



CELEBRATING AT HOME
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Promise of the Spirit, Love among us,
Love within us (John 14:15-21)*



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.

We are gathered with the whole Church in this moment of prayer.

Preparing to hear the Word

We have been called by God
to be the Church,
the Body of Christ in this world.
We are not a building, but a people,
gathered and grounded in
the Word of God,
the love of Christ,
and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

God of life,
prepare us anew to be bearers of your Spirit.

Scripture Reading *(John 14:15-21)*

Jesus said to his disciples:
'If you love me keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you forever,
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 the 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 - *Promise of the Spirit, bond of love*

As we approach the coming feasts of the Ascension and Pentecost, the Gospel today focuses on the Holy Spirit.

Jesus returns to the Father in the Ascension, but remains with his disciples through the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. This Holy Spirit keeps us in a communion of love with Jesus, with the Father and with one another.

The commandments of Jesus are always about love - love of God and love of neighbour. Those who live by these commandments of Jesus abide with him, others and the Father in love.

Along with the call to love comes a gift to help us, to accompany us on our journey, lending knowledge, courage and a deep experience of God's life and love.

Jesus is the reign of God in person. He is both the image of God and the model of the redeemed human being that each of us is called to be.

The Gospel makes a number of important points: the basis of our relationship with Jesus is love; Jesus' return to the Father does not leave us orphans because his spirit, the Spirit of truth, the Advocate, will be with us always; Jesus will, one day, return.

The whole Gospel reading today is like a love poem. God's love for us, shown clearly in the life of Jesus, draws us into love with him and one another and allows us to share God's life both now and for ever.

May the new life we celebrate over the next fifty days bring us the creativity of Spirit we need to be the living heart of God in our world today.

Prayers of Intercession

Help us to feel more deeply
the presence of your Spirit in our hearts.

For those who bear the scars of hurt and neglect,
make us your comfort and love.

May we cherish your love in our hearts
and be your love in the world.

For all those missing family and friends,
make your presence known to them.

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Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

Lord, God,
in the resurrection of Jesus
you share with us his risen life.
Transform our darkness, fear and isolation
with your comforting presence
so that we can be your calm, loving,
healing presence to each other.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May your blessing be upon us, O Lord,
and remain with us for ever.

We go in the peace of the risen Christ!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Where today is Mothers' Day

the following blessing prayer could be added

God of Love,
listen to this prayer.

God of holy people,
of Sarah, Ruth and Rebekah;
God of Elizabeth, mother of John,
God of Mary, mother of Jesus,
listen to us and bless the mothers of our families.

Bless with the strength of your Spirit,
the mothers who taught us to stand and walk,
who continue to be strength for us
as we walk the journey of life.

**Bless with the melody of your love,
those who showed us how to speak, how to sing,
how to pray to you.**

**Bless with a place
at your eternal table
those who fed and nurtured our life
as it was formed within them.**

Bless our mothers today
with good things and with health;
with joy, love and laughter,
and surround them with many good friends.

**May they be carried one day to your divine embrace:
there for all eternity to rejoice with their family
and friends.**

This blessing and all graces, we pray,
descend upon the mothers of our families:
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Adapted from Prayers for the Domestic Church: A handbook for worship in the home. Edward Hayes. Forest of Peace Books Inc, Kansas 1979



Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when many cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.



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