



Evanescence: Bring me to life

My ultimate top singalong song at the moment (apart, of course, from 'Move your feet', oh, and 'Ignition (Remix)', but don't tell anyone about that one) is 'Bring me to life' by Evanescence. It's due for release on the 2nd June, and is a cracking mix of Vanessa Carlton meets Linkin Park, with a bit of Avril Lavigne on the side... Leaves me psyched up every time I hear it...

At the moment, we're looking as a church towards the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and I think Evanescence's crunching wall of sound really expresses the anticipation that the whole church feels about expecting the Holy Spirit to come and fill us,

bringing us to life...

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples must have felt muchos muchos lonely - here was their guide and life-giver, and then he does a bunk and just leaves them to it. Or at least that's what it must have felt like. I dunno about you, but, left to my own devices, I end up at best pretty bored, and at worst pretty lonely. How the disciples must have felt is summed up all the way through the song:

'now that I know what I'm without, you can't just leave me - breathe into me and make me real, bring me to life'

...and guess what - that's exactly what Jesus did. The Gospel reading from John that we hear on Pentecost Sunday says: 'he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit' (John 20:22)

So... what's going on? Jesus leaves his disciples (including you and me) the Holy Spirit, to be our helper and guide and love and strength, and all those other brilliant things - we're not left alone, but instead we have the Holy Spirit who is all of those things to every one of us.

The Holy Spirit, God working inside of us, is present in every moment of our lives, 'calling my name' and 'saving me from the dark' - the song even talks of 'bidding my blood to run' - mad, isn't it? What a massive gift and proper blessing that is for each one of us, to have the Holy Spirit 'Bringing us to life'...

To think about

Now it's difficult to believe this sometimes, as it says in 'Bring me to life':

'all this time I can't believe I couldn't see - kept in the dark, but you were there in front of me'...

and each day, I kinda have to decide to invite the Holy Spirit to help me, guide me, and love me. Sometimes it doesn't feel like the



Spirit's there, but in the end, we have to trust...

To do

Well... what I'm gonna try to do this Pentecost is to ask the Holy Spirit to 'Bring me to life' a little bit more each day - even if I'm not in the mood, or I've got loads of things to do... I reckon that the Spirit's so massive a gift that I can't but be changed by asking for that! Maybe each day, I might look at one of the gifts of the Spirit written down in Galatians 5:22, and ask for help to be more loving, joyful, peace-making or whatever...

To pray

The Church has a wicked prayer for Pentecost Sunday, and it goes something a bit like:

'I invite you Holy Spirit to come, bring me to life, fill my being, and fill all those who believe in you - take our hearts and make them burn with love and all your gifts - ALLELUIA!' (a bit paraphrased, but I think it'll be just as effective!)