



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

***The Fifth Sunday of Easter***

**Gospel Reading**

**John 14.1-14**

**Jesus the Way to the Father**

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

**Other Readings: Acts 7.55-60**

**Psalm 31.1-5,15-16**

**1 Peter 2.2-10**

**Homily**

Every day we encounter messages inviting us to improve our lives. Advertisers often tend to follow a familiar pattern with these messages: they present a problem, offer a solution, and then paint a picture of how much better life could be. There is a sequence we might notice here. Identify what’s wrong, take the right steps, and improve our lives.

Perhaps, if we think about adverts we have encountered recently, we might notice this pattern within them. Dirty dishes? Use our product, with a new special ingredient, and the task of cleaning will be quicker and easier!

It could be that we understand the words of Jesus in today’s Gospel in a similar way. When Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” we might apply them sequentially: we follow the way of Jesus, we come to discover the truth of who he is, and then we begin to live the life he calls us to.

But there can be another way to hear these words if we explore the possibility that Jesus is not describing three stages or steps, but one unified, living reality. The way is not separate from the truth, and the truth is not separate from the life... because, in Jesus, they are one.

Today, we are invited to explore what it might mean to understand these words “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” not as a progression to move through, but as a reality to enter into and to live within. One reality which can be spoken of in three ways.

The way is not something we step onto and leave behind as we deepen our faith. Being with Jesus on the way is a relationship in which we remain. When Jesus says, “I am the way,” he is offering himself as the one with whom we walk. Jesus is the one with whom we journey, on the way, as we discover truth, and as we experience life in him.

Then, when Jesus says, “I am the truth,” he is not adding a second layer, as though the truth about him is dependent upon our following the way. Jesus simply is the truth. In him, truth is not distant or abstract but living and near. The truth we know in Jesus is revealed to us, wherever we are on our journey of faith. The truth we know in Jesus is something we encounter as we stay with him. Jesus is the truth and will always be the truth.

Jesus’ statement “I am the life,” is, we might consider, not a description of a final destination. Jesus’ presence is already life. Fullness of life is not something deferred or achieved, but something shared, here and now, as we abide in him. Jesus offers us a pattern for our lives, calls us into abundant life and offers us eternal life.

So today, as we consider Jesus words; “I am the way, the truth and the life” as one whole reality rather than three separate movements it can lead us to change our understanding of faith. We might consider that faith is not about reaching the next stage, but about recognising Jesus’ presence with us. Letting go of a focus on our own progression can free us to focus attention upon Jesus. As we focus our attention upon Jesus we are then drawn into the fullness of his way, his truth, and his life. For, in him, these are not only promises for tomorrow, but a living reality we are invited to share today.

### **Conversation Questions**

1. What does it mean for you to know Jesus as The Way, The Truth and The Life?
2. In which aspects of your life are you especially noticing Jesus’ presence with you at this time?
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**

*Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,*

*one God, now and for ever.*

*(or)*

*Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father.*

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