

## Pentecost 2020

When we look back on any important situation it is all too easy to transform the images in our minds from the familiar to the dramatic.

The excitement over the miraculous birth of the church on the day of Pentecost, brings with it images of tongues of fire, instant conversion, eloquent teaching, confidence, and impenetrable faith.

Tempted to forget the humility of faith.

Tempted to forget the reality of faith.

Tempted to portray the truth of this day only in terms of its significance.

I write this on the anniversary of the evacuation of British troops from the Dunkirk beaches.

That day all seemed lost.

We were left with an army without the tools of war to fight with.

Our response to the evil of fascism was in part a flotilla of little boats used normally for holiday jaunts, and fishing.

We have had many films, many speeches, and many transformations of terrified people doing what their conscience demanded.

Why this makeover of the lived practical experience of that day.

Tempted to forget the humility of those prepared to give their lives in solidarity

Tempted to forget the reality of simply doing what was considered to be right.

Looking back it all seems so glorious

On the day, as they say in Lancashire "They had it to do"

This day is also a day of miracles

This 2020 Feast of Pentecost is also a day when practical realities may well be transformed in the future, as a consequence of their significance.

How could they know in that dusty corner of the Roman Empire as they emerged from the upper room and spoke to the crowds, that this was the birth of a new age.

They spoke only because it was true

They spoke because it was beautiful

They did only what they could do.

How could those terrified sailors making their way to Dunkirk know the significance of their defiance?

They went because it was necessary

They sacrificed because it was a sacred duty

They did only what they could do.

Here we are

Politics is returning to its normal squabble, and face saving. Work is returning to its normal patterns, and anxieties about profit, bank loans, and job retention. Even change itself is returning to the normal endless reporting of possibilities and fears.

The children still need feeding. The family still need loving. Our health still needs maintaining.

It is a normal day.

And the Holy Spirit hovers over our world.

And the Holy Spirit hovers over your world

And you have no idea of the significance of this ordinary day.

Come Holy Spirit

Help me to act, and fulfil what seems necessary

Come Holy Spirit

Give me the courage to see that which is beautiful

Come Holy Spirit

Give me the humility to be happy with what I can do

I do not know if ever they will make a film about this day

I do not know if there will be books written about the emergence from Covid 19

But I do know that in eternity

This day,

my day

Will be remembered

Because I attempted the beauty

Because I loved within this normality

Because I did my duty.

Then I shall see the significance

Then I shall see the miracles

Then I shall see the glorious humility

Of my life

Transformed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Come Holy Spirit

Fill the hearts of the faithful

And enkindle in them

The fire of thy love.