

Reflections on Pentecost 26A

Mass: Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 103; 1 Cor. 12:3-7,12-13; John 20:19-23.

I was 17 when I got my first job. Sick of studying I grabbed the first job that came at the Careers office one October. It was selling curtains and soft furnishings in a department store. The last thing I wanted and bored out of my life. I was thinking seriously of running away to be a priest the following year. I spent most of my time hiding behind curtains and reading spiritual books like Newman's Apologia. Not that I understood it, but it passed the time!

Unfortunately, my boss an elderly ex-army officer didn't appreciate this and pursued me from pillar to post. Making my life a misery and not giving me a minute's peace. This continued until the January sale when I was given my own stall and allowed to keep 10% of the profits, a fabulous sum at the time, probably £2! I can still picture the eureka moment when I suddenly realised, like a flash of light, that this man had taught me a skill and that I had the confidence to talk to people and sell things. He taught me a lot, and we became firm friends for the next six months until I did leave to try for the priesthood. Not a great success, but this man gave me confidence and a kind of freedom to step out into the unknown. I had a lot to learn, a lifetime in fact, but have never forgot that moment. These moments in life God sends us to empower us, usually with the help of others, to reach out and begin the journey of faith. For me it revealed the goodness in others that made them take time and effort to help others forward on their life's journey. Our lives are full of 'Pentecost' moments, pray that we can be open and respond to them and others.