

Pentecost was revisited at the June meeting of Dove as Fr John Rea spoke and led us in prayer. (See below for a really anointed prayer). Recalling the words of John Paul II who exhorted us at the beginning of the century to rekindle in ourselves the impetus of the beginnings and these very same words have been echoed by Pope Benedict the XVI. We need to rekindle in ourselves the impetus of the beginnings and allow ourselves to be filled with the ardour of the apostolic preaching which followed Pentecost.



Recalling the disciples' beginnings as quoted in the Book of Acts Fr John detailed the hardships they endured to proclaim the gospel. They proclaimed Christ passionately. Where did those evangelisers get their zeal from? Where did this hunger come from? What was the force behind them to bring everyone to Jesus? What was the impetus? Of course it came from the Holy Spirit, and as Jesus said 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised, but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high'. Jesus continued in Acts 1.8 by saying 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.' The disciples were told not to go out until they had power otherwise they would be powerless and play acting with no real energy. We cannot be effective evangelisers if we don't have the Holy Spirit and we are all called to be evangelisers. Look at Peter who brought 3000 to Christ in one day because he spoke out in the power of the Holy Spirit. Peter also had the right Scriptures to tell the crowd when he needed them 'but the Counsellor whom I will send in my name will teach you all things'. So let us not leave home without being filled with the Holy Spirit. Say come Holy Spirit – even when going to the supermarket – ask God for words. Don't leave home without the Spirit in you. Implore him to come.

On a personal note, Fr John said although he had been reading the bible since he was 17 years old it was not until he reached 40, and had been baptised in the Spirit, that he picked up the New Testament and thought he was reading a new book as it just came alive.

Like the original evangelisers we must be convinced that only Jesus can save us. Paul became all things to all men that he might save some. There is a narrow and wide road and we need to reflect often on the two choices that confront every man and woman. Jesus is the one and only way to eternal life. Ask God to let you feel something of his own sorrow and sadness over the lost because God is sad that so many people in our present world are lost because they are not in communion with him. We need to cultivate a deeper love for all people everywhere. Pray that God will work signs and wonders through you. He is in command and his anointing can move in any situation anywhere – even to the celebrities that God puts on your mind to pray for.

The importance of signs and wonders is brought out very strongly in the book of Acts and Paul in Ephesians tells us of the incomparably great power – the power that raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead – that same power is in us right now. Fr John then led the women in the following prayer

Dear God of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of Glory, grant me here and now a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of you. I believe in the immeasurable greatness of your power in me right now. I believe that this is the same almighty power you exercised when you raised Christ from the dead and caused him to sit at your right hand. Exercise that same power through me and manifest that power in signs and wonders as I evangelise both unbeliever and believer alike, so that you may be glorified and your kingdom spread among the men and women of our time Amen.

This was followed by us all singing Spirit of the Living God Fall Afresh on Us (x2) and then we all had to repeat the words 'We welcome you Holy Spirit'. Then the Spirit really fell and it was holy chaos for the 60-70 women present. Fr John went on to pray for those whose lips tingled (healing gifts); ears tingled (prophecy), lips (evangelisation) etc. etc. A truly an amazing Spirit led and filled meeting.