

# Encountering the Holy Spirit

There is no gap here between the Spirit as the moving and acting of God and the Word as the speaking, showing, and self-expressing of God. They are always intertwined and co-present in the same 'space'. Wherever the Spirit moves and acts something of God is expressed in the Word; and wherever the Word expresses something of God, it is the moving of the Spirit bringing this about.

Precisely in our particularities of person, circumstance, and opportunity, each member of the church is uniquely consecrated by the Spirit into the three-fold prophetic, priestly, kingly mission of Jesus. Each is uniquely called, gifted, and missioned to be Christ – the living and showing of the way of life-giving self-giving Love – in fresh yet recognisable ways. St Paul frequently tells us, there is one Spirit acting in all, forming all, and speaking in all but always uniquely. The richness of the life of the church as the communion of the Spirit consists in both freshness and familiarity, both diversity and recognition.

There is inevitably challenge in this as well as promise, as the Spirit continues, as Pope Francis put it when opening the synodal pathway, to 'surprise us' by suggesting 'fresh paths and new ways of speaking'. It means that for every single church member, and for every aspect of collective church life, learning to listen 'to what the Spirit is saying to the church' through each other is the ecclesial issue of our age. Let us each seek to learn well and wisely together as fellow pupils in the school of the Spirit.

*Holy Spirit, Love of God,  
Move our desires  
That we might more desire your moving of us.  
Open our hearts  
That we might closer attend to your living truth.  
Move our minds  
That we might discern afresh the way to walk.  
Draw our wills  
That we might each move forward together in the way of Love.  
Amen*