

# +WEEKLY REFLECTION

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## On Fire

*Acts 2: 1-21; Corinthians 12:4-13; John 7: 37-39*

Across our schools, every day, children are told, 'you're on fire'.

Sometimes that's because they've done brilliantly in a maths test. Sometimes it's because they've finally grasped a phonics sound. Sometimes it's because they've handled a difficult friendship well.

And sometimes - most importantly - it's simply because they've shown up, despite real challenges at home.

'On fire' is a phrase of encouragement. But in today's readings, it becomes something much deeper.

In Acts, we hear of Pentecost, where the Holy Spirit comes as tongues of fire, resting on each person. Fire is not just excitement—it is God's presence, alive and active, transforming ordinary people into a community with purpose. It is no wonder Pentecost is often described as the birth of the Church.

That same Spirit is described in 1 Corinthians as the giver of gifts - different gifts, given to each one for the common good. Being 'on fire' is not about individual success or recognition. It is about the Spirit at work within us, equipping each of us uniquely to serve, to build, and to change the world for the better.

And in John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of living water flowing from within those who believe—another image of the Spirit. Fire and water, energy and refreshment, power and sustenance. The Spirit is essential. Without the Spirit, we run dry; with the Spirit, life overflows.

In our schools, we see this lived out daily. Each child carries gifts - some obvious, some still emerging. Our calling is to nurture those gifts, recognising that they are not accidental, but part of God's work in them.

This year, as our Diocese marks 100 years, we give thanks for all that has been. But Pentecost reminds us that the Church is always being born anew. The same Spirit that ignited the first disciples is still at work - in our schools, our churches and our communities.

On our own, we can do very little. But through the risen and ascended Lord and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are equipped for God's mission. So let us continue - encouraging one another, recognising the gifts among us and, by God's Spirit, being truly 'on fire' for the work ahead.

**Iain Parks, Director of Education**