



14 May 2023
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



INTRODUCTION: Jesus had revealed to his disciples a set of unwritten commandments: love your enemies and do good to those who persecute you, die to your pride and humble yourself, be selfless in service, speak the truth always, stand for what is just & right. This isn't easy if done merely out a sense of duty or from fear of punishment or the hope of a reward; it has to be rooted in love, which is why Jesus said "If you love me, keep my commandments". And in the very next sentence He promises to send a helper – the Holy Spirit (Parakletos) – who would assist the disciples to live by these commandments.

READINGS:

First Reading:	Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17
Responsorial Psalm:	Ps 66: 1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a, 16 & 20
Second Reading:	1Pet 3: 15-18
Gospel:	Jn 14: 15-21

CELEBRANT: Jesus, the only begotten Son of the Father, promises us that He will not leave us orphaned, but give us God's very own Spirit to assist us. With confidence, we come before our Father with our needs and petitions. Our response is: ***Hear our prayer O Lord***

For the Holy Father, the Bishops, Priests, Religious and all who uphold and teach the Catholic faith: that they may guide the faithful to follow Christ's commands, rooted in love... (*brief silent pause*)... we ask this in faith...

For the leaders of nations and those in governance: that the laws and policies they legislate may always be for the benefit of all, especially the less fortunate... (*brief silent pause*)... we ask this in faith...

For those who have lost their faith: that their eyes may be opened to God's powerful presence in the world, visible in the living testimony of believers and the signs and wonders around them... (*brief silent pause*)... we ask this in faith...

For those sick and suffering: that they may experience God's Spirit of consolation and healing through those who reach out to them in love... (*brief silent pause*)... we ask this in faith...

For all Christians: that we may grow in our understanding of Christ's command to love, which will lead us to follow His every other command intuitively and with joy... (*brief silent pause*)... we ask this in faith...

We pause to pray in silence for our personal intentions ...(*brief silent pause*)... we ask this in faith...

CELEBRANT: Father, help us to realise that we are never alone as we journey through the ups and downs of life. Fill us with a greater awareness of Your Spirit's presence guiding and assisting us at every moment. We ask this through Christ our Lord... Amen.