Trying to understand people around us can be fraught with difficulties. There are the limitations that we all have, some we can do little about, but probably one of the biggest difficulties we have in understanding is our own sinfulness. The tower of Babel is a biblical description of what happens when our communication is about ourselves. There is the danger that the only voice we hear is the very limited voice of ourselves, there is no union of souls. We pretend that we are God and no one is heard, it is the isolation of ourselves.

When God enters in, we transcend ourselves, souls interconnect and we become icons of the Trinity – love is allowed to operate – communication takes place, we can love one another divinely. I can only speak for myself, but hearing the other, is an ongoing task.

Today as we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, we pray God will send His Holy Spirit to enlighten our souls. First, to enlighten our relationship with the Trinity, so that we can enter this realm of love - So we can experience a love that is so profound that three persons can be one God.

Secondly, in entering into that love, we pray we can learn to share it with those about us: "Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth."

Fr Paul O'Donoghue