

**17 MAY 2020**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**OPENING HYMN**

**To God in gladness sing, how great is his name!  
Give thanks to him for his marvellous deeds, Alleluia, alleluia!**

The light that shines in darkness, the Victor over death,  
He enters into glory; like him, we too shall rise.

*(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God, grant 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. Amen.

**FIRST READING:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 65:1-7, 16, 20

**Response: Cry out with joy to God all the earth.**

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

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/**

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/**

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 Pet 3:15-18

**GOSPEL:** Jn 14:15-21

## REFLECTION:

In the Gospel of St John, the term '*Spirit of truth*' that the Father gives us, will help us in our Christian life to discern that our true satisfaction in life lies in Jesus himself and being faithful to him. We must not forget the love he has always had for us.

In John's gospel the word '*world*' would mean all that opposes God and distracts us in Christian life from following God. St John gives us the differences of those who follow Christ and the world. The faithful disciples of Christ see Jesus and the '*Spirit of truth*'. Christ invites his disciples to love one another as he did. As God's baptized children we are called to make his love visible by the witness of our lives so that others may see Jesus living in us and come to know Him. What kind of life we would like to live – the one offered by the world or one offered by Christ, a life of love?

The first reading reminds us that our Christian life should be lived with power and conviction. While we sing, praise and thank God for his redemptive acts let us also like the psalmist, proclaim the '*tremendous deed*', the gift of the Spirit that has been poured in our hearts. Through our words and actions it flows out into the world. Let us pause and reflect how we can be obedient and faithful to Christ's commands by loving others as He did; **(pause)**. Let us pray that we may live a Christian life led by the Holy Spirit who inspires others in the world to lead a Christ-centred life. **(Pause)**.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Leader:** Trusting in our heavenly Father's compassion and love, let us confidently bring our prayers before Him.

**Our response is:** Gracious Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all the members of the Church, that we may become beacons of God's merciful love; **(pause)**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those in authority and all the people in the world that they may have loving, compassionate and generous hearts that will do good for others even while we are in the midst of the pandemic of the Corona virus; **(pause)**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the pandemic of the Corona virus. May they may find comfort and hope in God's love; **(pause)**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all baptised Christians that they may faithfully carry out Jesus' command of love; **(pause)**; let us pray to the Lord...

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, you gave us the gift of your Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Hear our prayers and in your grace renew and strengthen us to keep Jesus's commandments and come to know you now and forever. Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:  
*(All say the Lord's Prayer together)* Our Father, ...

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of your Son and pour into our hearts the strength of His saving food. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS**

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**Sing life, sing love, sing Jesus,  
Sing out wherever you are.**

Jesus loved life, but for love Jesus died,  
Jesus, the truth and the way.  
Though life was lost and the truth was denied,  
Love lives again as we greet the Lord's new day.

*(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)*