

## *Pentecost—a time to reflect on our potential to be bearers of the gospel and be fruitful...*

When you stand in an underground train station, the first sense you have of an approaching train is the wind as the train pushes the air in front of it. You cannot hear or see anything yet, but the wind announces the train is on its way.

I liken this to our experience of the Spirit. In both Hebrew and Greek, the word for spirit is the same as 'wind' or 'breath'. Like the wind, we do not see or hear the Spirit, but we experience its effects:

- the urge to respond to an issue of justice
- the move to compassion at the sight of suffering
- the ongoing, subtle sense of God's presence in our lives
- the ability to discern what is right from what is wrong.

These are the signs of the Spirit in our lives – prompting, encouraging, guiding and empowering us to live from Jesus' vision of the reign of God.

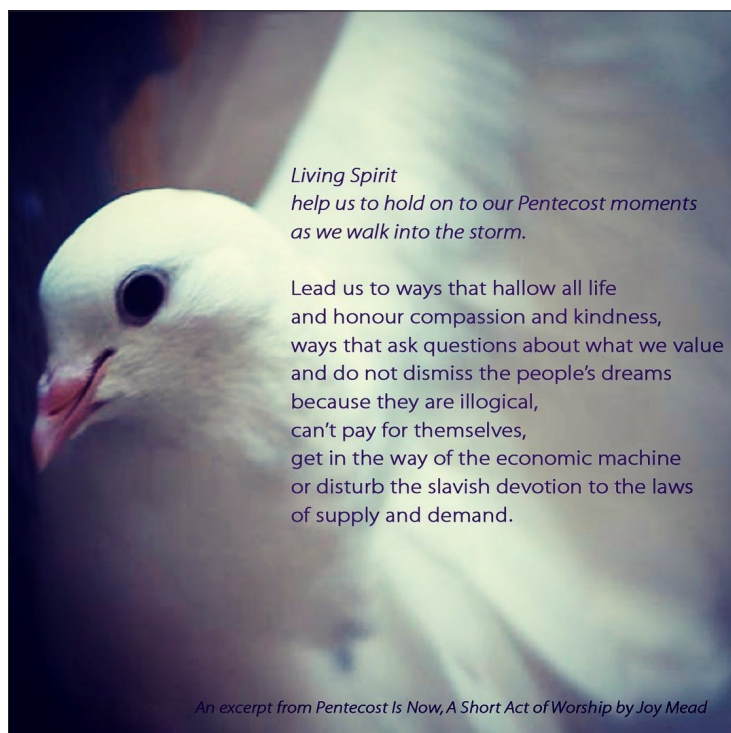
Because the Spirit is such a subtle presence, we can live our lives totally oblivious to her presence (in Hebrew, Spirit – *ruah* – is feminine in form). We can be like the fish swimming around looking for the ocean, or the soaring eagle wondering what the air is.

Mary Coloe, PBVM, *The Signs of the Spirit in our Lives* (2012).

Faith Guides, Vol 2 No 4, p. 1. Garratt Publishing.



In the passage above, Mary Coloe gives some examples of the Holy Spirit's presence within us. Thinking back over the last few weeks, can you recall times when one of these experiences has happened to you? What were you responding to? When we give ourselves time for quiet prayer and reflection, we are more likely to sense the promptings of the Spirit.



*Living Spirit  
help us to hold on to our Pentecost moments  
as we walk into the storm.*

Lead us to ways that hallow all life  
and honour compassion and kindness,  
ways that ask questions about what we value  
and do not dismiss the people's dreams  
because they are illogical,  
can't pay for themselves,  
get in the way of the economic machine  
or disturb the slavish devotion to the laws  
of supply and demand.

*An excerpt from Pentecost Is Now, A Short Act of Worship by Joy Mead*



## SPIRIT OF FIRE—

### **An ancient Aboriginal prayer from the Kimberley**

May the fire be in your thoughts, making them good and just

may it protect you from all harm

may the fire be in your eyes

may it open your eyes to see what is good in life

may it protect you from speaking against another.

May the fire be in your ears:

we pray that you may hear with deep listening

so that you may hear the flow of water

and of all Creation and of the Dreaming.

May you be protected from gossip and from those things

that harm and break down your family.

May the fire be in your arms and hands

so that you may be of service and build up love.

May the fire protect you from all violence.

May the fire be in your whole being, in your legs and feet

enabling you to walk the earth with respect and care.

May you journey in the ways of goodness and trust

and be protected from walking away from what is true.

Come Holy Spirit. Come Fire! Amen

*Cited on Jamberoo Abbey Facebook page, 3 June 2022*

When we think about fire, even the tongues of fire we read of at the Pentecost event, we might think of something big and powerful. Yet—a candle is a very small fire—a very gentle fire. Often Catherine McAuley's light shone gently. Mercy is often gentle, subtle, not looking for an audience, just showing care where its needed. As we seek to be open to the presence of the Spirit in our lives, we pray with gentleness and patience...

