



Sunday 10th May 2026

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Gospel Reading

John 14.15-21

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

Other Readings: Acts 17.22-31

Psalm 66.7-18

1 Peter 3.13-22

Homily

In the Gospel of John 14:15–21, we are invited into a promise that speaks directly into the heart of our shared human experience. The promise that we are not left alone.

Jesus says, ‘I will not leave you orphaned.’ In these words is the reassurance that even in uncertainty, even in absence, even in struggle, we are held.

By opening our hearts—especially in the most challenging circumstances—to the love that God bestows on all of us, we begin to see that this promise of the Holy Spirit is not abstract or distant. It is deeply personal. It is a living presence.

Jesus links love and obedience:

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments.’

This is not about rule keeping for its own sake. It is about relationship. Love naturally expresses itself in the way we live, in how we treat one another, in how we respond to the world around us; the Holy Spirit helps us to live that love more fully.

We share a common humanity which is far more fundamental than our differences. The Spirit draws us into that truth. It gently reminds us that beneath our fears, our divisions, and our misunderstandings, there is something deeper that binds us together: we are all children of God, all held in divine love.

And yet, we know how easy it is to lose sight of this. The world around us is often marked by division—by conflict, by suspicion, by a tendency to focus on what separates rather than what unites. Religion itself, which should be a source of peace and connection, can become entangled in these divisions.

This is where the promise of the Holy Spirit becomes not just comforting, but essential.

Because the Spirit is not only present within us. It is at work between us. It enables us to see one another with compassion, to listen with patience, and to honour the stories and experiences that shape each person's life. It repeatedly calls us back to the deeper truth of love.

Jesus says,

‘You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.’

The Spirit is already here. Already moving. Already inviting us into a different way of being.

A way marked by gentleness rather than aggression.

By understanding rather than judgment.

By courage rather than fear.

When we become hung up on our differences, we risk losing sight of this deeper journey towards God. We forget that we are, as Jesus reminds us, not separate individuals, but part of a larger family—brothers and sisters in his sight.

In a world torn apart by war, violence, and misunderstanding, this matters deeply. The presence of the Holy Spirit is not just a private comfort—it is a force for healing in the world. It empowers us to work together for the common good. To build bridges where there are walls. To make friends—for God's sake.

And perhaps that is where this promise leads us today.

To small, faithful acts of love and into a deeper connection.

‘I will not leave you orphaned,’ Jesus says.

And in that promise, we can find comfort.

We are not alone.

And because of that, we can learn to love as we have been loved.

Conversation Questions

1. In our own communities how can we honour the stories and experiences that shape the lives of those around us?
2. Can you think of an instance when you felt led by the Holy Spirit from a place of loneliness to a place of companionship?
3. Is there anything else from the passage not already discussed that speaks to you? What is it?
4. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today? #everydayfaith

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer, responding to what you have heard today and listening to what God might be saying to you.

Collect of the day

*God our redeemer,
You have delivered us from the power of darkness
And brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
Grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
So by his continual presence in us
He may raise us to eternal joy;
Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
Who is alive and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever.*

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