power of God" and the "giver of life". How good it would be for us each day to feel this jolt of life! To say, when we wake up each morning, 'Come, Holy Spirit, come into my heart, come into my day.' The Holy Spirit "penetrates the most unimaginable situations". The Spirit does today what the Spirit did in the Acts of the Apostles, driving Philip from Jerusalem to Gaza, then to Azotus, then to Caesarea (Acts 8:26-40), in constantly new situations, to spread God's newness. Paul is compelled by the Spirit (Acts 20:22), to travel far and wide to spread the Gospel. As the soul of the Church, the Holy Spirit renews her with hope, fills her with joy, and causes her to blossom with new life. Even after 2000 years, the Spirit reminds the Church that she is always the youthful bride with whom the Lord is madly in love. The Spirit acts on the Church with "centripetal and centrifugal" forces. We are centred deep within the centripetal force of the Spirit that brings unity, peace and strength amidst affliction and temptation. The Holy Spirit pushes us outward towards the peripheries with a centrifugal force. Thus, those who live by the Spirit find themselves pulled both towards God and towards the world".

Come Holy Spirit by Beth Maxwell Boyle

*Come Holy Spirit,
Come on the soft steps of a child.
Come Holy Spirit,
Come on the gentle breeze.
Speak to me Holy Spirit,
Speak to me in the rustling leaves.
Speak to me Holy Spirit,
Speak to me in the rushing stream.
Move me Holy Spirit,
Move me like the harp strings playing.
Move me Holy Spirit,
Move me like the carolling wren.
Change me Holy Spirit,
Change my heart and make me live.
Change me Holy Spirit,
Change me so I do your will. Amen.*