

**Thought for the Week**  
**9<sup>th</sup> June 2019**  
**Pentecost**

I've always loved the story of Pentecost as told in the First Reading. The idea of being able to speak, to communicate what we need to say, and to be understood perfectly by people who talk in a different language is thrilling.

But then – aren't the most important things always the ones that are easier to express without words: a hug, a look, a shared understanding? They say that the touch of someone who loves you is different from the touch of even the gentlest care-giver. Even if your other senses fail, that ability to sense a deep connection remains. You don't need to understand the words when you have something urgent to share. And what the disciples had to tell the rest of us went beyond what words can say.

The Second Reading seems to follow that. We celebrate diversity. Our world is made wonderful by all the differences we can find within it. But beyond the superficial differences, something more fundamental and infinitely more valuable is at work: the Spirit, with the gifts of love, understanding and knowledge should inform all we do, and make it rich and heavy with God's love. The deep need to love and to be loved is the same in us all.

The possibility of love and understanding between and across differences is the gift that Christ has left us with. And what better gift could we have?

A Parishioner