

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 10:25-26.34-35.44-48 *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles*

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 97

Response:

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. (R.)

SECOND READING 4:7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John

My dear people,
let us love one another
since love comes from God

and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean:
not our love for God,
but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.
The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'

Alleluia!

GOSPEL 15:9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's
commandments
and remain in his love.

I have told you this

so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:
love one another,
as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends,
if you do what I command you.

I shall not call you servants any more,

because a servant does not know
his master's business;

I call you friends,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me,

no, I chose you;
and I commissioned you
to go out and to bear fruit,
fruit that will last;
and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you
is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord,
together with the sacrificial offerings,
so that purified by your graciousness,
we may be conformed to the mysteries of
your mighty love.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**If you love me, keep my commandments,
says the Lord, and I will ask the Father
and he will send you another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty and ever-living God,
who restore us to eternal life in the
Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we
pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament
and pour into our hearts the strength of this
saving food. Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

What does it mean to love one another as Jesus loved us? Can you love with that much perfection? What constitutes the kind of love Jesus is talking about in this reading?

In what way is the love we show our family different from the love we share with friends? Strangers? How are all these forms of love the same?

How does your belief and trust in Jesus impact your daily life?

Why did Jesus call us to love one another? What does it mean to love unconditionally? What are the risks in loving others unconditionally?

Does this reading ask you to literally lay down your life for the sake of others? How can you lay down your life for others without actually losing your life?

If you put other people's needs first, what might happen to your life? How do you think your relationships would change?

Will people see us differently if we follow the command Jesus gave us in this reading? In general, how does the world treat those who do good and ask nothing in return?

GOSPEL ACTION

Take stock of your life; ask yourself how well you really follow the command Jesus gave us in this reading. Name one instance where service to others brings you into contact with those who are difficult to love.

Readings – 7th Sunday of Easter Year B

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

Second Reading: John 4: 11-16

Gospel: John 17: 11-19

Homily

9th May 2021 – 6th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Love, or charity has often been described as the primary Christian virtue. If there were any doubt as to why this should be I think that today's Gospel dispels it. The Father's relationship with Jesus is seen in terms of love. So too is Jesus' relationship with his disciples. It is love which Jesus commands his disciples to have for one another. Jesus' laying down his life for his friends is seen as the highest expression of love that one person can have for another.

Jesus says to the disciples in the Gospel 'love one another as I have loved you.' The new, supreme commandment of love that we have been given by Jesus is spoken to us once again today. We all need love in our lives, we all need to be loved and we all need to be people who love others, but it is not always easy and Jesus never says that it is going to be.

In the First Reading, we hear one of the most important teachings that we will ever learn, a teaching that St Peter needed to learn; God does not have favourites. Everyone who does what is right is acceptable to God. There are no barriers and no dividing lines that separate us from one another. In the eyes of God we are all equal. In Jesus' great teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, he tells us that not even our enemies are to be treated differently. Love your enemies, he tells us and do good to those who treat you badly. This can be seen constantly throughout the Gospels, where Jesus is confronted regularly by his opponents; he treats them all with fairness, openness and honesty, real love in action.

In these final weeks of Eastertide we listen again to the words of Jesus spoken to his disciples at the Last Supper. The next day as he is brutally tortured and crucified, what does Jesus say about his torturers? 'Father, forgive them they don't know what they are doing.' To be able to say those words gives us such a great example of love, an example of how we should try and live our lives and how we should love.

We ask the Lord to help us be receivers of his love so that we can be fruitful sharers of that love with others. We have been chosen and commissioned by the Lord and we are invited to go out and bear fruit that will last. Jesus says to each one of us today, **'what I command you is to love one another.'**

Over the past year with the coronavirus pandemic we have seen doctors, nurses and healthcare workers who have risked their lives working on the front

Homily

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line treating patients with COVID – 19; a quite wonderful example of love and service.

We reflect on how we are able to reach out in love to one another in the small everyday ways of our lives as I guess most of us will not be called to pay the ultimate sacrifice like Jesus of laying down our lives. We show love for one another in the many different and small ways, particularly how we treat and serve one another.

We have been chosen by Jesus to go out and bear fruit that will last, the fruit of love. Let's pray that following the commandments we will remain in his love and by doing this our joy will be complete.

Remembering you in prayer as always, **Fr Philx.**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

9th May 2021 – 6th Sunday of Easter Year B

Let us bring all our prayers before God Our Father.

For Pope Francis, Bishop Mark and all the leaders of the Church: may they be true shepherds to the flock of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves and all Christians: may we be fruitful branches of the vine reaching out to all in love; Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all our young people who have received their First Holy Communion over these last couple of weekends and for Phil Cuthbert who is being received into the Church this weekend. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all those who are sick, housebound or struggling in any way: that they may experience the healing love and grace of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Vera Ruane, Joan Dyer** and all those who have died recently: **“Eternal rest grant unto them...”**

For all those who mourn the loss of loved ones; may Christ’s message of hope in eternal life bring them comfort and consolation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say:

“Hail Mary...”

Loving Father,

In faith and love we offer these and all our prayers to you,

through Jesus the vine,

who is Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

9th May 2021 – 6th Sunday of Easter Year B

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and
I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.
Amen.

CAFOD Prayer for Glasgow

Creator God,
We cry out to you
The earth is damaged and in chaos
People in poverty are suffering the most
Greed and consumerism are a disease
And your Church is too often asleep

Merciful Lord,
Protect your people and restore your earth,
Embolden governments to take action,
Awaken Church leaders
Give the youth influence
And guide businesses to change

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord
May we unite and be bold
Take heart and find hope in you,
Worship you with our lifestyles
Walk in your truth
and see justice and renewal in the earth

Amen