



## Gospel Jn 14:15-21

*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.’

## Reflection by Greg Sunter

Although this week’s gospel passage comes from the Last Supper discourse, it is the perfect reading for this time in the liturgical cycle. In next week’s liturgy we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord and the following week we celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. This week’s reading is the perfect precursor to these coming weeks. Prior to this section of the Last Supper discourse, Jesus has told the disciples that he will be leaving them. He alludes to that fact again in this section but also spells out that he will ask the Father to send to the disciples another advocate (sometimes translated as paraclete or counsellor). By referring to the Spirit as ‘another’ advocate or paraclete, Jesus names himself as having been an advocate. The Spirit is to continue the work that Jesus has begun in and with the disciples, standing as witness and strength for them to help them when the world turns against them.

Jesus says to the disciples that ‘In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live.’ Christian people believe that Christ continues to be present in the world even though he is no longer physically present. Jesus’ reference to ‘the world’ is a reference to those who do not believe. It is only those who believe who continue to recognise and affirm his ongoing presence in the world. Whilst the Spirit, the advocate or paraclete, will act in the world to bring about the reign of God, it is in the hearts and minds of those who believe where the Spirit will act most strongly.

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# The Living Word

**Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A**

**17 May 2020**

## First Reading Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

*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.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1**

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

or

**(R.) 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 from me. (R.)

## Second Reading 1 Pt 3:15-18

*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.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and  
we will come to them.**

**Alleluia!**



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SUNDAY MASS: Suspended indefinitely. Check website for streamed Masses.

WEEKDAY MASS: Suspended indefinitely.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon – Fri

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next Week: Ascension of the Lord (A) Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20.

## Fr Stan writes ...

In today's Gospel Jesus contrasts his impending departure with the permanence of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus will leave to return to the Father, but the Holy Spirit will remain with the disciples.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples will come to know and appreciate the unity of the Son and the Father. They will also understand that they too participate in the communion between the Father and the Son: "On that day you will realise that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you." Our reading is one example of the contrast that John's Gospel presents between the community of disciples, to whom God will reveal himself, and the unbelieving world, which will remain in darkness. The unbelieving world cannot accept the "Spirit of truth," whom the disciples will receive. Only through the Spirit will God's revelation and love be known.

On behalf of the parish clergy and staff I would like to thank you again for your continued support of our parish community at this time. I am amazed at the number of people who watch our Sunday Masses and the messages of support and gratitude that we are receiving in the parish office after each Mass is streamed. As Pope Francis has said "We wish to respond to the pandemic of the virus with the universality of prayer, of compassion and tenderness." At Holy Spirit Parish we are acting out this call! Thank you!

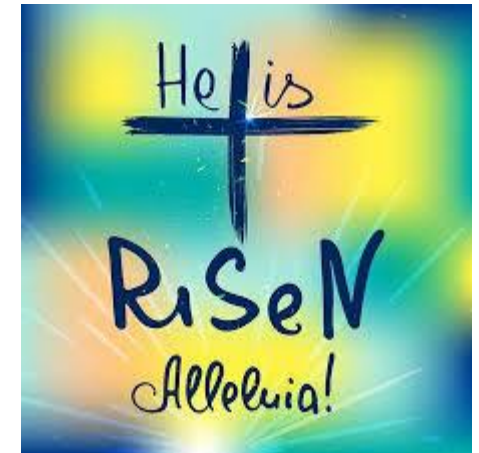


**THANK YOU** also for your ongoing financial support with your donations through our website [www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au](http://www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au) and to those that have posted or dropped off their contribution at the parish office. You can well imagine that running expenses are still occurring despite the lockdown. It is very much appreciated. Again, **THANK YOU!**

MY JESUS, I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE PRESENT IN THE MOST HOLY SACRAMENT. I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS AND I DESIRE TO RECEIVE YOU IN MY SOUL. SINCE I CANNOT AT THIS MOMENT RECEIVE YOU SACRAMENTALLY, COME AT LEAST SPIRITUALLY INTO MY HEART. I EMBRACE YOU AS IF YOU WERE ALREADY THERE AND UNITE MYSELF WHOLLY TO YOU. NEVER PERMIT ME TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU. AMEN.



SPIRITUAL ACT OF COMMUNION



## Virtual Pentecost Pilgrimage

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is an official sponsor of this virtual free pilgrimage which began on Sunday 26 April and will run for 6 weeks.

The pilgrimage is aimed at helping Catholics nurture their faith in the lead up to Pentecost while public Masses are suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each Wednesday and Sunday, formative videos will be released for registered participants to engage online. Each set of videos will reflect on the Sunday readings of that week with a particular focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in our Church and world.

To register for this free online pilgrimage to Pentecost, simply go to [www.pentecostpilgrimage.com](http://www.pentecostpilgrimage.com) and enter your details to receive a link to the videos as they are released over the next six weeks.

The Flame Café

is open for take away – 6:30am to 3:00pm

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## PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Anita Haigh, Ines Greco recently deceased.

Also, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Maria & Nino Rossi, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Walter Gaspari, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Vincenzo Surace, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Angelo, Carmela & Paul Scicluna, Gregory Zammit, Christopher Cissie, Pauline Zahra, Lina Maria & Joe Mallia, Antonio Fonti, Grazia Fonti, Onofrio Casamento, Domenica Casamento, Joseph Casamento, Sigmund Zelma, Aniela & Edmund Zelma, Paul Blayney, Eileen & Joseph Bennett, Olive & Vince Blayney, Joan & Bill Cusack, Lila Brown, Jim Read, Vanessa Juresic, Salvatore Tedesco and the deceased members of the Blayney, Bennett, Zammit and Zahra families.