

Sixth Sunday of Easter

I will not leave you on your own

INTRODUCTION

As Jesus shared the Last Supper with his apostles, he told them that soon he would be leaving them. They were frightened and upset by his words, but he promised to send someone to help them. He would not leave them on their own.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As the candles are lit, the children listen to this reading by the prophet Isaiah (*cf Isaiah 60:1-3*):
The glory of God is shining on you! All other people will live in the shadows, but you will always have God's light to chase away the darkness. Other people will look at you and see the light of God's love shining out.

SORRY

As we sing the words of the song, help us to be truly sorry if we have done wrong. Sing Sorry Song 1:
Dear Lord Jesus hear our prayers.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4:
Praise the Lord.

GOSPEL (*cf John 14:16-20*)

One day, Jesus said to his disciples, 'I will not leave you on your own, I will ask my Father to send you a helper who will stay with you always. The Spirit of God will be with you and in you, though others will not be able to see him or know that he is there. He will fill you with wisdom and understanding. Soon the world will not see me again, but you will know that I am truly alive.'

DISCUSSION

Jesus was going to leave his disciples and return to his heavenly Father.

Whom did he promise to send? – A special helper – the Holy Spirit.

What would this helper look like? – Jesus told them: 'Others will not be able to see him or know that he is there.' The Holy Spirit is one of the great mysteries of God. He is invisible, and one way of describing him is as being like a wind. St John said this about the Holy Spirit: 'The wind blows wherever it pleases; you hear the sound it makes, but you cannot tell where it comes from or

where it is going. So it is with the Spirit of God,' (*cf John 3:8*)

Why did Jesus send the Holy Spirit? – Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus remained with the apostles, and he remains with us in the same way today. God sent his Spirit to the apostles to begin the teaching of the Gospel throughout the world. The apostles knew that all the power and strength of their work lay in Jesus. They were useless without him and could not carry on with his work. Through the Holy Spirit he remained with them and his work could continue.

When do we receive the Holy Spirit in a special way? – At our baptism and confirmation. The spirit is God's gift to us, when he pours his love into our hearts.

The word 'Spiritus' means breath or wind and that is how we often describe God's Spirit.

If someone asked you to describe the wind, what would you tell them?

- it cannot be seen, but we can see what it does, by making things move, trees bending and leaves blowing around.

- we can feel it as it blows against our skin.

- it can be very gentle or very powerful.

We cannot see the Spirit himself but we can see what he does through the lives of people around us who allow him to guide their words and actions.

If you blew all of the air out of your body and did not breathe any more in, what would happen?

Without breathing you cannot live. The Spirit is the breath of God, who fills us with life and makes us strong.

ACTIVITY

Help each child to make a windmill to remind them that wind is one of the forms which the Spirit can take.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit,
and breathe your life into us,
so that we can bring Christ into the world
and touch the lives of others with his love.