



Dear friends,

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday, when we celebrate the 'Birthday of the Church.' It is when the Holy Spirit transforms the disciples into men and women who courageously emerge from the closed room so that they can spread the message of the gospel to the ends of the earth.

St Teresa of Calcutta (better known as 'Mother Teresa of Calcutta'), was a Loreto sister, living behind closed walls. In 1947 she was asked to be Principal of a Ladies College in Calcutta. One day while out buying food for the college, Mother Teresa came across people dying in the streets. She returned to the convent a changed woman. She returned to the convent saying the Holy Spirit was calling her to leave the convent and live among the people. She said that she was living like the disciples living behind the closed doors of the nuns' cloister. She said Christ surprised her. He came through the locked doors and breathed His Spirit on her. He called her to a second vocation.

Another great saint, St John Henry Newman, wrote that: 'Jesus calls us onward. It is a call within a call.'

Pentecost Sunday is an opportunity to reflect upon our own calling. As Jesus breathed His Spirit on the disciples today, they too found their calling not only to follow Jesus as when he first called them away from their nets, but now to go and preach the gospel in his absence.

I remember being taught in the seminary when I was studying for the priesthood, that the Holy Spirit which is breathed into the disciples today by Jesus, (just as God had breathed His Spirit into Adam in Genesis), is the love which exists between the Father and the Son. It is *love* which unities us to the God who created us in love, and now calls us to witness to His love in loving one another.

God, like His love for us, never changes. But the expression of that love can grow in us so that like Mother Teresa, we can discern at every stage of our lives a second calling, 'a call within a call.'

It is never easy to take that first step, which is so crucial to answering the call of Jesus. It is often fear of the unknown, what other people will think or say, or the obstacles that make it all too much for us to even think about changing our lives.

The change is not necessarily a dramatic change to who we are, it is I think about allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us in the ways of God's love.

May this Pentecost be a time of opening our minds and hearts to the life-giving breath of the Holy Spirit. May the fire of God's love, transform us into disciples of the Good News of the Kingdom.

Every blessing,

Fr Kelvin