

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day

you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Reflections on the Gospel

'AT HOME' WITH GOD

In last week's Gospel Jesus reflected on two understandings of his 'going away' and 'return': first, his going away in death and his re-appearance three days later as risen Lord; second, his more final departure to the Father, to return only at the end of time. The section from Jesus' instruction that we hear today focuses upon that second, much longer period of absence.

As far as the non-believing world is concerned, Jesus will simply have ceased to exist. Believers, however, will continue to 'see' him with the eyes of faith and experience his presence in this way.

In loving him and keeping his commandments, they will participate in the mutual love that unites Father and Son, both of whom will 'make their home' within them. Though deprived of Jesus' physical presence, they and God will be mutually 'at home' in this sense.

In this connection Jesus speaks of 'another Paraclete' whom he will ask the Father to give. A 'paraclete' is someone who stands beside a person in time of difficulty, a supportive and encouraging presence. We might think, for example, of a highly respected person whom we might ask to go to court with us to act as a character witness. Though Jesus will no longer be physically present to carry out this role, the community will have 'another paraclete' in the shape of the Holy Spirit.

In the face of the world's hostility and doubt, the 'Spirit of truth' will offer reassurance that what they believe and seek to live by is the most profound truth.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

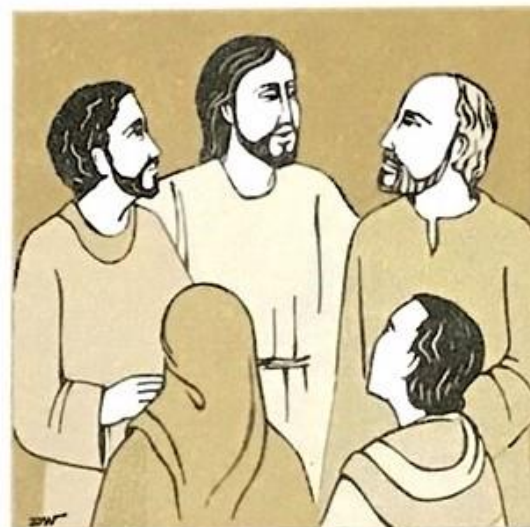
Ps 65:1-7, 16, 20. R. cf. v. 2

R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. (or Alleluia.)

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth, / O sing to the glory of his name. / O render him glorious praise. / Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! R.

2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow; / shall sing to you, sing to your name!' / Come and see the works of God, / tremendous his deeds among men. R.

3. He turned the sea into dry land, / they passed through the river dry-shod. / Let our joy then be in him; / he rules for ever by his might. R.



4. Come and hear, all who fear God. / I will tell what he did for my soul: / Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer / nor withhold his love for me. R.

SECOND READING

1 Pet 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

■ The word of the Lord.

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Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood



Weekend Masses: Vigil Sat 5:30pm,

Sun 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12noon (Chinese) & 6:00pm

Weekday Masses: Mon – Thurs. 7:30am, Fri 5:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 5:00-5:20pm

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Rosary & Novena: Tue 7-7:30pm

Cenacle Marian Movement of Laity: Thurs 7:00pm

(Holy Family Chapel)

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 17th May 2020



Our Deceased: Geoff Clarke, Young Hwan Ho, Yong Min Ho, Young Seok Seo, Soo Woog Jin, Maria Hur, Felix Beins, Cecile Beins, Jan Brayan, Mary Duck, Ces Regan, John Davidson; Roy & Bessie Landon and deceased members of Landon, Pigott, Stewart families, John & Bonnie Bowdern, Leslie & Isobel Johnson; Alan & Molly McNamara, Bill & Eileen Taylor, Amy Murry, Katherine Corbett, Win Tranor, Fr John Haseler, Sandra Walsh, Jim Grainger, Fr John Lyne, James Bertoldo and Mike Crestani.

Our Sick: Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan and Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy & Nur Gouw and Henry Rheinberger

Upcoming Feast Day: St Rita of Cascia 22nd May, Mary Help of Christians 24th May

Parish News:

- Following the easing of restrictions on public gatherings, allowing no more than 10 people in the Church at once, **we are pleased to let you know that our Church will be open for private prayer every day between 8am-9am starting on Mon, 18th of May.** We are now in the process of getting the Church ready for anyone who wishes to visit the Church & pray. We ask that you observe the following when visiting the Church:
 - Upon entering the church, each attendee should record his/her contact details (like name, phone number, email address etc) on a clipboard provided at Church entrance door. This is in accordance to CovidSafe regulations for contact tracing and also for provision of pastoral care.
 - We ask that you sanitise your hands when entering the Church. Hand sanitisers will be provided at the door. Disinfectant wipes will be available to clean seating areas.
 - Please sit in the padded seating area near the Blessed Sacrament (right-hand side, facing the altar).
 - Spatial distancing must be observed at all times, at least 1½m from each other.
 - The very elderly, those with symptoms, those with a compromised immune or respiratory system are asked to stay at home.
 - Please observe good hygiene practices especially when coughing or sneezing.
- The parish office is currently unattended. The best way to reach us is by email: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au. For urgent matters ☎ Fr Martin at 0414 841 928.**
- Thank you to all the parishioners who are still able to support the parish financially.** To donate, visit: <https://www.stkevinseastwood.org.au/> & click on the **SUPPORT US** button.

If you, or someone you know, could use help during this time, CCareline can connect you to a volunteer from your community. **Call CCareline helpline 13 18 19 Mon-Fri, 8am- 6pm.**

Today, May 17, we celebrate 54th World Communications Day in Australia. Pope Francis' message this year focuses on the topic of storytelling. Full text of the Pope's message can be accessed in the parish website: <https://www.stkevinseastwood.org.au/>.

Sixth Sunday of Easter, John 14:15–21 (Gospel commentary provided by Liturgy Brisbane (www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/))

The gospel for today invites us into two intimate relationships. The first is that between Jesus and his disciples, the second is that shared between Jesus, his Father, and the Spirit. Throughout this farewell discourse we have the sense of eavesdropping on an intimate conversation. The atmosphere is intense. The disciples have gathered with Jesus as the darkness deepens around them. They have been profoundly moved by Jesus' extraordinary gesture of washing their feet. They are troubled by his talk of treachery and desertion. This is the setting in which Jesus opens his heart in words of boundless affection.

In doing so he invites them – and us – into the communion of love that he shares with the Father and with the Spirit. He and the Spirit will not leave his chosen ones orphans; the disciples will come to know “that I am in the Father and you in me and I in you”; they will be loved by Father and Son and Jesus will make himself known to them.

This “loving out loud” does not proceed in a straight line. It spirals around as one idea suggests another by association. We are invited to let Jesus' words wrap us around with love that knows no bounds. This is the final extract we have from the farewell discourse this season.

SHARING IDEAS EFFECTIVELY!

Just before I became a priest (1987) a wise old priest casually told me; “*When you preach remember to keep the message simple and then use simple language as that is all people want from you.*” Immediately I thought what a pearl of wisdom that was!

When Jesus of Nazareth shared his ideas and teachings with people they came from all sorts of contrasting backgrounds. Some of them like *Matthew* and *Zacchaeus* were crafty and very observant tax collectors while others like *Mary Magdalene* had a reputation as a public sinner. Then there would be the tough uneducated fishermen from Galilee like *Peter*, *John* and *Andrew* and often in the background would have often been his saintly mother *Mary*. Even the so called *religious professionals* of the time being the many critical Scribes and Pharisees seemed to make it their business to know what Jesus was saying as they knew he was a far more effective teacher than they were.

I once heard on an American talk show called *Donahue* that the key to making an impact by teaching is to consistently move people 1% from where they are in life to somewhere better. Great communicators and teachers consistently do this and Jesus of Nazareth was truly the master even for people who do not listen to him for religious reasons. For me, his most profound statement is “*What I want from you is mercy not sacrifice.*” He consistently made religion that simple! *Fr Martin R Maunsell*