

WHIT-SUNDAY; PBS EUCHARIST 2020.

As a child, it was required of all students to learn by heart poetry. One of the poems that we would recite was Christina Rossetti's poem "Wind". It is still much loved;

Who has seen the wind?

Neither I nor you.

But when the leaves are trembling,

The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?

Neither you nor I.

But when the trees bow down their head

The wind is passing by.

Rossetti describes the impact that something has that cannot be seen. It can only be seen by the consequences of encountering it. Gathered in the Cenacle on that Day of Pentecost, the Lord fulfils His promise of sending the Holy Ghost, "and suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a mighty rushing wind and it filled the house where they were sitting."

What was the impact of this mighty wind; this powerful presence of the gift of the life of the Godhead? Onlookers witnessed something that could be discerned and something that they themselves could appropriate and be changed by. They saw the coming together of diverse people in a common cause, a bond of unity. The disciples, being all in one place as a physical body, became the prelude to drawing others in through a unity of speech that declared the wonderful works of God. These others were brought in from a state of verbal confusion, chaos and non understanding between one and another to a group that could hear their neighbour as order emerged.

Jesus promised in his lifetime that he would make available to all those who sought him his presence in the gift of the spirit, his life dwelling in us that we might live as he lived. And this life that we live animated and vivified by the spirit is one that also brings life and order and unity for this spirit reminds us of what Jesus taught, discloses to us the ways of the Kingdom that He made accessible and prompt us always to live with His truth on our lips and in our

actions. Rossetti in her poem speaks of the wind “passing through” and “passing by”. The spirit indeed blows where it wills and often the world does not notice the spirit as it passes by, declaring truth, making God reasonable and active. But we have opted through Baptism, through the receiving of Christ in his body and blood, both dominical sacraments that require the calling down of the spirit, to live in the spirit as it moves through us, and through the Church which is its rightful sphere of activity for us and the world.

Though the comfort and partnership of the Holy Ghost, may we be ambassadors of truth, unity and concord; through our fellowship of those we share the life of Christ, his body the Church, bring life to the world and like those first disciples may we also have the gift of belief marked by awe and amazement.

AMEN.