

Sermon Summary
Pentecost
19th May 2013

- The two readings this morning in Acts and John share a theme; ordinariness.
- In Acts, the Holy Spirit is poured out on all those present.
- This gift of the Spirit to everyone is a reminder that we should not think of matters of the Spirit and spirituality as being the preserve of some kind of religious elite, or even of the clergy. The Spirit is the guaranteed gift of God to all baptised Christians.
- In John, Philip asks Jesus to show him the Father.
- It is as if he thinks that there is some esoteric or special knowledge or revelation which he needs to receive.
- Jesus' answer rebuts this.
- To have seen Jesus is to have seen the father.
- God has been revealed, not in mystical visions or ecstasies, but in the life well-lived of an ordinary man.
- God is revealed in the ordinary, not the extra-ordinary.
- This is remarkable, for we often think of John as the "mystical" gospel, but any mysticism is found in the contemplation of the ordinary.
- So, we are not to waste our time thinking that spiritual matters are for our betters, or depend on special visions or knowledge.
- We are rather to ask how we are going with the task of encountering God in the ordinary, because he has already met us and revealed himself to us.

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